ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

There has been great achievements in the field of endocrine science' all the while. The field being enormous, puts a man on his toes to keep the pace, which requires experimenting, reading, writing, conferring and collating - a continuous process, rather we call it Research.

It is a well-known fact that the research supervisor "is the chosen one rather than the chooser, and the value of his pupils, who although not exactly his disciples nonetheless grant him a form of intellectual recognition, helps to create his values – as he helps to create theirs". The truth figures none other than Prof. Bonny Pilo, who is my guide, the present Head of the Department and Co-ordinator of UGC-DSA programme. My thanks go first and foremost to him. His ability to unearth the significant facts through experimentation has flamed my interest in research. The critical aptitude with which he had helped me to disign and discuss the problems during the tenure of this work is remarkable. I owe a great deal to him for spending his valuable time and the forebearance he had during the most trying circumstances as the work was in progress. The whole process was enjoyable and successful due to his constant encouragement. The depth of my gratitude towards him is endless.

I am thankful to former Heads of the department of Zoology, Prof. R.V. Shah and Prof. P.M. Ambadkar for all their help and encouragement during the tenure of this work. I would also like to acknowledge the University Grants Commission of India - DRS programme in the scheme of "Developmental Biology and Advanced Physiology" for granting me the scholarship supporting the research discussed herein.

I record my gratitude to Prof. S.K. Aggarwal of Michigan State University, USA; for initiating the work with anticancer agents while he was a visiting professor at the department during the preliminary stages of my work.

My indebtedness to Radha and Saji is at its prime, who have been with me through the low and high tides of our research. The animated discussions which I had while designing the experiments and preparing this script has helped me the most. Without their help accomplishment of this thesis would have been tiresome.

I am grateful to all my teachers, especially Dr. R.V. Nene, Dr. M.V. Asnani, Prof. A.K. Desai, Prof. A.V. Ramachandran, and Dr. N. Radhakrishnan for their kind support and constant encouragement for completion of this thesis. I am also thankful to my senior colleagues Dr. Meena Patel, Dr. Pragna Parikh, Dr. Paul V.F., Dr. Geeta Padate, Dr. Smruti Desai, Dr. Nducuba P., for sharing their valuable experience in research. I also appreciate the help of other research scholars specifically Baily, Anoop, Chintan, Dipti, Suresh, Pradeep and Vinod who have made a comfortable atmosphere to work.

My acknowledgement goes to many other researchers who are out of the department, but have helped me during varied stages of the work. Amongst whom I thank Mrs. Susy Albert, Mr. Jose Kutty, Mr. V.K. Murukesan, Mr. S.D. Mathews, Mr. Pradeep Pillai all from Botany department; Mr. Roy Mathews from Microbiology dept., Mr. Harikumar from Biochemistry dept., Mr. Vinay Rao from Pharmacy dept., and Mr. Noble George from IPCL.

I take this opportunity for thanking Miss Sudhaben Parekh (K.G. Hall) and other university authorities for providing me a comfortable atmosphere in the hostel. Friends who were with me - Maheshwari Sitaram, Shobha Rajgopalan, Shobha Nair are remembered with greatness.

I owe a lot to Prof. H.V. Bhavnani, Dr. G.P. Senan and Mrs. Lilly Senan for pushing me forward as and when I felt I was at stake.

I am also thankful for the firm support of my other friends specifically Harikumaran Nair, Sunita Patil, Isha Desai, Rita Mathews, Mathews John, Venugopal, Ranjeet, Sameer who pulled me to 'the' final step.

Mr. Parimal Pandya, Mr. Shirish and Mrs. & Mr. Mohan Chand are thanked for providing their expert technical assistance.

At the end, I owe a great deal to my brother Manoj, sisters Bindu and Sangita for being with me throughout the process. Their forebearance and encouragement was always with me till success was attained. I am also thankful to all my other acquaintances and family members who are at Manjalpur.

Above all, the people who feature most are my parents, especially my father who is no more, to whom I dedicate this thesis with great affection.

- Sirimavo Pillai