

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

“Days passed hastily but never failed to make memories”. Looking back at the journey of past three and half years has taken me aback with great amazements. The journey, addressed as Ph.D., was a roller coaster ride which was full of excitement, hardwork and challenges. Acknowledgement in mere words is just not sufficient to appreciate the efforts of the people who played a significant role in shaping me and my thesis. Realizing the contribution of many either directly or indirectly in this voyage has obliged me to pen down their role in my Ph.D. journey.

*At the very commencement, I would like to take the opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to my research guide, **Prof. Dolly Kumar**, Head, Department of Zoology, for her conviction on me to carry out this piece of work. Her constant encouragement, care and many more to support me through the extensive eight years of association has imparted strong imprints on me. Started as a dissertation guide to a PI in a research project till the research advisor, from the day one her constant belief in me in whatever I did has boosted my skills further. Her liberty in permitting me to choose the research problem and supporting at the times of distress due to failures in experiments are only a few highlights of the long tenure. She has always encouraged me to pursue different aspects of the academics too. I will always remain indebted to her.*

*I would like to thank **Prof. P.C. Mankodi**, Ex-head, Department of Zoology, for providing me the departmental facilities to conduct my research work. His constant encouragement to complete my research work is praiseworthy.*

*I would like to extend my special thanks to **Prof. Neeta Pandya**, Department of Botany, for her guidance in the selection of plant species, a crucial component of my work. She has been a constant support and her encouragement and guidance in the work has helped me in the initial phases of my work.*

*I would like to express my sincere thanks to **Prof. Pragna Parikh**, Department of Zoology, for supporting me with the fine chemicals in the entire Ph.D.*

tenure. Her constant guidance and constructive comments in academics has always helped me to improve for better.

*I am highly thankful to **Prof. Kauresh Vachhrajani**, Department of Zoology, (Head, Department of Environmental Studies) for supporting me with the facility of stereomicroscope.*

*The acknowledgement section would remain incomplete without citing the name of **Prof. B. Suresh**, Department of Zoology. The ideology for selecting stored pest genre for the research has been conceptualised by him. His vast knowledge and logical approach towards research has been a driving force for designing the present research problem. I am greatly obliged to him for his perpetual support and constructive comments. His exceptional teaching abilities have always been an inspiration for me to improve my teaching skills.*

*I extend my deep sense of gratitude to the venerated teachers of the department, **Prof. Sunita Salunke, Prof. Geeta Padate, Prof. Vihas Vasu, Dr. R. V. Devkar, Dr. Gowri Kumari** for their support as and when needed. I would also like to thank **Dr. Hetal Roy**, Department of Zoology, for her guidance and discussions related to biomolecular protocols.*

*My deep sense of acknowledgment goes to **Dr. Prakash Pillai**, Department of Zoology, and an extraordinary teacher who has played a key role in developing research aptitude in me during M.Sc. program. I would like to thank **Dr. Sujatha Pillai** for laying the foundations of entomology in me.*

*I am highly grateful to **Mr. Sunil Kumar** for all the help in documentation and editing of the thesis. All my computer based knowledge was inculcated by him. Moreover, I owe him all my conference prizes which could not be possible without his guidance in making extraordinary presentation.*

*My heartfelt thank goes to **Dr. Bhavna Sharma**, Department of Botany, M. K. Amin Arts and Science College, Padra, for her constant support in my work as and when needed. Her interest and long discussion on the plant species has augmented my knowledge on the same. I would also like to express my thanks to **Dr. Alka Danges**, for providing me the plant material.*

*I extend my thanks to the **DST lab** for all the instrumental amenities I have used in the whole research tenure. I am highly grateful to **Prof. N. S. R. Krishnayya**, Head, Department of Botany, for his affability, concern and freedom to use his lab facilities as and when needed for the easy conduct of my work. I am also thankful to **Dr. Padamnabhi Nagar**'s lab for allowing me to use the facility of UV lamp. I am highly grateful to my friends **Priyanka Patel, Sunil Dutt**, Research Scholars, Department of Chemistry, for helping me with different chemicals and setup available to their respective labs.*

*I would like to take the opportunity to thank **Dr. Sanjay Karn**, Assistant Professor, Indrasheel University, for his constant help and support in research as well as in academics as and when needed. A colleague cum friend who has never prioritized his schedule when it comes to help someone in need. My sincere thank is reserved for **Ms. Bhoomi Thakkar**, RFSMS fellow, Department of Zoology, for her endless help and support for conducting different biomolecular protocols. My best wishes for her bright future.*

*I am also thankful to the funding agencies, viz. **DBT** (Department of Biotechnology) and **TCGL** (Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited) for sponsoring great projects in the initial years of my research career. This has laid down the foundation in me for opting research career.*

*Special thanks to my colleagues, **Dr. Mini Bharadwaj, Dr. Chandni Vadolkar, Dr. Khanjan Vaishnav, Mr. Kangkan Jyoti Sharma, Mrs. Ankita Bargaonkar**, the temporary staffs of the department for all the help and support. The work environment was joyous and easy because of you all.*

***Archana, Rupa di, Hardik bhai, Lakshmi, Harshita**, my loving lab mates for keeping a healthy, cheerful environment in the lab. They have been a source of inspiration and honesty. The time we spend together in the lab will be cherished for the rest of my life. Wish you all a successful career ahead. **Nimisha Garwasis** deserves special mention for being a great company, friend and philosopher. I am thankful to my ex-lab mates, **Dr. Suchi Gandhi** and **Late Dr. Reshma Solanki** for their help and guidance in different aspects in the initial phases of my research. I have learned many things from you two and especially our shilling trip is unforgettable. Sudden demise of you*

(Reshma di) was a shock and still today it's beyond our belief that you left us. We miss you.

*The most important persons of my life, **maa and baba** (though you left us but you always live through us, within us), I owe you for everything. Thanks would be very insignificant in front of everything you gifted me in my life. I am blessed to have you both in my life. Your support in whatever path I chose in life has encouraged me. The journey continues and I would try my level best to achieve more success, stability and to become a selfless person like you two. Hope to make you proud always. Next set of thanks goes to my **sisters** (**Mousam** and etc.) and **brothers** (**Poritosh, Gaheen** and etc.) for their love, affection and support. A special mention here is the next-generation of the family, **Vaisakh, Anagha, Ayus and Ayan** who has been the source of my happiness at home.*

***Sandeep**, an old friend, who has been a constant source of inspiration in the entire process, requires a special citation in the frame. His never ending efforts and support during tough times has been a major pillar in the city.*

Finally, I am grateful to almighty for everything.

MAMATA DEB