
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*Above all, I thank the **Almighty** for giving me this unique opportunity, strength and patience.*

The work presented in this thesis would not have been possible without the support and help from many people and I express my special gratitude to one and all who had rendered a helping hand during my research work.

*Firstly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my research guide, **Dr. Ranjitsinh V. Devkar** for selecting me as JRF in his UGC project and later shaping me to evolve as researcher. His observations and comments helped me to improve my research skills and to remain focused on achieving my goal.*

*I extend my profound gratitude to **Prof. P. C. Mankodi** for providing an opportunity, to carry out research at the Department of Zoology with access to all facilities. I thank him for his constant encouragement and care during the entire course of my Ph.D work. Similarly, I would also like to thank **all the teaching faculties** of Zoology Department, who have been very kind and supportive whenever I approached them. Help rendered by the **non-teaching staff** of Department of Zoology is also duly acknowledged.*

*I would like to acknowledge all my **school and college teachers**. I would not have been here without their guidance, blessings and support.*

*My sincere thanks to **Dr. Santasabuj Das** and **Rahul Mandal** of Biomedical Informatics Centre, National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases, Kolkata for their help and expertise rendered to carry out insilico study.*

*My special gratitude to **Dr. Sarita Gupta**, Head, Department of Biochemistry, for allowing me to access **Vikram Sarabhai Science Block-Central Instrument facilities**, **Dr. Kishore Rajput**, Department of Botany for assistance in microscopy and **Prof. Vinay Raole**, Department of Botany for plant identification. A special gratitude to **Prof. Neelima D Kulkarni** and **Prof. Shailesh R. Shah** of Chemistry Department, The M. S. University of Baroda for providing liquid nitrogen for cryopreservation of cells.*

*I would also like to thank **Prof. Debjani Chakraborty** and **Dr. Sanjeev Kumar** of Chemistry Department, The M. S. University of Baroda for their collaboration with our lab which helped me to learn in vitro cell culture techniques during initial phase of my research work.*

*I am also thankful to **SICART**, Anand for GC-MS analysis and **Mr. Bhavik Chauhan**, Department of Pharmacy, The M. S. University of Baroda for helping with HPTLC in his lab and **Disha Prajapati** for helping me in HPTLC analysis.*

*I am indebted to **Dr. J. Arunakaran** for giving me an opportunity to attend National workshop on “Techniques in Molecular and cellular Endocrinology” at the Department of Endocrinology, University of Madras, Taramani Campus, Chennai. Attending this workshop was helpful in standardizing protocols related to this study and to **Prof. A. V. Ramachandran**, (Former Dean, Faculty of Science) for encouragement, help and inspiration. I have enjoyed the valuable research interactions with Dr. Vihas Vasu and Dr. Prakash Pillai and timely technical help rendered by PP lab and VV lab is duly acknowledged.*

*I am intensely thankful to the former and present research scholars of **Research lab 1**, Dipak, Swati, Jaymesh, Bhavya, Ravi, Menaka, Tejal, Shridhar, Zalak, Ashutosh, Lipi, Jaldeep, Kedar, Juhi, Ankit, Himadri and all other **research scholars** at Zoology Department for their help and support. Special thanks my **RVD labmates Shweta, Kapil, Kavita, Ali and Apeksha** for their support, motivation, advices, all personal and professional help that they have extended throughout my journey. A special thanks to my friends **Minal, Anil, Mala and Nikunja** for their support, care and encouragement. I would extend my special thanks to **Ramadevi, Kushan and Nisha, research scholars**, Chemistry Department for their helpful discussions and suggestions.*

*A very special gratitude to **University Grant Commission, New Delhi** for providing financial support to this study in form of **Major Research Project**.*

*I thank my **all cousin sisters** and **brothers** for their constant support, love and affection. This accomplishment could have been impossible without the love and support from **my uncles** and **aunts**. I would like to extend my thanks to **Mrs. Jayshree Devkar** and son **Abhiraj** for being a constant support system to my sir.*

*At this moment of accomplishment, I would like to thank **my parents, grandparents** and **my in-laws**. Thank you doesn't seem sufficient in front of your care, support, love, motivation, understanding and prayers for me. I would not have reached this stage without their blessings and encouragement. I express my loving thanks to my dear brother **Nilay** for the jovial and cheerful moments he shared with me. A loving thanks to my husband, **Bappaditya** for his unconditional support, encouragement and care.*

Sarmita S. Jana