

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I express by profound sense of gratitude to Dr.K.S.Rao for introducing me to this subject, under whose able guidance I carried out this work. His constant valuable counsel, constructive criticism and encouragement throughout the work is greatly acknowledged.

I am thankful to Prof.G.P.Senan, Head, Department of Botany for providing all the necessary facilities during the course of the work.

I am thankful to Indian Council of Agricultural Research for providing research fellowship to carryout the work and M.S.University of Baroda for financial assistance to pursue my degree. I am also thankful to Dr.(Mrs) Tvisha Pandya for extending financial support for electron microscopy study.

I specially thank Dr. T. Srinivas, Dr. Kishore S. Rajput, Dr. (Mrs) Shoba Kamath, Dr. C. Nagesh, Mrs. Rekha Chauhan, Dr. Subda Deshpande and Dr. R. Sugumaran whose constant encouragement and timely help rendered during the course of the work.

I am always thankful to my friends Mr. G.CH. Reddy, Mr. V. Gajendra, Mr. B.S. Ramachandra Rao, Mr. A.L.Rao, Mr.Sam Maragia, Mr. Ram Kumar, and Mr. A. Sridhar who shared my emotions equally during happy moments and misfortune.

Thanks are also due to my colleagues, Mr. Remakanthan, Mr. Ramesh Kannan, Dr. Gitendra Gavali, Miss Deepa Saha for their kind help during the study.

I am thankful to Dr. Ashok Mishra, Plant Pathologist for his cooperation during collection of samples at Gujarat Agricultural University, Anand.

I sincerely acknowledge Mr. R.P.Shah, Horticultural Supervisor, Central Fruit Nursery, Baroda for kind cooperation during sample collection, Dr.R.B.Rai, Asst. Scientist, Entomology Division, GAU, Navsari Campus for identification of mites and

Dr. (Mrs) Shakuntala Madhavendra, Head, Electron Microscopy Unit, IICT, Hyderabad for SEM study.

I also thank Mrs. Sangeeta Pandya, Mrs. Tara Menon and Mr. Gopal Iyer of Microbiology Department, The M.S.University of Baroda for their timely help.

I also wish to express my sincere thanks to Mr.Titus and family for neat and efficient computer work.

I owe a great deal to my parents, brother and sister for their love, affection and encouragement to pursue the degree.

BARODA
September 1998



A.C.M. KOTI BABU