

Acknowledgement



After three degrees, at two different universities, in two different disciplines, I have learned one thing— I could never have done any of this, particularly the research and writing that went into this Thesis, without the support and encouragement of lots of people.

*At the outset, I thank the omnipresent, omniscient and omnipotent **ALMIGHTY GOD** for all the blessings that he has showered on me and gave me strength to believe in myself.*

*First and foremost, I express my indebtedness and profound sense of gratitude to my visionary and creative guide, **Dr. Kishore S. Rajput**, a cornucopia of deep Anatomical and Biotechnological thoughts. He is an intellectual giant; I humbly and gratefully stand upon his shoulders. He has always been my friend, my mentor, my confidant and a never ending fount of moral support. If I do take the academic path, I only hope that I can be half the advisor that he has been to me. Whatever path I do take, I will be prepared because of him.*

*The free flow of ideas and opinions and the complete absence of competition speak to the character of the people that make up my lab. There are few friends that I must mention by name for their significant contributions to my work, **Ms. Rina Koyani**, **Ms. Vidya Patil** and **Ms. Isha Bhatt** are not only the people I can discuss my research and good off with, but also are confidants with whom I always discuss my troubles and stand by me through thick and thin. This, I believe, is the key to getting through a Ph.D. program – having good friends to have fun with and complain too.*

*I am grateful to **Dr. Arun Arya**, Professor and Head, Department of Botany, The M. S. University of Baroda. My sincere thanks to **Dr. M. Daniel**, Professor, Department of Botany and all the dignitary and learned faculties of Department of Botany, The M.S. University of Baroda.*

Piece of information presented in this thesis is a part of studies supported by Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India, New Delhi to carry out work on project entitled "Histopathological, Biochemical and Ultrastructural studies on stem diseases of forest trees." I gratefully acknowledge DBT, Govt. of India for the financial support.

I am thankful to Dr. Naresh Kumar, Professor and Head, Dept. of Biochemistry, The M. S. University of Baroda for providing bacterial cultures for my study.

I heartily thank to all the research scholars of botany department for their support.

I would also like to express my thanks to all non teaching staff and peons, Department of Botany.

Appreciations are also due to my friends Mr. Vikram Raval, Mr. Chetan Koyani, Mr. Rushit Shukla, Mr. William Dudhani, Mr. J. Dinakaran, Mr. Nasir Wadia, Mr. Mayurkumar Patel and Mr. Nitin Dobaria. I am also thankful to Mr. Devendra Vaishnav for providing the excellent computing resources that have been integral in my completion of this Thesis.

My sincere thanks are also due to Dr. N. R. Sheth, Professor and Head, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Saurashtra University, Rajkot for his support to accomplish my work with my ongoing job.

Finally, I would like to dedicate this whole work to my Parents: Mr. Vinodrai Sanghvi, Mrs. Vibhaben Sanghvi for their unending support and love from childhood to now, I never would have made it through this process or any of the tough times in my life. I am also thankful to my sister Mrs. Nidhi Kothari, Mr. Kartik Kothari, beautiful niece Ms. Charvi Kothari, Mr. Hruday Shah and all the members of Sanghvi family.

Gaurav V. Sanghvi
Gaurav V. Sanghvi