

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

At the very outset, the author expresses her heartfelt indebtedness, gratitude and warmest thanks to Professor L.J. Preker for his excellent guidance, keen interest, constant encouragement and valuable suggestions in the conduct and presentation of these investigations. The author also acknowledges her sincere indebtedness to Professor C.V. Ramakrishnan for his valued help, suggestions, continued guidance, support and encouragement throughout the tenure of the investigations.

The author also acknowledges the kind help of Dr. D.S. Pradhan, Associate Director, Biochemical Group, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Bombay and Dr. C.K.K. Nair, Scientific Officer, Biochem. Div., Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Bombay, for the training, excellent guidance and valuable suggestions during the course of investigations on genetic basis of raffinose utilization in bacteria and enzyme purification studies.

The author is also grateful to Dr. Naomi Rosenberg, Department of Immunology and Molecular Biology, Tufts Medical Centre, Boston, for providing restriction endonucleases.

The author is also thankful to all her colleagues and members in the department for their kind co-operation.

The author also acknowledges the fellowship awarded to her by the UGC, Govt. of India, under their Special Assistance Programme and also UGC sponsored project on "Indian Fermented Foods".