

Acknowledgements

I take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt gratitude to my supervisor, Professor P.K. Sarkar, for his valuable help, support and enthusiasm.

I wish to convey my immense gratitude to Dr S. Chattopadhyay, Head, Bio-Organic Division & Professor, Homi Bhabha National Institute, Mumbai for extending support, guidance and providing the analytical facilities that I required time to time.

I am indebted to the Heads of the Department of Botany, University of North Bengal for extending a prompt support in different official matters whenever needed. I wish to thank all the faculty members and non-teaching staff of the Department of Botany for their kind co-operation and help they rendered me during my work. I owe to Dr A.P. Das, Professor of Botany, University of North Bengal for helping me in identifying the plant specimens.

My whole hearted gratitude to my colleagues at my laboratory in the University of North Bengal, Dr Arindam Ray, Mr Bijay Moktan, Mr Satin Singha, Ms Mousumi Rakshit and Mr Rajib De for their enthusiasm and help.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to my colleagues at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai, Mr Sudhir K. Yadav, Mr Biswanath Maity, Mr Biplab Adhikary, Mr Mrityunjay Tyagi, Mr Dibakar Goswami, Ms Kshama Ray, Mr Prashant Shukla Ms Suchitra Vichare and Mr Mrunesh Koli for their help in many of my experimental parts.


I would like to make a special mention for my friends at the University of North Bengal, Ms Sweta Behani Daga, Ms Yasmin Nehar, Ms Dicky Lama, Ms Lhanjay Bhutia, Ms Lazeem Lepcha, Ms Bandana Chettri, Ms Nishika Chettri and Ms Kalyani Das for their extended co-operation, care and encouragement during my research tenure.

I gratefully acknowledge the financial support by grant, No. 38(1099)/04/EMR-II, from the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi.

Lastly, I am ever grateful to my family, especially to my husband for being pillars of my support and encouragement.

Siliguri

the 18th January, 2010



Jayati Saha