

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

At first, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my supervisors, Dr. B.N.Chakraborty and Dr.Usha Chakraborty, Department of Botany, for their constant, untiring help and guidance during the execution of this whole work.

Thanks are also due to Dr.P.K.Sarkar, Head, Department of Botany, Prof.B.C.Pal, Director, Centre for Life Sciences, North Bengal University and to all teachers of this Department, specially to Dr.A.Saha.

For his valuable suggestions and encouragement, my sincere thanks are also due to Dr.P.K.Ghosh, Advisor, Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India.

I thankfully acknowledge the help of the Directors of Tocklai Tea Research Centre, Tocklai, Assam; Darjeeling Tea Research Centre, Kurseong, Darjeeling and U.P.A.S.T Tea Research Centre, Valparai, Tamil Nadu, for providing tea clones.

Financial support received from DBT, Ministry of Science and Technology is gratefully acknowledged.

I also acknowledge the help of Prof.J.G.White, Horticulture Research International, Wellesbourne, UK; Prof. J. E.DeVay, University of California, USA and Prof. R.A.Singh, Department of Plant Pathology, C.P.R.I, Simla, for providing me with valuable literature in this field.

My special thanks are due to Mr.Anil Sarki, Fieldman, and Ms Ruma Das, S.R.F. for their immense help and cooperation in field and laboratory as well as during the preparation of this thesis. Here, I also acknowledge the help of all the research scholars of my laboratory, Dr.S. Guha, Dr.B.Shil, Dr. G. Das, Dr. S. K. Das, Ms B.Sarkar, Ms S.Dutta and Ms C.Basu who actively took initiative in so many difficult situations, that without their help this would be just a theme for a dream.

I am personally thankful to Mr.K. Deb, for providing computers, and to Mr.M. Chakraborty and Mr. S.Paul for composing the whole matter of this thesis.

Last but not least, thanks go to my parents, beloved sister and relatives, especially to my late grandmother for inspiration and moral support.

Pratip Kr. Basu
Pratip Kr. Basu

University of North Bengal