Dr. Francy K. Kakkassery Associate Professor & Head (Retd.) Research & PG Department of Zoology,

Email: kakkassery@yahoo.com Mob: +91 9387105360

St. Thomas' College (Autonomous), Thrissur - 680 001

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the adjudicators' reports on the Ph.D. thesis of Ms. Ranjini S. entitled "STUDIES ON THE TAXONOMY OF AQUATIC HETEROPTERAN BUGS (ORDER: HEMIPTERA) FROM SELECTED HABITATS OF KERALA AND THEIR EFFICACY AS BIOCONTROL AGENTS ON MOSQUITO LARVAE OF CULEX QUINQUEFASCIATUS SAY" do not suggest any corrections to be incorporated in to the thesis. It is also certified that the contents in the hard copy and soft copy are one and same.

Thrissur 09/05/2023



DR. FRANCY K. KAKKASSERY

Research Supervisor

Dr. FRANCY K. KAKKASSERY, M.Phil, Ph.D Research Guide Research & Postgraduate Department of Zoology St. Thomas' College, Thrissur - 680 001, Kerala Mob: 09387105360, E-mail: kakkassery@yahoo.com Dr. Francy K. Kakkassery
Associate Professor & Head (Retd.)
Research and Postgraduate Department of Zoology
St. Thomas' College (Autonomous), Thrissur
Kerala.

Certified that the thesis entitled "Studies on the taxonomy of aquatic heteropteran bugs (Order: Hemiptera) from selected habitats of Kerala and their efficacy as biocontrol agents on mosquito larvae of *Culex quinquefasciatus* Say" submitted by **Ms. Ranjini S.**, to the University of Calicut for the award of degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Zoology, is a bonafide record of research work done by her in this Department under my guidance and supervision. This work has not previously formed the basis for any award of degree or diploma.

Ms. Ranjini S. successfully completed the preliminary qualifying examination prescribed by the University of Calicut.

Thrissur 09/12/2022



Dr. FRANCY K. KAKKASSERY

Research Supervisor

Dr. FRANCY K. KAKKASSERY, M.Phil, Ph.D

Research Guide

Research & Postgraduate Department of Zoology
St. Thomas' College, Thrissur - 680 001, Kerala
Mob: 09387105360, E-mail: kakkassery@yahoo.com

Dr. Joyce Jose
Assistant Professor
Research and Postgraduate Department of Zoology
St. Thomas' College (Autonomous), Thrissur
Kerala.

Certified that the thesis entitled "Studies on the taxonomy of aquatic heteropteran bugs (Order: Hemiptera) from selected habitats of Kerala and their efficacy as biocontrol agents on mosquito larvae of *Culex quinquefasciatus* Say" submitted by **Ms. Ranjini S.**, to the University of Calicut for the award of degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Zoology, is a bonafide record of research work done by her in this Department under my co-guidance. This work has not previously formed the basis for any award of degree or diploma.

Ms. Ranjini S. successfully completed the preliminary qualifying examination prescribed by the University of Calicut.

Thrissur 09/12/2022

Graduata Dep Gradu

Dr. JOYCE JOSE

Co-guide

Dr. JOYCE JOSE, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Research & Postgraduate Department of Zoology
St. Thomas' College, Thrissur - 680 001, Kerala
E-mail: joyceofthejungle@gmail.com

DECLARATION

I do hereby declare that the thesis entitled "Studies on the taxonomy of aquatic heteropteran bugs (Order: Hemiptera) from selected habitats of Kerala and their efficacy as biocontrol agents on mosquito larvae of *Culex quinquefasciatus* Say" submitted to the University of Calicut for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Zoology has not been submitted for the award of any other degree or diploma and represents the original work done by me.

Thrissur

09/12/2022

RANJINI S.

UNIVERSITY OF CALICUT CERTIFICATE ON PLAGIARISM CHECK

1.	Name of the research scholar	RANJINI S.		
2.	Title of thesis/dissertation	"Studies on the taxonomy of aquatic heteropteran bugs (Order: Hemiptera) from selected habitats of Kerala and their efficacy as biocontrol agents on mosquito larvae of <i>Culex quinquefasciatus</i> Say"		
3.	Name of the supervisor	Dr. Francy K. Kakkassery (Guide) & Dr. Joyce Jose (Co-guide)		
4.	Department/Institution	Research and Postgraduate Department of Zoology, St. Thomas' College (Autonomous), Thrissur.		
5.		Introduction/ Review of literature	Materials and Methods	Result/ Discussion/Summary/ Conclusion
	Similar content (%) identified	0%	0%	0%
	Acceptable maximum limit (%)	25 /35	25	10
6.0	Software used	Ouriginal		
		09/12/2022		

*Report on plagiarism check, specifying included/excluded items with % of similarity to be attached.

Checked by (with name, designation & signature)

Name & Signature of the Supervisor

Name & Signature of the Researcher

The Doctoral Committee* has verified the report of planting the contents of the thesis, as summarized above and happaropriate measures have been taken to ensure originality of the Research accomplished herein. Research & Postgraduate Department of Zoology

St. Thomas' College, Thrissur - 680 001, Kerala E-mail: joyceofthejungle@gmail.com

ssistant Librarian (SI.Grade) University of Calicut

Name & Signature of the HoD/HoL (Chairperson of the Doctoral Committee)

Principal-in-Charge St Thomas College (Autonomous) Thrissur - 680 001

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is a pleasure to remember with gratitude, all those people who have helped and contributed for the successful completion of my research study.

With great delight, I express my heartfelt gratitude and indebtedness to my research supervisor **Dr. Francy K. Kakkassery**, Associate Professor & Head (Retd. in March, 2020), Research and Postgraduate Department of Zoology, St. Thomas' College (Autonomous), Thrissur, for his expert guidance, creative advice, timely and valuable suggestions, constant encouragement, positive criticism, immense patience and help which formed the basis for the successful completion of my study.

I would like to express my honest gratitude to my research co-guide **Dr. Joyce Jose**, Assistant Professor, Research and Postgraduate Department of Zoology, St. Thomas' College (Autonomous), Thrissur, for her throughout encouragement and support, enormous help, and affection in my research studies.

I am grateful to the Principals, Dr. P.O. Jenson (Retd. in 2018), Dr. Ignatius Antony (Retd. in 2019), Dr. Joy K.L. (Retd. in 2021), and Dr. (Fr.) Martin K.A., St. Thomas' College (Autonomous), Thrissur, for providing necessary facilities for the study and I am also thankful to the office staffs, for the help.

I extend my sincere thanks to Head of the Department Dr. C.V. David (Retd. in March, 2022), and Dr. C.F. Binoy, all the teachers, and non-teaching staffs, in the Research and Postgraduate Department of Zoology for the help and support during my research study.

I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge all my Research colleagues and the Post-Doctoral Fellow Dr. Mery Ittiachen V., in the Research and Postgraduate Department of Zoology for their support and co-operation.

I sincerely acknowledge the help of Dr. Sanjo Jose, Librarian, St. Thomas' College (Autonomous), Thrissur, and I am thankful to Dr. Vinod V.M., Librarian, C.H.M.K. University Library, University of Calicut, for helping me to check plagiarism of my thesis.

I am very much grateful to Government of Kerala for providing me the financial assistance in the form of post-matric fellowship to complete the research work successfully.

I wish record my special thanks to Dr. T.A. Sajesh, Assistant Professor, St. Thomas' College (Autonomous), Thrissur, for help with statistical analysis.

I extend my sincere gratitude to Dr. Roby T.J., Assistant Professor, Department of Botany, Carmel College (Autonomous), Thrissur, for helping me to do the distribution map of newly recorded species.

I express my gratitude to Dr. E.M. Aneesh, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, University of Calicut, for his assistance during the identification of mosquito larvae.

I am greatly thankful to Dr. C.V. Sreeranjit Kumar, Associate Professor & Head (Retd. in May, 2022), Postgraduate and Research Department of Zoology, Govt. Victoria College, Palakkad, who gave permission to work in the research laboratory and I am thankful to Dr. K.A. Rasheed, Assistant Professor & Head, all the teachers and research scholars, for the help and support.

I feel happy to record my warmest gratitude to my dear friends Ms. Parvathy S. Varma, Ms. Anjitha K., Mr. Girishan S., Mr. Akhil K.S., Ms. Beena S. John, and Ms. Aneesha U., who were of help to me for the data collection and help rendered while my research.

I would like to appreciate my friend Dr. T.P. Ajeesh Krishna, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Division of Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, Department of Biosciences, Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, Kochi, for his wholehearted support and encouragement during my thesis preparation period.

I feel proud to dedicate this thesis to My Family. My success would have remained as a dream with the persistent motivation and sacrifice of my beloved parents, siblings, husband, and daughter. My family is the foundation of my success. With love and gratitude, I remember my grandmother Mrs. Pettayammal K. (Late), my parents Mr. Selvarajan C., and Mrs. Sudha K., my siblings Ms. Sajini S., Vijini S., and Aswani S., my husband Mr. Manoj M., for the wholehearted support, cooperation, encouragement, and affection extended throughout my research work. Also, I express my whole love and affection to my daughter Ima Manoj for her sacrifice to complete my research work.

To those who directly and indirectly contributed to this research, your kindness means a lot to me. I wish to express my sincere thanks to all well-wishers and friends unmentioned, who were always available throughout the research study.

Above all, I am deeply indebted to the blessing of God.

RANJINI S.