

Acknowledgments

I am extremely grateful to Professor Dr. Kenji Usui who kindly accepted me to study at the Institute of Applied Biochemistry, University of Tsukuba, under his supervision.

I also wish to express my sincerest appreciation to Associate Professor Dr. Katsuichiro Kobayashi, Institute of Applied Biochemistry, for his helpful guidance and valuable suggestions on my research works throughout the study program.

Grateful appreciation is also extended to Professor Dr. Koji Hasegawa, Institute of Applied Biochemistry; Professor Dr. Takao Ueda, Institute of Agriculture and Forestry, for their comments and suggestions in the preparation of the final manuscript.

I would like to express my sincerest gratitude and appreciation to Professor Dr. Kozo Ishizuka who warmly welcomed me to study at University of Tsukuba.

I gratefully acknowledge Associate Professor Dr. Hiroshi Matsumoto and Assistant Professor Dr. Ie Sung Shim, Institute of Applied Biochemistry; Assistant Professor Dr. Katsuyoshi Shimizu, Institute of Agriculture and Forestry, University of Tsukuba, for their kindness and excellent support.

I would like to acknowledge Dr. Weerachai Nanakorn, Director of the Queen Sirikit Botanic Garden; Dr. Siriporn Zungsontiporn, Botany and Weed Science Division, Department

of Agriculture; Assistant Professor Supapan Sutakom, Lampang Agricultural Research and Training Centre, Rajamangala Institute of Technology; Assistant Professor Dr. Chalermchai Wongwattana, Faculty of Science, Srinakarinwirot University; Dr. Tosapon Pornprom, Faculty of Agriculture, Kasetsart University; Mr. Jukkrit Mahujchariyawong, Faculty of Science, Kasetsart University; Mr. Niphakorn Singhapudtangul, Head of the Forest Plantation, Northern Wood Industry, Forest Industry Organization of Thailand, for their valuable information and excellent support.

Special thanks and appreciation are expressed to the Japanese Ministry of Education, Science and Culture (Monbusho) for supporting the scholarship and to the Lampang Agricultural Research and Training Centre, Rajamangala Institute of Technology, for giving me a chance to study in Japan.

I would like to thank all of the members in the Plant Environmental Biochemistry Laboratory, Institute of Applied Biochemistry, for their friendship and in making my study in the laboratory a very pleasant one.

Grateful appreciation goes to Apichato Bikkhu and Mr. Ferdinand F. Fajardo who contributed their time to correct my English in the manuscript.

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to my parents, brothers and sisters for their encouragement during the study.

I owe special gratitude to Professor Dr. Umporn

Suwannamek, Professor Dr. Rungsit Suwanketnikom and Assistant Professor Dr. Sombat Chinawong, Department of Agronomy, Kasetsart University, for their helpful guidance and support before I came to Japan.