
Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Prof. Dr. K. Hausmann for giving me the opportunity to do this dissertation at the Institut für Biologie/Zoologie, Freie Universität Berlin and for taking over the referee.

I would like to thank Dr. habil. L. Krienitz from the Leibniz-Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries (IGB) Stechlin-Neuglobsow for supervising the thesis and his support and critical input during the study.

Many thanks to Dr. K. Kotut and S. Mwangi Gichobi from the Botany Department, Kenyatta University, Nairobi for their help and support during the investigations in Kenya.

I am also grateful to Dr. S. Pflugmacher and Prof. Dr. C. Wiegand from the Leibniz-Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries Berlin and Prof. Dr. G.A. Codd from the University of Dundee for the analyses of cyanobacterial toxins.

I would like to thank Dr. P. Dadheech, Department of Botany, Government College, Ajmer, India for the good teamwork during phylogenetic analyses.

I thank all my colleagues at the Leibniz-Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries (IGB) Stechlin-Neuglobsow for their helpfulness.

Above all I am grateful to Luitgard for her invaluable support in many ways.

I thank the Government of Kenya for providing research permission (No. MOEST 13/001/31 C 90).

This study was financially supported by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (grant No. BIOLOG 01LC0001).