ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank the Lord, for my life and my health;

To my advisors, Drs. Juliana Freitas-Astúa and Pedro Luis Ramos-González, for the opportunity, guidance, support, teachings, trust, and all the contribution in this study; To the citrus leprosis research group, especially to Prof. Elliot W. Kitajima, Drs. Gabriela D. Arena and Aline D. Tassi, MS. Thais E. Sinico, Matheus B. Postclam, Mariane C. Rodrigues and Isabela Leão, for their support and contributions to this work; To Luiz de Queiroz College of Agriculture (ESALQ, Piracicaba, SP) and Graduate

program in Agricultural Microbiology, for the opportunity to complete the course and for the academic growth absorbed in this Institution;

To Biological Institute (IB, SP), for the availability of infrastructure, resources, and scientific support, especially to Dr. Ricardo Harakava;

To Dr. Varsani's research group, especially Drs. Arvind Varsani and Rafaela Fontenele, for the opportunity and contribution to this work;

To the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP), for the concession of the grant n° 2016/01960-6, for support and resources;

To the Fund for Citrus Protection (Fundecitrus), in particular to Dr. Renato B. Bassanezi, for his support and contribution in this work;

To Embrapa Cassava and Fruits, in particular to Dr. Alecio S. Moreira, for his support and contribution to this work;

To Dr. Eduardo Seiti Gomide Mizubuti, for the suggestions of research and collaborators for this work;

To the several other collaborators belonging to the institutions: Embrapa, CCSM, Unesp, UFPI, UFPR, and Epagri, for making available several samples used in this work;

To my friends, for their supporting friendship and for making my days more fun; To my husband Diego Barbosa, for the support, love, encouragement, understanding, and friendship;

To my parents and brothers, for their love, support, and understanding;

To everyone, who in some way, contributed to the realization of this work.