ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To acknowledge one's debt to one's guru is not a mere ritual. It is his right and my prized duty. It is with this overwhelming feeling that I wish to recollect, of all the people, Professor and Head, Dr. R.S. Chaudhary, my research guide. It surely has been my proud privilege to have worked under such a guide whose critical acumen and rich fund of knowledge went a long way towards the completion of the present study.

A research project cannot be a mere creative dialogue between the researcher and the guide it is more of a collective endeavour presupposing the invaluable assistance from different quarters. Prof. Ishwar Singh and Dr. J.K. Makrandi have been such great help to me throughout my research work.

I express my heartiest gratitude and thankfulness to Dr. Gurmeet Singh, Reader, Department of Chemistry, Delhi University for helping in getting SEM and ESCA studies done.

I acknowledge the academic cooperation and suggestions from Mrs. S. Nehra, Mr. N. Handa and Mr. U. Bhardwaj.

I will be failing in my duty if I do not record a note of thanks to Mr. R. Sharma for tracing the figures and to M/s. Gandhi Computer Centre for doing neat and beautiful word processing timely and accurately despite their hectic schedule.

Finally, I thank my family members for being a pillar of strength and moral support to me.

(Santosh)