1.2 Acknowledgement

I have so many people and organisations to sincerely thank for their encouragement, assistance and guidance during my PhD research. Firstly I would like to thank my supervisor, Professor Manabendra Dutta Choudhury for taking a good challenge on, showing me direction and offering me sound advice about my research.

My sincere gratitude and thanks are due to Dr. Sally Freeman of The University of Manchester, UK for her support and guidance as Co-Supervisor. I am grateful to our Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Tapodhir Bhattacharjee for allowing me to be the first Ph.D. researcher of this university with a co-supervisor from abroad.

I would like to thank Prof. G. D. Sharma Sir, Dean, Har Gobind Khorana School of Life Sciences, Dr. Anupam Das Talukdar, Assistant Professor of Department of Life Science & Bioinformatics, Dr. Karabi Dutta Choudhury, Department of Mathematics and Dr. Amitabha Bhattacharjee, Department of Microbiology of Assam University for their continuous support and encouragement.

I am grateful to all the faculty members of Department of Life Science & Bioinformatics for their support and advice. I also take this opportunity to thank the Technical, Laboratory and Office staffs of the Department for their help and assistance whenever needed.

This work, being multidisciplinary, relied on input from several individuals with specific expertise. I took help from several organisations like SAIF (NEHU), Shillong, NEIST, Jorhat and CIL, Assam University. I would like to say thank you all for the facilities offered to me as well as to the Scientists and staff members who generously rendered support.

I also acknowledge the contribution of Dr. Sudip Choudhury, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, Assam University and Dr. Biplab De of RIPSAT, Agartala for their assistance throughout the analysis of spectroscopic data. My gratitude is extended to Prof. Ramesh Ch. Deka, Department of Chemical Sciences, Tezpur University and Dr. Paritosh Mandal, Reader, Department of Chemistry, Assam University who taught me some techniques of Molecular Dynamics.
Truly believing it is the research scholars of Ethnobotany and Medicinal Plants Research Lab that have helped in my research work, I wish to thank them with my heart. I sincerely thank Dr. Shuvasish Choudhury, Assistant Professor, CIL, Assam University and my senior, from whom I learned the techniques of Natural Products isolation. I would also like to thank other Ph.D. scholars of the Department, especially Bibhas, Ratnabir, Prasenjit, Deepa’di, Monjur and Ramananda. I especially thank Rupjyoti for her help in preparing the thesis.

I thank Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India for providing Bioinformatics Infrastructure Facility to Assam University. The Bioinformatics tools procured under this facility were widely used by me during in silico analyses. I am also thankful to them for granting me fellowship during the period.

I am thankful to University Grants Commission, India for providing grants for purchasing equipments, consumables and books in Department of Life Science & Bioinformatics under Special Assistance Programme.

Lastly, I am thankful to my parents and other family members who have always been there to cheer me up in every step of my research. At this moment, I am really missing my sister Kumoli’baideo, who became a victim of Encephalitis. I will always remember her inspiring words.

Date: 26/09/2011
Place: Assam University, Silchar

(Pankaj Chetia)