I am greatly delighted to record my profound gratitude to my teacher and guide Dr. J. S. Yadav, FNA, Bhatnagar Fellow, for his expert and inspiring guidance throughout the period of my work. I am indebted to him for enlightening me on the finer skills of dealing with synthetic problems. It would have been impossible to achieve this goal without his constant support and encouragement. I consider myself fortunate to be associated with him who gave a decisive turn and a significant boost to my career.

It is my pleasant duty to express my profound gratitude to Dr. B.V. Subba Reddy, Sr. Principle scientist, Division of Natural Product Chemistry, IICT, for his encouragement and fruitful discussions throughout the course of this work.

I would also sincerely thank Dr. P. Srihari, Sr. Scientist, Division of Natural Product Chemistry, IICT, for providing me space and provisions in his lab that offered me an enthusiastic environment to work in the final stages of my research period.

I would also express my sincere thanks to Dr. S. Chandra Sekhar, Head, Division of Natural Product Chemistry, IICT, for his constant support during the course of this work.

I thank all my seniors and colleagues Dr. Anil, Dr. Ravinder, Dr. Aravind, Dr. Patil and Dr. Pavan for their unreserved help and suggestions.

It gives me immense pleasure to thank my labmates K. Praneeth, T. Srinivasa Rao, K. Ramesh, A. Raju, K. V. Raghavendra, Bhavani, Kavitha, Sravanth, Vamshi, Sreedhar, Sathish, S. Ramesh, Ravi, Ramakrishna, Suresh, Mahankali and G. Srinivas for their unreserved support and cooperation.

It is a pleasant task to thank my friends and colleagues D. N. Chary, U.V. Subba Reddy, Balamurali Krishna, Jayasudhan Reddy, Pandurangam, Narsimhulu, Siva, Nagendar, Sandip, Adi, Mallikarjun, Krishna Reddy, Bhadra, Ganesha, Kartik, Madhu, Rajasekhar, Durgaprasad, Nikhil, Zubeda, Vikram, Jalal, Brahma, Phani, Siva, Venkateshwarlu, Ramana, Prashant, Dargaiah for their support during different stages of my research work.

I would like to express my special thanks to all my M.Sc classmates, especially Guru and Vijji for their self-less support.

Indelible companionship and technical support provided by D. Krishna Rao is highly appreciated.

A special word of thanks is due for my dearest junior Mrs. S. Rehana Anjum for all her timely help and self-less assistance throughout my research period.
My feelings are beyond the words for their affection, patience, unfailing support and endless optimism of all my family members.

I thank all of them, fully aware of the fact that 'THANKS' can never be an adequate expression of the gratitude I feel.

I take this occasion to record my appreciation to the Spectroscopic and Analytical divisions of IICT.

Financial assistance from Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi, in the form of Fellowship is gratefully acknowledged.

Finally, I thank Dr. Ahmed Kamal, Acting Director, IICT, and Prof. M. V. Rajasekharan, Dean, School of Chemistry, University of Hyderabad, for allowing me to submit this work in the form of a thesis.

G. MADHUSUDHAN REDDY