ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is a matter of profound joy for me to present this thesis and at the outset I wish to express my grateful appreciation to the individuals who have enabled me to accomplish this work.

It gives me immense pleasure in expressing my deep and devoted gratitude to Prof. M.A Ittyachen, Director, School of Pure and Applied Physics, Mahatma Gandhi University, for his untiring and inspiring supervision, during the entire course of this research work.

I am very much grateful to Prof. K. Neelakandan, Head, Department of Physics, University of Calicut, who patiently read the typescript, pointed out errors and ambiguities and offered many constructive suggestions. I also thank him for his kind help and encouragement through out this work.

Next I have to thank Dr. Cyriac Joseph for his co-operation, scientific support and enthusiastic encouragement during the period of this investigation.

I acknowledge my gratitude to Dr. V.K. Wadhawan, Dr. V.S. Tiwari, Dr. Arun and Dr. P.K. Gupta. (Scientists, CAT, Indore) for providing analytical facilities. I also thank to Dr. Babu Varghese (RSIC, IIT, Chennai), Dr. Vijayalakshmi (IGCAR, Kalpakam), Prof. P.T. Radhakrishnan, Prof. M. Shaht, Prof. Geetha P (Department of Chemistry, University of Calicut), Dr. M. Padmanabhan (Director, SCS, M.G.U), Dr. C. Arunan (SCS, M.G.U) for their help and suggestions for different experimental analysis.

With utmost thanks I remember the names Dr. N.V. Unnikrishnan, Dr. L. Godfrey (Reader, SPAP), Dr. G. V. Vijayagovindan (Lecturer, SPAP), Prof. M. Abdulkhamer (Department of Physics, University of Kerala), Prof. K. M. Varier, Dr. Antony Joseph, Dr. V. S. Pankajakshen (Deparment of Physics, University of Calicut), Prof. V. P. N. Nampoori (ISP, CUSAT), Prof. P. Ramasamy, Dr. Narayana Kalkura, Dr. J. Kumar (Crystal growth centre, Anna University, Chennai) for their innovative discussions on several topics.

I am very much grateful to my colleagues Dr. Ajithkumar, Dr. K. Sunil, Dr. P. R. Biju, Dr. John Varughese, Mr. Vijoy P.S, Mr. Jothi Jose, Mr. S. N. Potty, Mr. K. N. Unni, Ms. Anit, Ms. Sindhu, Ms. Bubbly Joseph, Mr. Gin Jose, Mr. Dileep and Mr. N. K. Deepak for their timely help to fulfil the task.

I also thank UGC, Govt. of India for awarding JRF and DST, Govt. of India for providing financial assistance for the research programme.

P.P. Pradyumnan