Acknowledgements

'A teacher is the friend, philosopher and guide of his student.' Indeed, my research guide who pursues research for the pleasure of seeking truth, is a philosopher, inspiring teacher and friend of mine. I remember with deep sense of gratitude, the long hours he spent with me discussing the various problems involved in our research work. It was also a golden opportunity for me to gain an insight into the new horizon of inorganic and bioinorganic chemistry. May I express my heartfelt gratitude and indebtedness to my Supervising Teacher and Director of School of Chemical Sciences, Dr. M. Padmanabhan, for his inspiring guidance and constant encouragement without which this work would never have been completed.

I am also thankful to Prof. (Dr.) Rajasekharan Pillai, Vice-chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi University and former Director, School of Chemical Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, for having benefitted a lot from his valuable presence in the University during the period of my research. I remember with gratitude the opportunities we received because of him, to meet and attend to most of the eminent scientists and academicians of the country, in our campus.

The help rendered by the faculty members of School of Chemical Sciences is also gratefully acknowledged.

I remember with gratitude the help rendered by Prof. K. K. M. Yusuff and his research group, Cochin University of Science and Technology, Cochin, to carry out the magnetic measurements. I wish to express my sincere thanks to Dr. K. G. K. Warrier, Scientist, Regional Research Laboratory, Thiruvananthapuram and the Heads, Regional Sophisticated Instrumentation Centres at IIT Madras, IIT Mumbai, Department of Chemistry, NEHU Shillong, for providing facilities for the analytical measurements.

I am very much grateful to all my colleagues, Dr. Abraham Varghese, Dr. Sheela Chacko, Dr. Tessymol Mathew, Mrs. Preethy Suraj, Mr. V. L. Lalumon, Mr. M. S. Suresh, Mrs. Rejimol George, and especially Mr. Mikki V. Vinod, for their valuable suggestions, wholehearted cooperation and help for the successful completion of this work.

I am thankful to all my friends in School of Chemical Sciences especially Mr. P.M. Zachariah, Mr. T. K. Manoj Kumar, Mr. G. Ajith Kumar, Mr. P. K. Aji Kumar, Mr. G. S. Vinod Kumar, Mr. Prakash Chandran, Ms. Reichel Samuel, Mr. Ajith Dain Thomas, Mr. Tom Thomas, Mr. P. K. Biju, Mr. G. Gopakumar, Mr. K. M. Sreedhar, Mr. Royce Michel and Mr. Sasi Kumar, for their valuable help during my research work.
A special word of thanks to Dr. N. T. Madhu, my beloved friend, who helped me a lot during my research work and also in the preparation of this thesis.

My sincere thanks Dr. C. Arunan, for his help and prompt services as the Instrumentation Officer, School of Chemical Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University.

I am grateful to the Principal, Staff and Management of CMS College, Kottayam, for their sincere help during the course of this investigation. A special word of thanks to my colleagues in the Chemistry Department, and former colleagues, Dr. P. E. Thomas, Prof. T. T. Thomas, Prof. S. Sivadas, Prof. K. V. John, Dr. P. M. Mathew, Prof. P. C. Varghese, and Dr. Sivasankara Pillai, for their sincere help and encouragement.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to the library staff, Mahatma Gandhi University, especially to the members of the Documentation Section for their sincere help during the research work. The help rendered by the staff, JRD Tata Memorial Library, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, is also gratefully acknowledged. Thanks are also due to the Staff, University Computer Centre, Mahatma Gandhi University, for their sincere help during the computational work of this thesis.

My sincere thanks are also due to Mr. K. A. James and Mr. M. K. Vijayakumar, for the neat drawings, the administrative and the technical staff, School of Chemical Sciences, for their prompt services.

I gratefully acknowledge the teacher fellowship granted by the University Grant Commission.

I express my sincere thanks to the members of M/s Copy Write, especially Mr. Anil, Mr. Robin and Mr. Jojo, for their word processing of this work.

Let me thank my Wife, Mrs. Annamma Mathai, for her patience and moral support extended to me all these years. My thanks are also due to my sons, John Mathai and George Mathai, who helped me, especially during the preparation of the manuscript.

I remember with deep love and respect, my Father, the late Shri. Thekkummattathil Varkey Ulahannan, and my Mother, the late Smt. Sosa Ulahannan, for their advice, care, love and affection I received.

T. U. Mathai