ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Towards the completion of this dissertation, I would seize the opportunity to acknowledge my deep sense of gratitude towards all those who extended their kind help and support in fulfilling this venture. The note of thanks starts with remembering the blessing of Almighty God who actually gave the opportunity, inspiration and energy to craft this work and helped me in difficult times when things looked bleak.

It is a matter of great pleasure to express my deepest sense of gratitude to work under the esteemed guidance of Prof. Mohammed Ali, Dean, Head Department of Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry whose invaluable direction, expert assessment, spirited motivation, and tremendous support enabled me to shape up this research work. It has been an excellent experience to me as a research scholar working under him.

I would like to thank Prof. R. Zafar, Prof. S.H. Ansari, Dr. Vidha Aeri and Mr. Mohd. Mujeeb for their cooperation. I also thank Dr. G.L. Sharma, Centre for Biotechnology, Delhi University, and his team, Ms. Vibha and Dr. Anil in completing my antimicrobial activity work.

I feel deeply obliged and indebted to Showkat, Wadood, Onkar and Rafi and for their erudite direction, supportive counseling and the help extended by them at all odd times. I am thankful to Shamim, Ranju, Sheeba and Tanveer, Vijender, Raad, Shaheen and Shahnaz for their support.

I acknowledge the cooperation and support provided by my friends and colleagues Jasjeet, Shweta, Saima, Romana, Shoaib, Shibeer and Atif. I appreciate the support provided by my juniors Md. Sohail Akhtar, Imran and Yashomati.

I also thank all the laboratory staff of the faculty who helped me when needed.

Finally, my efforts will remain incomplete, if I fail to acknowledge the thanks to my Mother and my dear husband Dr. N. M. Bhalla for supporting me and for being my moral anchor throughout my work. What I am today is because of love, care, support and above all blessings of my family members. Yena, my sweet daughter, gave me hope of a bright future when the present sometimes looked gloomy.

Thank you all for what I am.

I would again like to thank God for giving me the confidence to do things in the right way.

Date: 5/12/05

(Reni Kapoor)