Acknowledgement

Fervently and humbly, I acknowledge the genuine cooperation, inspiration and affection offered by my guide Dr. H. P. Sarma, Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Science, Gauhati University, Guwahati-14, India. The present work bears at every stage the impression of his counsel, concrete suggestions, criticisms and of meticulous attention towards the details of the thesis which has made this work a success. It is indeed a rare privilege for me to work under his enduring inspiration and indomitable spirit.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to Prof. S. Kalita, Head, Department of Environmental Science, Gauhati University, Guwahati for his constant encouragement during the course of my work.

It is a pleasure to express my deep sense and reverence and greatfulness to Prof. D.C. Goswami, (Retd.) Head, Department of Environmental Science, Gauhati University, Guwahati-14 for his constant support and encouragement during the research period.

My special thanks are due to Prof. H.K. Das, (Retd.) Head, Department of Chemistry, Gauhati University, for his kind inspiration and support during the course of my research work.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India, for the financial help that
I received as a Junior Research Fellow under the major research project, sanctioned to the department vide sanction letter no. 100/IFD/1848/2006-2007 Dated 11.07.06.

My special thanks are due to my colleagues, without whose help and assistance this work would not have been completed. In this context I thank Jayashree Deka, Pallavi Sharma, K.K. Borah, and other research scholars for their encouragement during the course of the research work.

With great pleasure, I express my indebtedness to my husband Sri Rajib Dey for his constant encouragement, support and inspiration and his patience to always stand behind me especially at times when I was about to give up.

I recall with love and fervent gratitude, constant encouragement and inspiration given to me by my beloved parents and my In-Laws. My sister Sudipta and brother-in-law ChandraShekhar, for their moral support.

Lastly I would like to acknowledge my indebtedness to one and all who wished my welfare and helped for it.

Sutapa Chakrabarty