Acknowledgement

It would not have been possible to write this thesis without the generous help and constant encouragement of kind people around me. I would like to extend my appreciation especially, to the following for the support they have rendered for the accomplishment of the work presented in this dissertation.

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor Dr. Ganesh Pandey for his invaluable guidance, endless patience, outstanding motivation, amazing enthusiasm, immense knowledge and for the continuous support throughout my Ph.D study and research. I could not have imagined having a better advisor and mentor for my Ph.D study. Indeed, it will be impossible for me to describe in words his contribution in my life.

I am thankful to Dr. (Mrs.) Gadre for her moral support and motivation. I take this opportunity to offer my sincere appreciation to Dr. P. K. Triphati, Dr. S. P. Chavan, Dr. R. A. Joshi and Dr. (Mrs.) R. R. Joshi for their help, valuable suggestions and advice.

I thank my present lab colleagues Rajesh, Binoy, Animesh, Durga, Shiva, Jankiram, Jagadish, Pradeep, Ramkrishna, Akash, Sandip, Rushil, Divya, Pushpendra, Sahani, Pulak, Prachi, Dr. Navnath, Dr. Bhawna, Dr. Atish, Dr. Mantu, Dr. Deepak S. and previous lab members Dr. Sanjay, Dr. Srinivas, Dr. Kishor, Dr. Balakrishna, Dr. Keshrinath, Late Srikant, Dr. Nishant, Dr. Ravindra, Dr. Asha, Dr. Prasanna, Dr. Amrut, Dr. Swaroop, Dr. Rajender, Dr. Debashis Grahacharya, Dr. Dharmendra, Dr. Priyanka, Dr. Sujit, Debasis Dey, Tukaram, Nitesh, Dr. Gumaste, Pawar kaka for making GP Lab, the most desirable place to work.

I am deeply grateful to Prof. Oliver Reiser, University of Regensburg, Germany, for offering an exchange student position and providing me research facilities in his group, through INDIGO Programme. I extend my sincere thanks to all his group members, especially to my colleague Paul Kohls, during my stay there. I would also like to thank BASF SE, Ludwigshafen, Germany for offering me internship opportunity, through INDIGO programme.
Help from Dr. P. R. Rajmohanan, Amol Kotmale, Srikant Kunjir for NMR analyses, (Mrs.) Shantakumari for mass analyses and Dr. Rahul Banerjee, Pradip Pachfule for X-ray analyses is greatly acknowledged. Special thanks to Pradip and Amol for their immense help out.

It is difficult for me to acknowledge a long friend list of mine, but I should not forget to mention name of Dr. Ankur Pandey, Dr. Ankush Biradar, Dr. Kishan H., Dr. Sudhir B., Dr. Atul Prashar, Dr. Pandurang C., Dr. Abasaheb, Dr. Manmath, Dr. Bharat, Dr. Prasad W., Dr. Devendra B., Dr. Abhijit P., Dr. Ganesh K., Dr. Prakash S., Dr. Digambar S., Dr. Dhanraj S., Pradip Pachfule, Ankush Bhise, Pankaj Daramwar, Kiran Patil, Majid, Chinmoy, Shekhar, Nagesh, Mangesh Mahajan, Atul, Bhausaheb, Milind, Dnyaneshwar, Govind, Achintya, Prasenjit, all friends from GJ hostel and NCL who helped me directly and indirectly. I would like to specially thank Kiran Patil and Majid for their constant help and brotherhood support. Further, I could not have even imagined, beginning my research career without support and motivation of my M. Sc. friends Dr. Avinash Puyad, Shyam Patil and Dayanand Jadhav.

I thank CSIR New Delhi, for the award of Research Fellowship and Director, CSIR-NCL, for the infrastructure and facilities.

Last but not least I would like to thank my parents, my sisters and my entire family for giving unconditional love, constant support and encouragement without which I never would have been able to achieve my goals. Lastly, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Shona, who is god’s greatest gift in my life, was there cheering me up and stood by me through the good and bad times.

Deepak Jadhav