Acknowledgements
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

From the depth of my heart, I render my gratitude to my research supervisor, Dr. C. Namasivayam, M.Sc., Ph.D., Dipl. in Ger., Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore for his highly inspiring and valuable guidance, continuous encouragement, advice and kindness to bring this work into the complete form. Working under his supervision has instilled in me the qualities of confidence, perseverance and commitment towards research work, which would help me throughout my life. I am immensely indebted to him for suggestions and criticisms during the course of the research work and will cherish my association with him in the years to come. His untiring efforts helped me to achieve the award of CSIR Senior Research Fellowship.

I am thankful to Dr. P. Lakshmanaperumalsamy, Professor and Head, Department of Environmental Sciences, Bharathiar University, for the facilities.

I would like to express my gratitude to the authorities of Bharathiar University for providing me the facilities to carry out the research work.

I am grateful to the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi, Government of India for the award of Senior Research Fellowship (SRF) from May 2003.

I would like to extend my gratitude to Dr. P. Weidler, Geophysicst, Institute of Technical Chemistry, Karlsruhe Research Center, Germany for the analysis of surface area and pore size distribution of my carbon samples and Dr. K. Natarajan, Professor and Head, Department of Chemistry, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore for providing the IR spectra for my carbon samples. I take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks to Mr. P. Muthukumar, research scholar, IIT Chennai, Mr. K. Gokulkrishnan, research scholar, Germany, Dr. M. Vijayakumar, Post-doctoral Fellow, Universite de Maine, Le Mans Cedex, France and Dr. V. Subash, Postdoctoral Fellow, Bharathiar University.
Fellow, University of Louis Pasteur de Strasbourg, France who helped me in various needs.

I sincerely thank Dr. M. Jambulingam, Reader, Department of Chemistry, P.S.G College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore for his encouragement.

I am thankful to my senior Dr. R.T. Yamuna and my colleagues Mr. K. Prathap, Ms. S. Sumithra, Ms. D. Sangeetha and Mr. M.V. Sureshkumar and Mr. N. Venkatachalam and Ms. A. Priya, former M.Sc., students of our research group for their kind help.

The technical officers Ms. D. Prabha, Department of Environmental Sciences and Mr. C. Gunasekaran, Department of Zoology are thankfully acknowledged and I also extend my thanks to office staff, Department of Environmental Sciences for their kind help for my work.

I record my special thanks to my friends, who gave me helping hand at every stage of my work and other research scholars of our department who have helped me directly and indirectly.

Last comes their names but first comes their thought- I am deeply indebted to my parents, brothers, sisters and grandparents for their encouragement and love throughout my career.

Finally I thank the Almighty for the benevolence and blessings showered on me.