My gratitude to the following people cannot be adequately expressed. I am deeply indebted to Dr. M. R. Gopinathan Nair, Reader, School of Chemical Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, for his guidance, constant encouragement and generous help in all stages of this work. I discovered in the course of writing this thesis that my guide is gracious, accessible, helpful and engaging. It was Dr. M. R. Gopinathan Nair who introduced me to the fascinating topic of Polymer Chemistry which prompted me to undertake research in this important area of Polymer Science.

I acknowledge with gratitude the encouragement and help extended by Dr. M. Padmanabhan, Reader-in-Charge, School of Chemical Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam.

Dr. V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai, formerly Director, School of Chemical Sciences, is gratefully remembered for his kind co-operation and assistance.

My sincere thanks are extended to the teaching and non-teaching staff of the School of Chemical Sciences.

I am especially grateful to Dr. N. M. Mathew, Director, Rubber Research Institute of India, Kottayam, for extending the permission to utilise the facilities for analysis at the institute. Dr. K. Ramamurthy, Technical Consultant and Dr. Palani Swamy, Head, Plastics Testing Centre, CIPET, Madras, are remembered gratefully for their assistance in carrying out some analysis at the centre.

My gratitude to Fr. (Dr.) C. J. Paul, George V. Thomas, C. Arunan, V. Jayashree, George Mathew and other research scholars is expressed here for their help in the successful completion of my work.

I wish to thank the management and Principal of SD College, Alleppey, for their whole-hearted co-operation and encouragement. I gratefully acknowledge the teacher fellowship granted by the UGC.

I am grateful to Anil Kumar M. N. and other members of Copy Write, Ettumanoor, for the word processing and photocopying of this work.

R. Chandrasekharan Nair