ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I sincerely express my profound gratitude to Dr. M. V. Rao, Professor, Department of Plant Science, School of Life Sciences, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli for his inspiring guidance and constructive criticisms throughout the tenure of this investigation. His complete trust and explicit style of functioning inspired me to work with utmost pleasure and freedom. I am grateful to him for the time he had devoted to this task and to bring thesis to a fruitful reality.

I acknowledge my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. A. S. Rao, Professor, Department of Biotechnology, School of Life Sciences, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, for his constant and valuable suggestions as a Co-guide and Doctoral committee member.

I am thankful to Dr. K.V. Krishnamurthy, Professor and Head (Retd.) and Dr. N. Jayabalan, Professor and Head, Department of Plant Science, School of Life Sciences, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli for providing me necessary laboratory facilities. Thanks are due to Dr. B.D. Ranjithakumari, Reader, Mrs. A Lakshmi Prabha, Lecturer, Dr. (Mrs.) M. Sathiyabama, Lecturer, Mr. M. Vijaya Venkatesh, Technical officer, Department of Plant Science, School of Life Sciences, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli and Dr. T. Senthil kumar, Lecturer, Department of Industry-University collaboration, (BDU-BDC), Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli for their constant encouragement.

I am thankful to Prof. Shigenobu Arihara and Kazuko Yoshikawa, Kyoto Pharmaceutical University, Kyoto, Japan for providing gymnemic acid standard, Dr. R. Jayaraman, Professor (Retd.), Department of Chemistry, School of Chemical Sciences, Prof. A. Rajendren, Department of Marine Science, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli; Mr. S. Govindu, Central Electrochemical Research Institute, Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu, for carrying out the HPLC analysis; Mr. Muthuswamy (Mumbai), Mr. Manimaran, Mr. Saravana Babu, Faculty, Mr. Ajit, J.S.S. college of Pharmacy, Ooty, for the help rendered during HPTLC analysis; Dr. L. Uma, Director, National Facility Marine Cyanobacteria, for valuable suggestions in Phytochemical work; Dr. M.A. Akabarsha, Professor and Head, Dr. G. Aruchunan, Reader, Department of Animal Science, School of Life Sciences, Bharathidasan
University, Dr. T. Thirunalasundari, Reader, National Facility Marine Cyanobacteria, Bharathidasan University, Dr. S. Kavimani, Mother Theresa Institute of Health Science, Pondicherry, Dr. S. Gunasekaran, Christian Medical College, Vellore, Dr. Jaswanth, Dr. Karbaga Kumara Sundari, Mr. Malarmanan, Ms. Suganya, Mrs. Selvi, Periyar College of Pharmaceutical Science for Girls, Tiruchirappalli, for timely help during Pharmacological Studies.

My special thanks to Dr. V.S. Ramkumar, VPCT Clinic, for valuable suggestion and timely help.

Words are inadequate to express my thanks to Mr. T. Ravindaran, Section Officer, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, who showed me the way to enter into the research world.

It is my great pleasure to thank my close friends Dr. A. Abdul Azeez, Alabama University, U.S.A, Dr. A. Syed Ibrahim, U.S.A and Mr. C.K. Kishore Babu, Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow, my senior colleagues Dr. S. Arumugam, Dr. N. Komalavalli, Dr. M. Jeyaseelan, Dr. S. Alagumanian, Dr. V. Kumaresan, Dr. (Mrs.) K. Mridula, Mrs. N. Karpagam, Mr. T. Gouthaman, Miss. A.R. Lavanya, Mr. M. Senthil Kumar, Mr. G. Babu, Miss M.S. Kavitha and Mr. G. Mahendran, Dr. G.V. Kumar, Dr. N. Ravichandran, Dr. M. Jayakumar, Mr. P. Baskaran, Mr. M. D. Saravanamurthy, Researchers, Department of Plant Science, Mr. B. Kadalmani and Mr. R. Rajkumar, Researchers, Department of Animal Science, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, Dr. B. Mohamed Rafeeq, Dr. Naseer Ali, Mr. M. J. Abdul Hammed, Mr. S. Syed Musthaq, Vellore, Mr. S. Kasthurirengan, Mr. R. Manimaran, Mr. G. Pazhanivel, Mr. Joe, Sun Photo studio for their immense help at all time needed.

I am thankful to Mr. K. Muthu Kumaran, Mr. S. Madhukar, Mr. M. Mamundi, Mr. A. Diraviadass, Miss. S. Usha, Mrs. Vasantha, Non-teaching staff, Department of Plant Science, Miss. Shanthi, Librarian, School of Life Sciences, Bharathidasan University, for their timely help.
I like to thank all my research colleagues and friends from School of Life Sciences, School of Physics and School of Chemistry, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, for their constant encouragement and timely help throughout the study. I thank S.A. Shafi, ASP Computers, for thesis preparation.

Not the least but the foremost, I am sincerely indebted to my family members for their essential logistical helps, encouragement, inspiration, advice and moral support not only for the successful completion of this work but also in all my endeavors.

A. BAKRUDEEN ALI AHMED