Acknowledgements

I wish to express my deep sense of gratitude to my supervising teacher, Dr. T. Radhakrishnan, Reader, Department of Chemistry, University of Kerala, for the meticulous care with which he supervised my research at every stage of its preparation, the precise nature of his valuable suggestion and his scholastic insight.

I am extremely thankful to Dr. P. Indrasenan, Professor & Head, Department of Chemistry, University of Kerala, for providing necessary facilities for carrying out this academic endeavour.

I owe my profound sense of gratitude to Dr. K.N. Rajasekharan, Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of Kerala, in pursuit of his constant encouragement, timely help and valuable suggestions.

I express my sincere thanks to all the faculty members of the Department of Chemistry, for extending all support and co-operation.

I extend my sincere thanks to Mrs. Sreekumari Radhakrishnan, Department of Chemistry, University of Zululand, South Africa for her valuable help in carrying out the whole analysis part of my work, including SEM and TG analysis.

Words cannot reveal my heartfelt indebtedness to my friend, Miss. Anju M. Pillai, for her ineffable endurance, unstinting support and inflammable motivation. Her unique and affectionate touch tuned the entire rhythm of my life, both academic and personal.

I am deeply obliged to Dr. Biju Philip, for his constitutional suggestions, ingenious criticism and unstinting motivation that greatly helped me in designing the work.

I owe a deep sense of thanks to all my colleagues and friends especially, Miss. Sreejalekshmi K.G., Department of Chemistry, Miss. Sandhya Rani S.K., Department of Zoology and Miss. Sudhakumari V.M., Department of Politics, for extending all necessary help, moral support and co-operation.

I am extremely grateful to my friends, Mr. Hashim and Mrs. Anila Hashim, for their painstaking and tireless efforts without which, this thesis would not have materialized in its present form.

I cannot refrain from expressing my deep love and indebtedness to my parents and my sisters for their eternal support and boundless affection, which made me what I am...

Above all, I dedicate this whole venture in pursuit of the pervasive and omnipresent power of God Almighty.

Rathika Nath G.