ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My research work bears testimony to the help rendered by many people in different places.

My work would have never been completed, but for the encouragement, guidance and unstinted support of my supervising teacher, Dr.K.Sreekumar, Reader, Department of Applied Chemistry, Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kochi. His erudition turned my work with him into a rewarding experience. I am greatly indebted to him for all that he has done for me.

I am grateful to Dr.P.Indrasenan, Professor and Head of the Department of Chemistry, University of Kerala, Kariavattom, Thiruvananthapuram for providing facilities. I also offer my gratitude and respect to late Prof.C.P.Joshua, former Head of the Department of Chemistry, Prof.K.N.Rajasekharan, Dr.T.S.Anirudhan, Dr.S.M.A.Shibli and all other members of the faculty, Department of Chemistry who have been a valued fountain of advice and encouragement and helped me in many ways.

My respectful thanks are due to the members of the administrative staff, especially, Mr.Reghunathan Nair for their generous help to me.

Grateful acknowledgement is made to late Rev.Dr.T.C.George, Manager, Bishop Abraham Memorial College, Thuruthicad for his valuable inspiration, help and permission to my research work. I am grateful to the present Manager Mrs. Achamma George, Dr. Jose Parakadavil, the former Principal and Dr. M.N. George, the present Principal for their help.

I sincerely thank the UGC for granting me a fellowship under the FIP and the Government of Kerala for sanctioning the deputation.
I also extend my gratitude to my coresearch workers Dr. N. Ajaykumar, Mr. N. F. Francis, Mr. Sudeesh Kumar and Mrs. K. Santha Kumari for their encouragement.

My thanks are due to my friends Biju Philip, Vipin A. Nair, Vinod V. P., Anoop Krishnan, Dr. D. Bahuleyan and Dr. K. Sivadasan Chettiyar for their valuable help in this research work.

I am also thankful to the authorities of SAIF, at IIT Chennai, and Regional Research Laboratory, Thiruvananthapuram for providing instrumentation facilities.

Finally I thank Mr. Anil Kumar S., Suresh Kumar M. G. and Rajesh N. C., Karthic Digital Designers, Chalappally for executing the DTP work of my thesis with meticulous care.

Kariavattom
02.11.2005

Varughese Mathew