PREFACE

The present thesis entitled "Pañcapādikā of Padmapāda - A Study" is the result of my work as a full-time research scholar. I have been very much interested in the systems of Vedānta Philosophy especially Advaita Vedānta. My attempt here is to offer an explication of the Pañcapādikā. The Pañcapādikā forms an important segment of the corpus on the Advaita Vedānta Philosophy. A thorough knowledge and understanding of the text is basic to the philosophic stance for every one of the Vedāntins. Among the principal texts consulted for the preparation of this thesis are the Pañcapādikā, the commentaries on Brahmasūtra and important Post Śaṅkara Advaitic texts like Bhāmatī.

In preparing this thesis I have had the active assistance of many Sanskrit scholars. My deepest
gratitude and greatest indebtedness are due to my supervising teacher, Dr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai, Visiting Professor, Department of Sanskrit, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, for his sagacious and invaluable guidance at all levels. I express my sincere thanks to Dr. N.P.Unni, Professor and Head of the Department of Sanskrit, University of Kerala. I wish to record my thankfulness to Dr. R. Karunakaran, Director, Centre for Vedanta Studies, University of Kerala and Dr. K. Vijayan, Director and Professor, Oriental Research Institute and Manuscripts Library, University of Kerala for their inspiring suggestions in the course of my research. I record here my thankfulness to Prof. M.K.Ramachandran Nair, for the trouble he took in going through my thesis and offering suggestions for improvement.

I thank also the authorities of the Kerala University Library, Sanskrit Department and Centre for Vedanta Studies for providing me with necessary facilities for my study.
I place on record my sense of gratitude to the University of Kerala for giving financial assistance for undertaking this research project.

REMADEVI AMMA, K.