Acknowledgements

I express my deep sense of gratitude and appreciation to my distinguished Supervising Teacher Dr. K. N. Rajasekharan, Professor and Head, Department of Chemistry, University of Kerala, for his able and inspiring guidance. But for his constant encouragement, deep knowledge, valuable suggestions and never-failing patience, this study would not have been possible.

I sincerely thank Dr. P. Indrasenan, Dean of Sciences, University of Kerala and former Head of the Department of Chemistry for providing infrastructure facilities for the work. I acknowledge my gratitude to all members of faculty of the department for the co-operation and help rendered during the work. I am thankful to the Librarian and all other members of non-teaching staff for the help and support extended to me.

I gratefully acknowledge the generosity shown by Dr. Surya Prakash Rao of Prondicherry University and Dr. Mangalam S. Nair of NIIST (CSIR), Thiruvananthapuram in recording several NMR spectra. I also thank Dr. S. Perumal and Mr. R. Suresh Kumar of School of Chemistry, Madurai Kamaraj University for the help extended in recording NMR spectra. I am grateful to Dr. Ragahaviah Pallepogu and Mr. Rajesh K. of School of Chemistry, University of Hyderabad for recording single crystal X-ray data. Thanks are due to SAIF, CDRI, Lucknow for providing NMR and mass spectra and STIC, Cochin University of Science and Technology for providing CHN analysis data.

I sincerely thank the University Grants Commission for granting me a Teacher Fellowship under FIP. I express my gratitude to the Manager, Principal and my colleagues of Christian College, Chengannur for their abundant encouragement and valuable support.
My heartfelt thanks are due to my fellow researchers Dr. A. N. Jyothi, Ms. Sherin G. Thomas, Ms. Asha Bharathan, Mr. S. P. Sreelal, Ms. V. Sandhya, Ms. S. P. Jisha and Mr. M. Sankaran for all the help, inspiration and companionship provided to me during the entire period of my study. I thank Ms. N. Sudha and Ms. Asha Asokan for some spectral data. My deep sense of gratitude to Dr. K. George Thomas (NIIST, CSIR, Thiruvananthapuram), Mr. Jubi John (Research Scholar, NIIST, CSIR), Dr. S. Asha, Dr. K.V. Dinesh Babu, Dr. K. Kurien Thomas, Dr. K. G. Sreejalekshmi and Dr. S. L. Manju for their valuable help and suggestions during various stages of my work.

I bow my head before the memory of my late father who always motivated me in my studies. I am greatly indebted to my husband Abraham, sons Sebin and Aswin and my mother for their patience, understanding, sacrifices and support which made this work possible.

Above all, I thank the Almighty with my whole heart for allowing me to complete this work successfully.

Sophia K. Philip