ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am greatly indebted to my teacher and supervisor, R.K. Das, Ph.D (Kalyani), Reader, School of Life Sciences for exposing me to the field and for his valuable and constant supervision during the entire period of investigation.

I am grateful to Prof. A. Mittra, Head, School of Life Sciences, and also to Prof. M.C. Dash and Prof. U.C. Biswal, the previous Heads, School of Life Sciences for providing necessary laboratory facilities and encouragement during the study. My sincere thanks are due to other staff members of the School (teaching and non-teaching) also for their advice, encouragement and help as and when needed.

Help of my lab-mates and friends Dr. R.N. Kar, Dr. R. Nayak, Dr. (Mrs.) B. Roy, Mr. P.K. Sinha, Kadambini, Sucharita, Bipin, C.S. Kar, H.K. Dash, A.K. Mohanty, Ghanendra, Anuradha, Hari, Sunakar, Bulu and Satya from time to time is highly acknowledged.

I wish to express my thanks to May and Baker (India) Ltd., Bombay; Hoechst India Ltd., Bombay; S.G. Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Ranoli and Burroughs Wellcome (India) Ltd., Bombay for providing base free samples of the drugs as gifts.
The work in part was conducted while the author was working as a JRF in a CSIR Scheme sanctioned to Dr. R.K. Das.

Lastly, I extend my obligation to my wife, Mrs. Sanjukta Behera and my children Santosh, Madhusmita and Suchismita who could tolerate all sorts of troubles at home arising out of my involvement in research during the last years.

Akshaya Kumar Behera

(AKSHAYA KUMAR BEHERA)