PREFACE

This thesis entitled “Biochemical Studies on *Heracleum candolleanum* (Wight et Arn.) Gamble” is an attempt to explore the ethno-pharmacological potential of an under-investigated herb, *Heracleum candolleanum*, endemic to the Western Ghats. The problem considered in this thesis is organized into eight chapters. Chapter one introduces the topic of study, by defining the objectives and chapter two presents the review of literature. Chapter three presents in explicit detail the materials and methods employed in the research. Chapter four discusses the phytochemical aspects of the herb. Chapter five talk about its antioxidant property. Anti-inflammatory and cytotoxic activities of *H. candolleanum* are brought out in chapters six and seven. Isolation of active principle ‘Bergapten’ from the roots of this plant is presented in chapter eight. Summary and conclusion of the overall work is given in chapter nine.