Acknowledgement

This work is a reflection of the rays of clemency emitted from the Almighty. Words feel short in evaluating this benison in each and every aspect of my life.

No words can adequately express my gratitude and respect towards my Guide Dr. M. Manjunath Setty, Professor, Department of Pharmacognosy, MCOPS, Manipal University, Manipal for his guidance, invaluable advice, inputs and support throughout the course of my research work. I shall always be indebted for the knowledge and skills, which I could imbibe from him.

I am glad to have my Co-guide Dr. K. S. Chandrashekar, Professor, Department of Pharmacognosy, MCOPS, Manipal University, Manipal. He was always there with his enthusiastic suggestions, encouragement and inspiration.

I wholeheartedly thank Dr. N. Udupa, Professor who was the source of inspiration for me with his moral support and encouragement during my research endeavor.

I wish to express my deep appreciation to Dr. C. Mallikarjuna Rao, Principal, MCOPS, Manipal University, Manipal for his support, guidance and advice that I have received during the completion of this research work.

My deep sense of respect and sincere thanks to Dr. M. Sreenivasa Reddy, Professor and Vice Principal, Department of Pharmaceutics, MCOPS, Manipal University, Manipal who was always there with his enthusiastic suggestions and corrections.

I am fortunate to have Dr. Santhan P, Taxonomist, Natural Remedies Pvt, Ltd, Banglore, as my mentor in plant collection and identification. His help in the study made was beyond words. I am also thankful to Dr G. K. Bhat, (Ret) Taxonomist, Poornaprajna college, Udupi for his help in plant identification and authentication.
My sincere thanks to Dr. Saleemulla khan, Dr. R. Lobo, Dr. Ashwath Ram, Dr. CS Shreedhara, Mr Vasudev Pai for their valuable guidance, help and support in planning, execution and interpretation of the experimental work.

It is my privilege to express my grateful acknowledgment to Dr. K B Koteswara, Dr. K Sreedhar Pai, Dr Krishnamurthy Bhat, Dr. Goutham Shenoy, Dr. M K Unnikrishnan, Dr. V. M Subrahmanyan, Dr. J Venkata Rao, Dr. Raghu CH, Dr. Lalit Kumar, Dr. Gopalan Kutty, Dr. Vijaya Bhaskar, Dr. D Shreedhar, Dr Virendra Ligade, Dr Pradeep Murugandi, Dr. Jayesh Mudgal, Dr. B S Muddukrishna, Dr. Sudheer Murkoth, Dr. Vasantharaju, Mr Arvind Pai, Dr. Swapnil Dengale and all faculty members of MCOPS for their constant help during the entire period of my project.

I am extremely fortunate to have fellow research scholar and wife Shilpee as a colleague during my research work. Words are not enough to express her contribution in this research work. Her support made this research possible.

Undoubtedly my friend Dr Mradul was an inspiration to me during my research work. He has motivated me constantly. I also like to express my gratitude to Mr. Rohit Raj for his adventurous trips in and around Manipal.

I am extremely grateful to seniors and colleagues Dr Praful Deshpande, Dr Dhirendra Sanghai, Dr Chethan, Dr Narayan, Dr Chandrasekhar Misra, Dr Pallavi, Dr Nitin Reddy, Dr. Mradul, Dr. Prateek, Dr. Seena, Dr. Kiran, Dr. Renuka, Ms Jyothsna, Dr Rajalexmi, Mr Himanshu, Mrs. Sahithi, Mr Kapil, Ms Nimmy, Mr Sushil Raut, Mr. Pavan Naik, Mr Amol Khade, Mrs Akhila, Dr Ankita, Mr Anjaneya, Dr Ravishankar, Dr Devaraj, Dr Nagesh, Mr Yogesh, Ms Rutuja, and Ms Tejaswini for their constant moral support and encouragement.
I am thankful to Mr Jayram, Mrs Savitha, Mrs Manjula, Mrs Laxmi, and other non-teaching staff members especially for their cooperation and support.

I sincerely thank Manipal University, Manipal, India and The Department of Science and Technology (DST) for providing financial support and providing all the necessary facilities for carrying out this research work.

I am also thankful to gym trainer Mr Manjunath, Marena (sports complex) for guidance during gym.

I am extremely grateful to my beloved parents Mr. Anand Devkar and Mrs Shobha Devkar my brothers Mr Amrutraj and Ruturaj, Somesh, Manoj and family Mrs Supriya, Mrs Jayshree, who gave me unconditional love, support and showed faith in me. They have been a source of inspiration and encouragement for me. I thank them for their sacrifice and blessings without which this effort of mine would not have paid off.

I thank almighty for his shower of blessings on me with such wonderful people that make this life worth living.

Lastly, but not the least, I would like to thank all those who were directly or indirectly assisted in the completion of this work.

Raviraj Devkar