ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am wholeheartedly thankful and express my deepest sense of gratitude to my research supervisor, Dr. T. Sivakumar, Associate Professor, Department of Applied Science and Technology, A. C. Tech., Anna University, whose constant inspiration, invaluable guidance and constructive criticism helped me a lot to think, to solve the problems and to focus my views in proper perspective.

My sincere thanks goes to my Doctoral committee members Dr. K. Shanthi, Professor, Department of Chemistry, Anna University and Dr. K. Ravichandran, Head, Department of Analytical Chemistry, University of Madras for their fruitful discussions. I would like to thank the Dean Dr. S. Sivanesan, A. C. Tech and Head Dr. S. Kalaiselvam, Department of Applied Science and Technology, Anna University for extending the laboratory facilities.

I thank all my research colleagues and friends for their fullest cooperation throughout the tenure of this work. I would like to express my heart-felt thanks to Dr. J Palani raja, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Chemistry, University of California Riverside for his help and timely advice.

This thesis would not have seen the light of the day without the moral support, love and affection from my father Mr. M. Appavu, my mother Mrs. A. Alamelu, my sisters Mrs. A. Jayalakshmi, Ms. A. Revathi and my brother in law Mr. V. Arivukkarasu.