ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It gives me great pleasure to express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. K. P. Rajappan Nair, Laser and Spectroscopy Laboratory, Dept. of Physics, Cochin University of Science and Technology for his excellent guidance and constant encouragement throughout the course of this research work.

I am thankful to Prof. V. C. Kurikose, Head, Dept. of Physics, Cochin University of Science and Technology and Prof. K. P. Vijayakumar, Prof. M. Sabir and Prof. Elizabeth Mathai, former Heads of the Department for providing the necessary facilities. I am thankful to Dr. T. M. Abdul Rasheed and Dr. M. K. Jayaraj for their timely help. I remember with gratitude Dr. Sudha C. kartha for all the help, support and encouragement at various stages of this work. I am thankful to all the teaching and non-teaching staff of the Dept. of Physics for their sincere co-operation.

I am extremely thankful to my co-workers in the Laser and Spectroscopy Lab., especially to Dr. Jyotsna Ravi, Dr. S. Shaji and Dr. Shibu M. Eappen from whom I have benefitted immensely. I owe a lot to Dr. Sunny Kuriakose, Dr. B. Sylamalakumari, Mr. Thomas P. Zacharia, Ms. T. Nandini and Dr. K. K. Vijayan, my fellow researchers in the laboratory who contributed in different ways towards the accomplishment of this work. I thank Mr. N. V. Joshy, Ms. P. A. Subha, Ms. Chitra R. Nayak and Mr. John P. R for their timely help and assistance. During the course of my research, I have been able to communicate with Prof. B. R. Henry, University of Guelph, Canada and Prof. C. Sandorf of University of Montreal and I am thankful to them for their valuable suggestions in shaping my research work.

I am grateful to Prof. V. X. Sebastian, Principal, St-paul’s College, kalamassery and to the staff members of the Dept. of Physics for their co-operation and support. I take this opportunity to thank my colleagues, especially Dr. Sallyamma Job, Dr. M. S. Geetha, Ms. Rose Philo K. J and Ms. Beena P. J for their help and support.

I wish to thank U. G. C, India for financial assistance in the form of a minor research project sanctioned to me. I also acknowledge the analysis services rendered by Sophisticated Analytical Instrument Facility (SAIF) Cochin, a national facility sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India.

I am extremely grateful to my parents, relatives and well-wishers for the support and encouragement rendered during the period of this work. Finally I express my deep sense of gratitude to my daughter, Jane for her encouragement, love, support and understanding throughout the course of this work. Above all, there is that Supreme Power without Whose blessings and kindness we cannot achieve anything in this world.

Usha John