Acknowledgements

First of all I sincerely express my heartfelt gratitude and indebtedness to Dr P K Radhakrishnan, Professor, School of Chemical Sciences, Mahatma University, Kottayam, for motivating me by suggesting the problem, inspiring me by his constant involvement in the work and without his constant encouragement this work would never have been materialised.

I am grateful to Prof Dr Sabu Thomas, Director, School of Chemical Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam for his whole hearted support and providing the necessary facilities. I also express my sincere thanks to Dr M Padmanabhan, formerly Professor and Director, School of Chemical Sciences, Mahatma University, Kottayam, for helping me in several occasions in carrying out this research work.

I sincerely express my heartfelt thanks to the members of the teaching staff of the School of Chemical Sciences, Mahatma University, Kottayam, for all the help I received from them.

I express my sincere thanks to all the Administrative, Technical and Library staff of the School of Chemical Sciences for the cooperation and help they have extended to me during the course of my research work. I am very much grateful to Dr C A Arunan of School of Chemical Sciences for his invaluable help in completing the analytical works.

I express my gratitude to the library staff of the MG University. The help rendered by Mr Raju Varghese is specially remembered.

I am indebted to the Heads of Sophisticated Analytical Instrument Facility(SAIF), IITs of Mumbai and Chennai, Department of Chemistry, IIT, Chennai, for providing me some instrumental facilities without which this work would never have been completed. I sincerely thank Dr Babu Varghese, SAIF, Chennai for completing the crystal structure analysis. The help rendered by Mr. N Sivaramakrishnan, SAIF, Chennai for recording the EPR spectra is also remembered with gratitude.
I place on record my gratitude and obligation to my seniors in the research group especially Dr Siby Joseph, Dr N T Madhu and Dr G Ajithkumar for their invaluable suggestions and timely help for the successful completion of this work.

I express my sincere thanks to my lab mates Ms Deepa K, Dr Vimalkumar PM and Ms Jisha Sreedharan for their whole hearted cooperation and timely help.

I am indebted to my colleagues especially Dr James C Joseph, Dr K C Joseph, Dr Tomy Joseph, Mr Sujesh Baby and Mr Sumod M John for their sincere help and suggestions. I am thankful to FIP fraternity of School of Chemical Sciences for their friendship and support.

I sincerely thank Dr Baby Thomas, S D College, Kanjirappally and Dr Jacob M Jose, Govt College, Kottayam for the help they have rendered to me for completing this work.

I remember with gratitude H. E. Mar Jacob Muricken, Manager, St Thomas College, Pala, Very Rev Dr K M Joseph Kollamparambil and Very Rev Mgr Eanas Ottathengunkal, former Managers, St Thomas College, Pala, and Dr K K Jose, Principal, St Thomas College, Pala for their support and encouragement in completing this work. I also thank Prof George Francis, former Head of the Department of Chemistry and my colleagues in the Department of Chemistry, St Thomas College, Pala for helping me in completing this work.

I sincerely express my gratitude to Mr. K V Shibu, Mr. Unni and other members, M/S Minitek Computers, opp. M G University, Kottayam for the neat word processing and photocopying of the thesis.

I thank UGC for granting me fellowship under the Faculty Improvement Programme and the Govt. of Kerala for sanctioning deputation.

I express my gratitude to my parents, brothers, sisters and other relatives for their constant encouragement and inspiration.

I express my indebtedness to my wife Ms Rosamma Joseph and my children Mr Terin Thomas, Kum. Remya Mary Thomas and Master Joseph Thomas who tolerated all the inconveniences and difficulties during the course of this research work.
I express my thanks to all those who have directly or indirectly helped me in completing this piece of work.

Above all I thank Almighty for the blessings He showered on me for carrying out this work successfully.

Thomas V T