Acknowledgement

Many individuals helped me to make this thesis a reality. My special thanks are due to Dr. M. Padmanabhan, Director-in-charge, School of Chemical Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, for introducing me to the field of bio-inorganic chemistry and complementing his guidance with the opportunity to learn by experience. I am indebted to him for his keen interest and constant encouragement throughout the course of this work.

Lalumon taught me the basics of prophyrin chemistry. I must thank him not only for suggesting certain diversions during the course of this work, but thoroughly reviewed the entire thesis in the midst of his problems. I am most grateful to them. Special thanks are extended to Madhu, Vinod and Suresh for their suggestions and unstinted support.

Successful completion of this thesis was only possible through the professional and personal support of all the faculty and non-teaching staff of the School of Chemical Sciences.

I must thank Regimol and Meena Kumari for their company and cooperation during my days at SCS. I am also grateful to Mathai Sir (Prof. T.U. Mathai, CMS College, Kottayam) for his valuable suggestions, advises and encouragement when I needed the most.

Successful completion of this project was only possible through the professional and personal support of my friends and neighbours in MG University, especially Jayasree, Reichel, Rani, Beena, Prakash, Aji, Sreedhar and Aith Kumar. Thanks are also extended to all my friends in my hostel, who devoted their wholehearted friendship.

During my work, key individuals of these organizations have been helpful in many ways. Dr. C. Arunan helped me with the instrumental support. Prof. J. Subramaniyam at the University of Pondicherry provided me EPR measurements. Dr. K.G.K. Warrier and P. Mukunden helped me to carry out TG/DTG measurements. Library staff of MG University, Kottayam helped me with required references and the staff of University Computer Centre helped me during the computational work of this thesis.

Thanks and apologies to all others whose contribution I have overlooked. I would once again like to express my deep appreciation to all my friends and well-wishers who rendered unstinted support and encouragement during my research.

Finally, I am grateful to my husband Suraj, daughter Rithika and my parents for being extremely patient and understanding for too many years while finishing this project. They (and I, at times) wondered if it would ever end.... but in large part through all of their patience, support and encouragement, it finally has!