ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I express my sincere gratitude to Prof. N. Subrahmanyam, my guide for his thorough guidance, proper direction and encouragement without which it would have not been possible to complete this work. He extended all the necessary help to carry out the experimental work in the department.

The concept of the project was initiated by Dr. V. R. Sista, Head Biotechnology, Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun. His experience and knowledge in the field of SCP encouraged me to undertake the project and I am obliged for his direction and wholehearted support by allowing me to use the required facilities available at IIP Proteins project, Baroda to complete the work in prescribed time.

I also express my gratitude and sincere thanks to Dr. T. S. R. Prasada Rao, Director, Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun for permitting me to carry out the project work and to use some of the data collected on SCP project.

I also acknowledge the permission given by Dr. R. Krishna, Ex. Director, IIP to take up the project work for my Doctoral Thesis.

I express my sincere thanks to Prof. K. Ethirajulu, Head Chemical Engineering Department, M.S. University of Baroda, Baroda for the facilities provided in the department to carry out the research work. I am also thankful to Prof. S. A. Puranik and other Professors and staff members of the department, particularly to Sh. N. M. Surana and Sh. R. Sengupta who helped and provided me
suggestions in completing the work.

I am highly obliged and thankful to my colleague, Sh. V.S. Saini for his valuable help in experimental work and correction of the manuscript. I am also thankful to Sh. P.S. Patel, Sh. Von Johnson and Sh. G.M. Thakkar for their assistance in the experimental work.

I thank Sh. G.S. Bist who did the typing of the thesis sincerely.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the authority of Indian Oil Corporation for supplying the oil samples and other facilities free of cost to support the project work.

I also thank my colleagues, friends and relatives for their moral support.

Last but not the least, I acknowledge the patience shown by my beloved wife Ketaki and children for my involvement in this work.