Acknowledgements

It is my immense pleasure and a great privilege to express my sincere gratitude and obligation to Dr. M. R. Prathapachandra Kurup, Professor of Inorganic Chemistry, Department of Applied Chemistry for his valuable guidance and endless support throughout my research endeavour.

My sincere thanks are due to Dr. K. K. Mohammed Yusuff, Professor of Catalysis, Dr. K. Girish Kumar, Dr. K. Sreekumar and Dr. P. A. Unnikrishnan, Department of Applied Chemistry for their encouragement through out my course of work. I am extremely thankful for the support extended by Dr. K. P. Rajappan Nair, Dean, Faculty of Sciences, CUSAT also.

I acknowledge Dr. P. Mathur, National Single Crystal X-Ray Diffraction Facility, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, Dr. Hoong Kun-Fun, School of Physics, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia, and Dr. M. Nethaji, Principal Research Scientist, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, for Single Crystal X-Ray diffraction studies. Acknowledgements are also due to the services provided by the Regional Sophisticated Instrumentation Centres, at Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow, IIT-Bombay and Sophisticated Instrumentation Facility, IISc, Bangalore. I am thankful to Dr. Ajay Gupta and Mr. Amith Sariya, Inter University Consortium, Indore, for helping me in $^{57}$Fe Mössbauer Spectral experiments. On a personal basis, I am grateful to Dr. M. V. Rajashekar, Professor, School of Chemistry, University of Hyderabad, Dr. S. Sailaja, Dr. V. Rajakannan and Dr. Turpu Goverdhan Reddy for their helps. Special thanks are also due to Dr. Saritha Bhatt and Ms. Archana Kishore, Department of Biotechnology, CUSAT for helping me in antimicrobial studies. I am also thankful to Dr. Binoy Paul, International School of Photonics, CUSAT for helping me to record Electronic Spectral data.

I am grateful to my seniors Dr. Rohith P. John, Dr. S. Sivakumar and Mr. Varughese Philip for their boundless support, timely help and encouragement whenever I needed it most. I am thankful to my colleagues especially to Dr. Chandini R. Nayar, P. B. Sreeja and V. Suni who provided me with a conducive atmosphere during my stay here. I am thankful to Sanjay Gopinath, Daly Davis and T. Radhika for a nice companionship right from my early CUSAT days.

Sometimes deepest feelings are hardest to convey and for me it is the right time to thank my dearest friends P. K Baby, K. A. Mani Ram, K. K. Sooraj, K. P. Iqbal, K. S. Harikrishnan, C. Harimohan, Abhinand Bhaskar, K. Jidesh Babu, R. Renjith, Jaison Kurian, S. Jayakumar, Dally Gopinath, Dinker Bhaskaran, B. Jayadev, M. Krishna Kumar, Jithu Jacob John, M. Navanith, B. Ajith, V. Devdas and many of the dearest Hostellers of Sanathana, for the times they have encouraged, tolerated and comforted me with their love and talks. Without our fights, jokes and vibrant camaraderie, my life at CUSAT would have been dull and incomplete.

I owe immensely to my dearest brother Binu P. Paul, for his symbiotic support; for keeping me in a lively mood. He has given me a hand of support, love and care in all my activities and in shaping my personality. He believed in me when I didn’t believe in myself; He has selflessly supported me whenever and whatever I have decided to do. I am grateful to my grandparents late A. Krishna Iyyer, and S. Meenakshi Ammal for their special concern for me from my childhood. I owe much to my parents K. Anandaram and M. V. Janaky for their love, affection and support.

Sreekanth