ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my profound sincere gratitude to my supervisor, Prof. Dr. M.B. VISWANATHAN, Department of Plant Science, Division of Biodiversity, Drug Discovery and Development, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli 620 024, formerly Reader, Division of Biodiversity, Drug Discovery and Development, Sri Paramakalyani Centre for Environmental Sciences, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Alwarkurichi – 627 412, for his remarkable and inspiring guidance, scientific freedom, creative criticisms, meticulous editorial care, continuous encouragement and an amiable working environment for the successful completion of this research work.

I feel pleasure to sincerely thank Dr. N. Ramesh, for his unforgettable help and continuous encouragement during the course of my research work and to the Paliyans for their information with plant materials.

I am extremely grateful to Dr. K. Balakrishna, Research Officer (Chemistry), Captain Srinivasa Murti Drug Research Institute for Ayurveda, Chennai 600 106, for extending expertise to the phytochemical analysis of the research work, Dr. A. Patra, Department of Chemistry, University College of Science, Kolkata - 700 009, for NMR analysis and its interpretation and Dr. N. Sreevidya, Scientist, Department of Chemistry, Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai, without which the present research work would not have been completed.

I profusely thank the Instrumentation Facility extended by the National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) and Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), Hyderabad, National Institute of
Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Punjab, Shimadzu Instrument, Mumbai and Sargam Metals, Chennai, for providing spectral data of the compounds.

I cordially thank to Dr. P. Jeyaraman, Mr. Gobinath and Miss. N. Parimala, for extending the laboratory facility to the pharmacognostical research work and for their warmth hospitality.

I am deeply indebted to Dr. R. Govindarajan, Scientist, Pharmacognosy and Ethnopharmacology Division, National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), Lucknow 226001, and Mr. P. Solairaj, Head and Associate Professor in Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Sankaralingam Bhuvaneswari College of Pharmacy, Sivakasi, for their help in pharmacological studies.

I thank Teaching Staff, Non-Teaching Staff, Research Scholars of Sri Paramakalyani Centre for Environmental Sciences, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Alwarkurichi and Department of Plant Science, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, for their moral support and help.

I wish to thank my colleagues Dr. E. Harrison Prem Kumar, Miss N. Andal, Mrs. O. Sivapriya, Mr. A.C. Tangavelou, and Mr. S. Raj Kumar Thomas, Technical Assistant, Mr. S. Poologa Pandian and S. Manikumaran, Field Assistants, for their help in various ways.

I heartily thank my friend Mr. T. Suresh for his constant association and help.

Last but not the least I thank everyone who have directly or indirectly helped me during the course of my research work.