

Acknowledgement

I have great pleasure to express my profound sense of gratitude and indebtedness to my supervising teacher, Dr. M. S. Latha, Reader, School of Biosciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, for her invaluable guidance, eminent supervision, critical suggestions, advice and unceasing encouragement throughout the course of this investigation.

I owe my sincere thanks to Dr. Shankar Shashidhar, Director, School of Biosciences for providing me laboratory facilities to complete this work.

My cordial obligations are due to Agnus madam, the former Professor and Head of the Department of Pathology, Medical College, Kottayam for extending her invaluable service for the appraisal of histopathological observations.

I sincerely thank Dr. Mohan Das, Deputy Director, Regional Research Laboratory, Thiruvananthapuram for his timely help in the spectroscopic analysis of the purified sample.

I express my sincere thanks to Dr. Luxmi Varma, Scientist, Regional Research Laboratory, Thiruvananthapuram for her invaluable service rendered in characterizing the isolated plant constituent.

I also acknowledge with thanks the staff members (both teaching and non-teaching), and also my fellow researchers who have helped me a lot at various junctures.

I owe particular and sincere thanks to Mr. Raju Varghese of the Computer section of M.G. University Library, for his help in the preparation of photographic plates.

Thanks are also due to Ms Lars Computers, P.D Hills for promptly undertaking the documentation work.

It is my pleasant duty to express my gratitude to the University Grants Commission, New Delhi for providing me teacher fellowship under FFP, for the completion of this work.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to the editors of Indian Journal of Physiology and Pharmacology, Indian Journal of Clinical Biochemistry, and Indian Journal of Pharmacology for their kindness in publishing / accepting for publication most of the works contained in this thesis.

I would not have completed this task, but for the love and understanding shown by my family members. With proud privilege, I place on record my sincere gratitude to my wife Eswary Kurup and my daughter Shilpa for their unfailing encouragement and support during the course of this investigation, which was indeed the driving force behind this venture.

I thank the Almighty for all the favours shown to me for making my dream come fruitful.

M. R. Venukumar.