Acknowledgement

This thesis is a testimony of the Almighty’s grace showered in my life, and I ascribe all the glory and unstinted praise to Him.

At this moment, my answer to the question, “whom do you want to emulate?” is ‘Dr. M. Sankara Narayana Pillai’, Rtd. Reader and H.O.D of Chemistry, S.T Hindu College, Nagercoil, my research supervisor, who inspired and educated me through his integrity and magnanimity.

Patience and efficiency are the hallmarks of Dr. G. Immanuel, Lecturer C.M.S.T. M.S University, Rajakkamangalam who shaped this piece of script meticulously. I express my sincere words of gratitude to Dr. G. Immanuel.

I am extremely grateful to Dr. Sr. Felicia, the Provincial, Sisters of the Cross, Madurai Province, Madurai, and Sr. Gerardine Jeyam our Correspondent who took the initiative to relieve me to do the research under U.G.C Faculty Development Programme.

I sincerely thank Dr. Sr. Rosalie, the Principal, Holy Cross College, Nagercoil, for the concern and compassion shown during my research period.

It’s my privilege to specially thank Dr. Sr. Elsy George our former principal for allowing me to carry out the research in our college laboratory.

I take this opportunity to thank Sr. Cecile and Mrs. Grace Kurian, the former heads of the department of Chemistry, Holy Cross College, Nagercoil, Mrs. M. Meenakshi, H.O.D of Chemistry and all the members of the department of Chemistry both teaching and non-teaching for the encouragement given to me at every stage of my research work.

I thank Dr. P. Venu Gopal, Principal, S.T. Hindu College, Nagercoil and Dr. B. Nagalingam Pillai, the former principal S.T. Hindu College, Nagercoil with utmost sincerity, for the courtesy and the prompt support extended during every time of approach.

I am extremely grateful to Dr. V. Umanyuru Bhagan, Department of Chemistry, Pioneer Kumarasamy College, Nagercoil, Dr. T. C Manohar, Reader and H.O.D of Chemistry, S. T. Hindu College, Nagercoil and all the other members of the Department of Chemistry, S.T. Hindu College, Nagercoil.
From the bottom of my heart, I sincerely thank Prof. P. Sri Renganathan, Principal PSN Institute of Technology, Ramanathichangputhoor for rendering his precious time and valuable guidance by setting aside his regular schedule.

My thanks are due to Dr. E John Jothi Prakash, Principal, T.D.N.M.S College, T. Kallikulam for the encouragement, the guidance and the suggestions given during the whole period of my research work.

My sincere thanks to Dr. M. Mary Gladis and Dr. T. P. D. Rajan, Scientist R.R.L, Trivandrum for all the favours extended to me throughout my research period.

I wish to express my special words of thanks to Dr. A. P. Lipton, Professor and H.O.D, Dr. M. Michael Babu, Dr. S. Punitha Peter and Dr. T. Citarasu, the Lecturers and the research scholars from CMST, M. S. University, Rajakkamangalam for all the support given to me during my research period.

I specially thank Dr. A. Palavesam , Reader, Centre for Marine Science and Technology, Rajakkamangalam for all the help offered to me during my research period.

I owe much to Dr. J. Dinakar Lal, Reader in English, Scott Christian College and Dr. Mrs. W. Prema Latha Lal, H.O.D of English, Holy Cross College, Nagercoil for their untiring words of encouragement and hope and the support given to me at every stage of my work from the beginning till the completion of the task.

My thanks are due to Mr. Francis Xavier, and Prof. Mrs. Susila Mary Rtd. H.O.D. of Botany, Holy Cross College for their words of encouragement, prayers, care and support extended to me during my period of research.

My sincere thanks to Dr. P. Delphine, Department of Physics, Holy Cross College, Nagercoil and Dr. Gabriel, for the suggestions and help rendered in carrying out this project.

I am really privileged to thank Dr. Fr. Peter Francis, H.O.D of English, Loyola College, Chennai, for his prayers and encouragement to complete this task successfully.

I am grateful to Mrs. Anbu Hanna Dora, Lecturer, Department of French, Holy Cross College, Nagercoil and Mr. Joseph for their help during my research period.
I owe much to **Dr. V. Joseph Raj**, H.O.D, Department of Computer Science, Kamaraj College Tuticorin, for his sincere and untiring words of encouragement during my period of research.

I wish to express my gratitude to **Dr. Christine E. Campbell** from Canada and the “**DELTA ENVIRONMENTAL**” in Australia, for their response and the valuable reprints sent by them on request.

I express my heartfelt thanks to the **UGC** for granting me the F.D.P fellowship and I specially thank **Dr. Jelani**, Joint Secretary UGC, SERO, Hyderabad for extending my F.D.P period for six more months.

It's my privilege to thank my husband **M. John Mohan Raj**, P.G. Asst, St. Mary Goretty's Higher Secondary School, Manalikarai for shouldering all possible responsibilities throughout my research work.

I owe a lot to my parents for their blessings and also my brothers who supported me in this endeavour. I am indebted to my dear children **Jerrin** and **Jairesh** who boosted me to complete my work successfully.

I also thank **Mr. Ravi** and **Mr. Xavier**, the supervisors of the saltpans at Puthalam and Kovalam, who co-operated with me during sample collections.

My sincere thanks to the **M/s. Sipca Computers** especially **Miss. Viji** and **Mrs. Devi** for the sincere efforts taken by them in shaping this script.

I specially thank Miss. **Sheeba**, CMST for her skillful effort, excellent, neat documentation and execution of my thesis.

It's my privilege to thank **Mrs. Philo Fragrance**, Director, Serene Institute of English and Foreign Languages (**SIFEL**) Nagercoil, for the untiring, sincere and prompt efforts taken by her to correct the thesis within a short period of time.

Finally, I owe my thanks to **Prof. Dr. M. Peter Marian D. Sc.**, H.O.D, Centre for Marine Science and Technology, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Rajakkamangalam who suggested this problem for research and for his valuable guidance. My appreciation and admiration for the simple, kind hearted, loving and caring humanitarian who is no more. As a mark of profound sense of gratitude, I dedicate this thesis to my co-guide.