Acknowledgements

I avail myself this opportunity to express my indebtedness and profound gratitude to my guide, Dr. G. Velayudhan Thampi (Retd. Prof. and Head, Dept. of Botany, U.C. College, Aluva) for his valuable guidance, advice, inspiration and encouragement throughout the tenure of this research work.

I express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. K. Anilkumar, Managing Director, Kerala Ayurveda Pharmacy Ltd. (KAPL) for his constant encouragement, sustained interest and inspiration during the span of my work. My present work wouldn’t have been possible but for the unstinted support I received from Dr. Anil Kumar.

I highly appreciate the help rendered by the Principal, Dr. Raju K. John and Smt. Santha M Mathew (Professor and Head of the Dept. of Botany) U.C. College, Aluva for allowing me to work in the department of Botany and to utilize the laboratory and library facilities.

Words can hardly express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. J. Thomas, Director, Aromatic and Medicinal Plant Research Station, Odakkali, who extended a long hand in the successful completion of this work.

I am highly indebted to Dr. Samuel Mathew, Assoc. Prof., AMPRS, who was always been generous with all kinds of assistance and without whose constant encouragement, constructive criticism and scholarly suggestions, I hardly felt that I could bring up this manuscript to the final form.

Dr. Anandavally, FAO/UN consultant in HACCP, helped me immensely not only by her constant encouragement and valuable suggestions, but also with the lab facilities for the phytochemical analysis.
I owe a deep sense of gratitude to Dr. C. D. Krishna Kumar, Chief (R& D), KAPL, who is to me a friend in need, guide and philosopher. To him, I am greatly indebted.

I record my gratefulness to Prof. C.M.Mathew, former Prof. and Head, Dept of Botany, U.C. College, whose help was always “something special.”

I must feel myself to be very lucky as I have received whatever type of assistance I sought from Dr. P. Daniel, Deputy Director, BSI, Coimbatore, Dr. M. Sanjappa, Deputy Director, BSI, Howrah, Dr. Marina Benny Antony, Arjuna Natural Extract, Dr. P. K. K. Nair, Director, Environmental Resource Research Centre, Prof. (Dr.) Prasanna Kumari, T.A Panickar, Dr. Sasidharan, KFRI, Dr.Vasudevan Nair, Botanist, Ayurveda Pharmacy, Kanjikode. I must say that their cordial relations supported me in numerous ways for the completion of this thesis.

I will fail in my duty if I do not mention Mr. Kumaran, field assistant, KAPL who helped me in various capacities especially in field studies.

Also my thanks are due to members of various research Institutes like Jawaharlal Nehru Ayurvedic Research Institute and Garden, Pune; TBGRI, Palode; Agharkar Institute, Pune; Spices Board, Palarivattom and to my colleagues of National Bee Research Station, Pune; Union Christian College, Aluva for their help during the course of the work.

My heart felt thanks to Mrs. Swapna, Mr.Biju Sukumar and Mrs. Bini of KAPL and Mr. N.F.Jose for their technical assistance.

I thankfully acknowledge the service of the staff of the Herbal Garden, KAPL, Nedumbassery in collecting and cultivating plants.
I am thankful to KAPL for giving me financial assistance for the successful completion of the project.

Most of all, I thank my husband, my children and other family members for their stimulating inspiration, moral support, fortitude and co-operation.

Aluva,

November 1, 2001           (Sarala Samuel)