Acknowledgements

First of all my sincere thanks goes to my supervising teacher, Dr. Beena Mathew, Reader, School of Chemical Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, for her continuous support throughout this work. Her passion for challenges has given me inspiration; her knowledge in the subject has given me guidance; her perseverance in research has given me confidence. Without her creative ideas, systematic guidance and encouragement this study would not have been possible.

I am thankful to Dr. P.K.Radhakrishnan, Director, School of Chemical Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, for providing me the necessary facilities to carry out this work. I also take this opportunity to thank all the other faculty members of the School for being supportive in several ways. I remember with gratitude the help given by Mrs. Sakeena, Mr. James, Mr. Vijayakumar and all other non-teaching staff of the School during the period of research.

I must thank Dr. T. Narasimhaswamy, Scientist, Central Leather Research Institute, Chennai for giving me necessary help. I also wish to express my gratitude to Mr. Gurulinga, Technical Assistant, SAIF, IISc, Bangalore and the technicians in the NMR Research Centre, IISc, Bangalore, as well as in the Department of Applied Chemistry, CUSAT, Kochi, for expediting the analysis of the results of my study.

I am beholden to the UGC for the award of a fellowship under the Faculty Improvement Programme, the Manager, St. Stephen’s College, Uzhavoor, for providing me the necessary leave and the Principal for the general encouragement given to me. I am grateful to my colleagues in St. Stephen’s College, particularly those in the Department of Chemistry, for all their support.
I cannot forget my colleagues Smt. Suma Bino Thomas, Sr. Annamma K. M., Smt. Ansamma Thomas, Deepthi, K. P., Smitha K. R., Daliya P. K., Bindu M. and Bindu M. S. for creating the ideal condition of camaraderie in the research lab.

I am also indebted to my family for being supportive throughout my research. M/s. Minitek Computers did a fine job for producing the thesis in its present form.

Above all I bow God Almighty for all the blessings showered on me throughout the period of this work.

Mercy Philip C.