ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author expresses her heartfelt thanks and gratitude to Prof. F. D. Gnanam for his inspiring guidance, scientific truthfulness, constant encouragement, critical suggestions and personal care throughout her research programme.

The author wishes to express her thanks to Dr. Kunthala Jeyaraman, Dean of Technology, Anna University whose help is very valuable. The author also thanks Dr. Thirunarayanan, Anna Hospital (Sidha), Chennai for his helpful suggestions in choosing the medicinal plants for the study. The author thanks M/s. Malladi Chemicals for their help in the initial stages of the work. The author thanks Dr. Palanisamy, Dept. of Chemistry, Anna University for his useful discussions.

The author expresses her sincere thanks to her friends for their help during the tenure of this work.

Words are inadequate to express her gratefulness to Prof. V. Srinivasan, Retd. Professor of Physics, The American College, Madurai for his scientific proficiency and constant encouragement throughout her career. The author is indebted to her parents who are always behind her advancement in studies.

Author acknowledges CSIR, New Delhi, India for the award of Senior Research Fellowship.