ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I express my profound sense of gratitude to my research guide Dr. S. Chandraju, Director and Professor, Department of Studies in Sugar Technology, University of Mysore, Sir M.V.P.G.Centre, Tubinakere, Mandya, under who guidance the present work was undertaken. Without his kind co-operation unstilled encouragement, constructive criticism and careful supervision the completion of this thesis work would not have been possible.

At this juncture I would like to acknowledge my deep sense of gratitude to research colleagues Mr. Siddappa, Mrs. Thejovathi and Mrs. Ashraf Beirami for their kind cooperation and help.

I am highly thankful to Mrs. Sulochana Chandraju for moral support and Dr. Chidan Kumar C.S, Post Doctoral Fellow, School of Physics, UniversitiSains Malaysia, Penang, Malaysia, for fruitful discussion and encouragement throughout the course of investigation.

I am highly indebted to my parents Sri. Bettaiah and Smt. Savithramma, my family and my parent in laws and all my relatives and friends for their love, affection and extreme forbearance.

I take this opportunity to thank my beloved wife Mrs. Kaveri B.N, my sons Dhyan B.R and Diganth B.R, for their evergreen love, special care and constant encouragement without which it would not have been possible for me to complete this work.

I am also thankful to my brother in law Mr. Rajendra B.N for his wholehearted support and encouragement throughout this investigation.

My special thanks to all Administrative & Non-teaching staff of the PG centre, Mandya for their co-operation during my stay.

I am extremely thankful to Mr. M. Ravi and Mr. Murali, Bannariamman Sugars Ltd, Alaganchi, Nanjangud Tq, Mysore District for providing information and guidance for this study.

Finally I thank all those who have encouraged directly and indirectly during the study period as well as in the preparation of thesis.

B. Raviprasad