Acknowledgements

I immensely express my deep sense of gratitude to my research supervisor Dr. K. Mohana Raja, Associate Professor, Department of Polymer Science & Technology, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur, for his inspiring, encouragement and instructive guidance throughout my research work to materialize my dream.

I express my profound sense of gratitude to Prof. A. Varada Rajulu, Senior Professor, Prof. S. Venkata Naidu, Chairman, B.O.S; and Dr. K. Chowdji Rao, Head, Department of Polymer Science & Technology, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur, for their valuable suggestions, encouragement, co-operation and help.

I am thankful to Mrs. K. Bharathi Mohana Raju and K. Naveen Kiran, for their affection and encouragement during the course of study.

I am grateful to Dr. S. Sivaram (Director, NCL, Pune), Dr. D. Bhaskaran (University of Tennessee, USA), Dr. P.P. Wadgaonkar (Scientist, NCL, Pune), Dr. A.V.S. Sainath (Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan), and Dr. V. Raghunath (RPI, New York, USA) and Dr. Yanjarappa (RPI, New York, USA) for their inspiration and valuable suggestions.

My sincere thanks to Prof. B. Hazer (Karadeniz Technical University and Tubitak-Marmara Research Center, Turkey), Prof. Y. Yusuf Yagci (Istanbul Technical University, Turkey), Dr. M.S. Eroglu (Tubitak-Marmara Research Center, Turkey), Dr. Akira Ueda (Osaka Municipal Research Institute, Joto-ku, Japan) for sending the literature as well as for their suggestions.

I offer my thanks to Dr. R. Ramakrishna Reddy, Head, Department of Physics, Dr. J. Sreeramulu, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry and Prof. M.C.S. Subha, Department of Chemistry, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, for their encouragement.

I acknowledge with thanks the Armament Research Board (ARMREB, DRDO), Govt. of India for the partial financial assistance by way of fellowship in a project. I also express my thanks to Dr. S.N. Asthana (Scientist F, HRMRL, Pune), Prof. R. Jayaraman (Bharathidasan University), Dr. Harishar Singh, Sc ‘G’ (Member-Secretary ARMREB, Director of Armaments, New Delhi)
I express my profound gratitude and appreciation to Dr. M. Padmanabha Raju (Scientist, DSMRDE, Kanpur), Dr. A. Madhusudhana Reddy (Texas, USA) for their affection, help and co-operation during the course of study.

I am thankful to Dr. John (RA, IICT, Hyderabad), Dr. G. Jayasimha Reddy (Project Associate, Dept. of Polymer Science & Technology, SKU), Dr. B. Sridhar (Scientist, IICT, Hyderabad), Dr. B. Vijay Kumar Naidu (RA, Karnataka University, Dharvad), Dr. G. Babu Rao, (PDF, Free State University, South Africa), Dr. M. Prasad (Rajit Paints, Punjab), Dr. T. Timma Reddy, Miss. L. Ganga Devi (Project Associate, Dept. of Polymer Science & Technology, SKU), Mr. C. Jayaram Reddy (Scientist, DSMRDE, Kanpur), Dr. Y. Nazeer Ahmad (Scientist, NPL, New Delhi), Dr. K. Rama Gopal (Research Scientist, Dept. of Physics, SKU) and Dr. R. Manohar Reddy (RA, Dept. of Physics, SKU) for their help and encouragement.

I am also thankful to Mr. E. Bhoje Gowd, Mr. Gnaneswar, Mr. K. Rahunatha Reddy and Mr. G. Nagurjuna, and Mr. Govind (Researchers of NCL Polymer Chemistry Division, Pune); Mr. B.V. Ramamnda Reddy and Murali Mohan Reddy (Chemists, Macromolecular Products, Hyderabad); B. Madhusudhan Raju and K. Madhusudhara Rao (Research Scientists, Ion Exchange (I) Limited, Hyderabad), Miss. M.V. Nivas, Mr. K. Sambasivudu and Mr. John Suman (Researchers of IICT OCP Division, HYD) for their help and co-operation.

I gratefully acknowledge the help and co-operation received from Mr. P.S. Keshava Murthy and Mr. M. Mohan Reddy (Room-mates); Mr. Surendra, Mr. Dasthagiri Reddy, Mr. M. Tippe Swamy, Mr. Venkata Swamy, Mr. Anajeyulu and all research colleagues of the departments of Polymer Science & Technology, Chemistry, Physics, Botany and Biochemistry.

I thank the authorities of Sri Krishnadevaraya University for providing me an opportunity and necessary facilities for my research programme. I offer my special thanks to HEMRL, Pune; RSIC of IIT Chennai and Mumbai; CDRI, Lucknow; SIF, IISc; for help in getting characterization for my materials.

Last, but not least, I render my deep sense of gratitude to my father, Sri Y. Nagamunaiah, mother Smt. Padmavatamma, brothers, Prasad and Ravi, sisters, Mani and Jaya and to all my family members for their kind affection, invaluable encouragement and everlasting wishes throughout my academic career.

Y MURALI MOHAN