Acknowledgement

I thank the almighty God for helping me out in completing this thesis. I owe my sincere thanks to many people who have supported and encouraged me to pursue the doctoral studies.

In the first place I would like to record my sincere gratitude to my research guide Dr. B.E. Kumara Swamy, Assistant Professor, Department of Industrial Chemistry, Kuvempu University, Jnana Sahyadri, Shankaraghatta, Shimoga and my research co-guide Prof. B.S. Sherigara Former Professor, Department of Industrial Chemistry, Kuvempu University, Jnana Sahyadri, Shankaraghatta, Shimoga, for giving me an opportunity to complete doctoral studies in his meticulous supervision. I also thank him for his invaluable guidance accorded to me throughout my research work.

It is difficult to overstate my gratitude to Dr. H. N. Narasimha Murthy and Dr. M. Krishna, C. M. R. T. U (R&D), R V College of Engineering, Bangalore, with his enthusiasm, his inspiration and his great efforts to explain things clearly and simply, he enabled me to develop an understanding of the subject. Throughout my Ph.D he provided encouragement, sound advice, good teaching, and lots of good ideas.

I gratefully thank Prof. Vasantakumar Pai, BOS Chairman for supporting me wholeheartedly during my research studies. I also express my sincere thanks to Prof. H.S. Bhojya Naik, Chairman, Dept. of Industrial Chemistry, Kuvempu University, Shankaraghatta, Shimoga, for his constant support during my research programme.
I express my sincere thanks to Dr. Yadav D Bodke and Dr. J. Manjanna Dept. of Industrial Chemistry Kuvempu University, Shankaraghatta, Shimoga, for their valuable suggestions and encouragement during my research work.

I am deeply grateful to Mr. R Sridhar and Mrs. Ratna Pal for detailed and constructive comments and for his important support throughout this work. I would specially like to thank Mr. Prabhkara Udupa, Mr. N Raghavendra, Mr. Tippareddy, Dr. J K Jeena, Mr. M Sreejith, Dr. M. P Shamaan, Mr. G Rajkumar, Mr. J R Natara, Mr. Niranjan Pattar, and Mr. Shivaraj for their extremely valuable experiences, support and insight. I am indebted to C. M. R. T. U (R&D), R V College of Engineering, Bangalore, where I happened to carry out this research work.

I would like to thank our entire research group Dr. M. Pandurangachar, Dr. E. Niranjan, Dr. Ongera Gilbert, Dr. J.G. Manjunatha, Mr. Umesh Chandra, Mr. B. N. Chandrashekar, Mr. Sathish Reddy, Mr. Sharath Shankar, Mr. K.R. Mahanthesh, Mr. T.V. Satish, Mr. Yallappa Shiralgi and Research Scholars, Dept of Industrial Chemistry for their constant support through out my research work. I thank the non-teaching staff of Department of Industrial Chemistry for their kind co-operation during my Ph.D., programme.

I would like to thank authorities of Naval Research Board, New Delhi, India, for providing the financial support for this research work. Ref: Letter No.NRB-178/MAT/08-09 Dated: 03-11-2008.

Words fail me to express my appreciation to our beloved guide family members. Even in the holidays and late evening of the days, they missed our supervisor and encouraged a lot during my research stay at university. So I would be grateful much to my guides father Sri. M. Eshwara Swamy, wife Mrs. Deepa Kumara Swamy and his son Master. Pratham Swamy.
I immensely pleased to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to my father Sri. D. B. Ramanna, mother Srimathi. D. R. Kamalamma, elder sister Dr. Manju Bhargavi, Younger Sister Miss. K. R. Meenakshi, brother-in-law Mr. M N Harish for their love, support and encouragement. I extend my lovable thanks to my daughter in law Baby. M. H. Lipika she increased my spirit to write my thesis.

Finally, I would like to thank everybody who was important to the successful realization of thesis, as well as expressing my apology that I could not mention personally one by one.

....... K. R. Vishnu Mahesh