It is a great pleasure to express my deepest sense of gratitude and ineffable indebtedness to my revered teachers Dr. K. L. Bedi, Chairman, Pharmacology Division, Regional Research Laboratory, Jammu, India and Prof. A. K. Singla, Department of Pharmaceutics, University Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Panjab University, Chandigarh, India for their mature and able guidance.

I sincerely acknowledge the facilities provided by Prof. S.S.Handa, Ex-Director, RRL, Jammu and Dr. G.N.Qazi, Director, RRL, Jammu.

I am also thankful to Prof. D.P. Jindal, Chairman, U.I.P.S. and Prof. V.K. Kapoor for their kind support during the course of this study.

Despite the ever busy schedule, Dr. O.P. Suri's interest and help in LC/MSMS and LC/NMR/MS data interpretation is gratefully acknowledged.

Dr. Ravi Kant Khajuria, the little master and Dr. Johri have always been of kind to help me in all the matters, be it science or else.

My life, both in laboratory and outside, was made comfortable by Dr. Deepak and Dr. Neeraj, Mr. Mohane, Mr. Roshan, Mr. Tasduque, Mr. Vijaykant and Mr. Munish who are more than just friends to me. Thanks to them!

Mrs. Neelam Sharma, Mrs. Anju, Mr. Zabeer Ahmed and Mrs. Asha Bhagat were of immense help through out this work.

Sh. Deewan Chand Ji has enriched me with some useful statistical and philosophical art during the course of this study.
The help rendered by Sh. Ashok Tikoo, Sh. Manoj Tikoo and Sh. Rajinder Gupta is also gratefully acknowledged.

I also take this opportunity to thank Dr. Mondhe and Dr. Gurdarshan Singh for supply of animals.

Sh. Jasbir, Sh. Kulwant, Smt. Anamika, Smt. Darshana Ji, Charles Ji and Sh. Rajinder were of great help.

The financial support provided by HRDG Group, CSIR, New Delhi in the form of Senior Research Fellowship and Research Associateship is gratefully also acknowledged.

(Sunil Uttamrao Bajad) October 2001