PREFACE

The present thesis deals with studies on integrated role of pantothenic acid and ascorbic acid on steroidogenesis.

The individual role of pantothenic acid and ascorbic acid on steroidogenic activity of adrenal and testes has been studied both in deficiency and excess of these two vitamins. The role of vitamin C in absence of pantothenic acid and the vice versa has also been studied. Histochemical studies were mainly performed in the present investigation and they have been supported in some instances with biochemical estimations.

The thesis has been divided into six chapters. In the first chapter the literature relating to the present investigation has been reviewed. The second chapter deals with the experimental designs and methods employed. In the third chapter the steroidogenesis in adrenal and testes in absence of pantothenic acid has been discussed and also the role of ascorbic acid on such deficiency conditions has been presented. Fourth chapter deals with the effect of pantothenol on the steroidogenesis in adrenal and testes of control and vitamin C deficient guinea pigs. In the fifth chapter studies regarding the effect of excess pantothenol on adrenal and testicular steroidogenesis in rats has been presented. Finally, the conclusions derived from the present investigation have been placed in the sixth, or last chapter.