ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This investigation was carried out under the direct supervision of Prof. A.N. Chakrabarty, M.D., D.C.P., D. Bact. Professor, Department of Medical Microbiology and Parasitology, Calcutta University. I express my sincere gratitude for his invaluable guidance, constant encouragement, advice and inspiration which enabled me to keep up my interest throughout the tenure of my work.

I remain deeply indebted to Dr. Sujata G. Dastidar, M.Sc., Ph. D., Professor-in-charge of Pharmacy, Jadavpur University, Calcutta for her constant advice as well as constructive suggestions without which this investigation would have remained incomplete.

I offer my respectful thanks to the Vice-Chancellor, Calcutta University for providing me with the necessary facilities to carry out this work.

I would like to express my deep and sincere gratitude to Dr. J. Sil, Ph.D., Head, Department of Medical Microbiology and Parasitology, Dr S. Bhattacharya, Ph.D., lecturer and Dr. D.P. Acharya, MD, lecturer of the same department for their helpful comments, suggestions and cooperations during the entire period of this investigation.

My warm thanks are also due to my co-research fellows: Dr. Satadal Das, Dr Parthajit Banerjee, Dr Nisith Pal, Dr Tapasree Chakrabarty, Dr Debaprasad Chattopadhyay, Dr Tapas Bhattacharya, Dr Dhruba Nyogi, Dr Amal Chandra, Dr Mandira Banerjee, Dr Maneedeepta Sengupta, Dr Manju Ganguly, Mrs. Jaysree Bhattacharya, Mrs Mousfiqwa Mookerjee for their active help and cooperation in different phases of this work.
I would like to express my deep thanks to Mr. Kartick Chandra Chanda, Mr. Mrinal Kanti Choudhury and Mr. Prasad Kavasseri who have taken the burden of ungrudingly preparing this manuscript.

My thanks are also due to Sri Harilal, Sri Bira Kishore Parija and Sri Harihar Bhanja for their sincere help.

Chandika Prasun Bhattacharya.

CHANDIKA PRASUN BHATTACHARYA