ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr.(Mrs.) K.Radha Shanmugasundaram, M.Sc., Ph.D., M.Sc., (Sheff.), A.R.I.C. (Lond.), A.C.S. (Lond.), Professor and Head, Department of Biochemistry, Dr.A.L.M. Post Graduate Institute of Basic Medical Sciences, University of Madras, Taramani Campus, Madras, for suggesting the problem, guiding and supervising my research work. It was a great pleasure to work under her esteemed guidance.

I would like to acknowledge my heartfelt thanks to Dr.E.R.B.Shanmugasundaram, M.A., B.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.I.C. (Lond.), F.C.S. (Lond.), Senior Professor (Retd.), University Biochemical Laboratories, Madras, for his constructive discussions and healthy criticisms. His gift of modified Anna Pavala Sindhooram (APSm), formed the basis for a part of the investigations.

I wish to place on record my heartfelt thanks to Dr.S.Thanikachalam, M.D., D.M. (Cardiology), Professor and Head, Department of Cardiology, Kilpauk Medical College Hospital, Kilpauk, Madras, for his full cooperation throughout the period of investigations. Without his help in providing the clinical material and encouragement, this investigation would not have been possible.

I would be ungrateful if I fail to thank my friends, colleagues, members of the staff and technicians for their kind cooperation in times of need.

Finally, I gratefully acknowledge the award of a research fellowship from the Directorate of General Health Service, New Delhi.