PREFACE

The present investigation aims at the study of ethnomedicinal plants which are prescribed by vaidus in tribal region of remote villages at foothills of Satpudas. The world health organization has defined the traditional medicine comprising herbal drugs used in therapeutic practices, have been in existence, before the development of modern medicine and even in use still today. The ethnomedicinal plants are chiefly emphasized to explore the prime constituents present in the plant parts through proximate analysis and IR spectroscopic analysis.

The work plan of the thesis has been divided into five chapters. The first chapter comprises the introduction elaborating importance of herbal medicines, occurrence of phytoresources, significance of phyto-chemical compounds active principles responsible for curing various diseases. The objectives of the present investigation have also been highlighted.

The second chapter includes the historical background of medicinal plants. The exhaustive review of literature pertaining to the topic revealing contributions on indigenous systems of medicine, phyto-chemical work carried out so far along with the importance of these resources has been systematically presented in this chapter.

The third chapter comprises material and methods highlighting an account on collection of plant material from various locations. The methodology involving preparation of sample for both qualitative and quantitative analysis has been dealt with elaborately.

The chapter four is divided into two sections. Section – A describes detailed information about ethnomedicinal plants. Section – B describes findings of moisture content, ash content, cold water solubility, hot water solubility, 10% NaOH solubility
10% HCl solubility whereas section – C includes detailed information regarding the
functional groups and chemical analysis in order to find out the specific components.
This chapter is completely devoted for the experimental work on phyto-chemical
analysis highlighting findings about extraction of extractive product in 10% NaOH,
HCl and ethanol at different reaction conditions, subsequently followed by infrared
spectroscopy.

The studies have revealed that the phytoresources are composed of
biologically active compounds. In addition to this the extractive compounds shows the
presence of functional groups responsible for their efficacy in traditional system of
medicine.

The fifth chapter explored the comparative study of isolated extractive
products with existing allopathic drugs on the basis of therapeutic properties and
pharmaceutical formulations. Also the correlation with the reported information from
the local practitioners has been established on the basis of recent data in results and
discussion of this chapter.

The discussion is followed by concluding remarks and Bibliography.