Acknowledgements

Though only my name appears on the cover of this thesis, a great many people have contributed to its production. I owe my gratitude to all those people who have made this thesis possible and because of whom my experience has been one that I will cherish forever.

I would like to express my deep sense of gratitude to my research guide, Dr. Susy Albert, Professor, Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, for her inspiring guidance, constructive criticism and unstinted cooperation. Her motherly attitude, constant help and encouragement made this work a reality. I will always relish the academic freedom and friendly atmosphere I enjoyed in her laboratory.

I sincerely thank Prof. Sandhya Kiran, Head, Prof. Arun Arya, Ex Head, Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, The M.S. University of Baroda, for providing the department facilities throughout this research work. I am extremely thankful to all teaching and nonteaching staff of the department.

I am indebted to Prof. JJ Shah, who introduced me to my research topic and further under the guidance of Prof Susy Albert the entire work was carried out. I thank Prof. Daniel for constantly helping me in chromatographic studies. Thanks are also due to Prof. Neeta Pandya for her constant moral support and encouragement.

My thanks to Dr. P.S. Nagar for introducing me to Dr Dhaduk, who helped me in field collection. I am immensely grateful to Dr. H.L.Dhaduk, and sincerely acknowledge the help received from him in identification and collection of mango fruit samples from Junagadh Agriculture University. I am also thankful to Mrs. Dhaduk and their son Yash for accompanying me during my field collections.

I am also thankful to Dr. S.N. Mishra, Ex Head, Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Technology, The M.S. University of Baroda for allowing me to use the departmental facilities for HPTLC studies. Thanks are also due to Dr. Mohan for his help. I am highly indebted to
Dr. Denni, for his invaluable help and guidance with the HPLC work. I am also grateful to Mr. Rakesh Pandya for guiding me in statistical analysis.

It’s my fortune to gratefully acknowledge the support of some special individuals. Words fail me to express my appreciation to Ms. Alka Dangash for her constant support. She was always beside me during the happy and hard moments to push me and motivate me.

I wish to thank my best friends Shivangi and Krishna who accompanied me during my field visits to Junagadh and Navsari. I will always cherish their company and friendship. I am also thankful to Swati for motivating me throughout the research.

It gives me immense pleasure to extend my thanks to my lab mates, Amee Padhiyar, Dhara Gandhi, Bhavika Pandya, Binal Christian, Dhaval Vyas, Nirav Mehta, Shrena Patel, Divya Patel, Mangit Saini, Nikita Joshi, Rina Koyani, Gaurav Sanghvi and Vidya Patil.

I would also like to thank my parents and younger brother. They were always by my side, supporting me and encouraging me with their best wishes.

Bhavna Sharma