ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I express my sincere, profound and heartfelt gratitude to my research guide Dr. A.B. Rema Shree, Dy. Project Director, Centre for Medicinal Plants Research (CMPR), Arya Vaidya Sala, Kottakkal, Kerala, India for the continuous guidance and advice extended for the meticulous completion of this work. This task would not have been fulfilled so successfully without her prudent suggestions and rectification. Moreover, her ever welcoming and supportive academic attitude was a great encouragement for me.

I express my deep sense of gratitude to Padmabhooshan Dr. P. K. Warrier, Managing Trustee and Mr. K. K. Warrier, General Manager, Arya Vaidya Sala, Kottakkal, Kerala, India for providing the necessary facilities and infrastructure to carry out my work.

It is my privilege and pleasure to place on record my respectful gratitude to Dr. Indira Balachandran, Project Director, Centre for Medicinal Plants Research, Arya Vaidya Sala, Kottakkal, Kerala, India for providing necessary instructions and laboratory facilities. She has been a constant source of inspiration throughout the work.

Words of thanks would not suffice for the advices and suggestions made by Mrs. Jayanthi A, Scientist, Prof. Dr. K. K Vijayan, Emeritus Scientist, Dr. Geetha S. Pillai and Dr. C.T. Sadasiva, Senior Scientists; Dr. Sreevidya R, Asst. Physician; Mr. Sulaiman C. T, Mr.
Gerald Martin, Mr. Satheesh George, Dr. A.V. Raghu, Mr. K. V. Tushar, Mr. Unnikrishnan K.P, Scientists; Mr. Satheesh K. Extn. Scientist, Mr. Harinarayanan M. K, Former Extn. Scientist of CMPR throughout this work.

The meticulous assistance particularly by Mrs. Sereena K, Mr. Sreekanth Sreedhar, Mr. Harinarayanan C. M, Dr. Nitha B, Mr. Prakash Kumar U, Mrs. Sini G, Mrs. Sreedevi K and Mrs. Sreelekha M, Research Fellows of CMPR is gratefully acknowledged.

My sincere thanks are also due to Mrs. Sreekala K, Mrs. Dhannya K, Ms. Praseetha K, Mrs. Rathi S. R, Mr. A. J. Robi and Mr. Anilkumar, Research Fellows of CMPR. The help rendered by Mr. Rajendran T and Mr. Pradeep P, Office staff, and all other supporting staff of CMPR is also acknowledged gratefully.

I express my sincere thanks to Mr. Janardhanan N. K, Mr. Thilakan P. K and Mrs. Ratnam U, Staff, Herb Garden, AVS, Kottakkal for Thesis help throughout the course of this work.

I would also like to thank all my friends and well wishers for their support, love and encouragement throughout this period.

Most of all, I am indebted to the family members and my husband for being the source of strength and spirit to me and the endurance shown throughout the period of my research work.

Girija T.P