ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Research work of Ph.D. is a great endeavour. This long expedition is not possible without support of numerous people. I take this opportunity to express deep sense of gratitude to my honourable guide Dr. Archana Paranjape, for her supportive and motivating approach. The liberty she provided to explore things on my own was necessary to get insights into the arena of research. At the same time her calm and positive attitude was the guiding lamp for my journey whenever I needed.

I am very much thankful and grateful to my Doctoral Progress Committee members Dr. Anita Mehta and Dr. Shrikalp Deshpande for mentoring me and providing me valuable guidance from time to time. I also thank Dr. R. K. Goyal, Dr. G B Shah, Dr. Sunita Goswami, Dr. Tejal Gandhi, Dr. Jigna Shah, Dr. Paras Patel and Dr. Ketan Modi who as examiners examined my research work during the research weeks and provided valuable ideas to better my project.

My research goals would never have been accomplished without the profound support from my colleagues, Mr. Anand Pithadia and Mr. Javid Mansuri. I thank Mrs. Komal Patel for the help and expertise she provided for the phytochemical studies of my project. This thesis would be incomplete without acknowledging the support provided by our lab assistant Mr. Simon Parmar and Anil Baria. Mr. Simon (kaka) has always been ready to help with all the experimental procedures and animal care in spite of his age and all other college duties.

I feel sincere gratitude to Dr. Arun Arya, Head, Department of Botany, M. S. University of Baroda and Dr. Padmanabhi Nagar, Professor, Department of Botany, M. S. University of Baroda for guiding me for collection and authentication of plant *A. acuminata* and helping me access the library resources at MSU, Baroda. I am thankful to the authorities of SPARC Ltd. for the generous gift of rats for my study. My thanks are due to Mr. Suresh Purohit, Cadila Pharmaceuticals Ltd. for support provided for my research work. I am extremely grateful to Dr. Lal Hingorani, Pharmanza Herbals Pvt. Ltd. for helping with the gas chromatographic analysis of my extracts. I am thankful to Dr. Devanshu Patel, President, Parul Arogya Seva Mnadal and Dr. Rajesh KS, former Principal, Parul Institute of Pharmacy, for providing infrastructure and facilities for my research. It would have been
difficult to complete this project without the support extended by Dr, Geetika Madan Patel, Parul Sevashram Hospital in the form of laboratory facilities.

I would take this opportunity to thank Dr. Abhay Dharamsi, Principal, Parul Institute of Pharmacy for providing a work environment conducive to research and extending his competent guidance whenever required.

I am grateful to my family members my in-laws, my husband- Mohit, my mother and father for encouraging me to take up this endeavour. It would not have been possible for me to accomplish this task without their support and constant motivation. I can not express in words the endless affection given by my daughter- Kanika, which was necessary to fuel my journey. It was her patience and jovial nature that made my long work hours at home possible.

I am thankful to one and all, who were involved directly or indirectly in this venture of mine. At the end I thank almighty God for giving me direction and zeal to move through the tough times.

Archana M Navale