

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Every good gift and every perfect blessing is from above and cometh - down from the "Father of Lights", with whom is no variableness neither shadow of turning. So, I show my deepest sense of reverence and thankfulness to Nature's Divine which enabled me hither to in this project.

I wish to record my deep sense of gratitude and sincere thanks to my Guide Dr. A. Saraswathy, M.Sc., Ph.D., D.Sc., Assistant Director-in-Charge, Captain Srinivasa Murti Drug Research Institute for Ayurveda (CCRAS), Arignar Anna Govt. Hospital Campus, Arumbakkam, Chennai – 600 106, for her guidance, valuable suggestions and encouragement given throughout my work.

I also take privilege in thanking Dr. P. Brindha, M.Sc., Ph.D., Head, Bioscience Department, Srimad Andavan Arts and Science College, Trichy, for her constructive comments in all the way completing the dissertation work.

I greatly thank Professor P. Jayaraman Ph.D., Director of "Plant Anatomy Research Centre" (PARC), Tambaram, for his expert guidance in anatomical references, microphotography and timely suggestions. I also thank Miss. Parimala, M.Phil, (Ph.D.), and Mr. Gopi (Ph.D.), Research Assistants, (PARC) for their timely co-operation in carrying out the anatomical studies.

I give my heartfelt thanks to Dr. G. Srinivasa Rao, M.Pharm., MBA, Ph.D., Principal, Vel's college of Pharmacy, Old Pallavaram and Dr. L. Susheela, M.Pharm, Ph.D., Department of Pharmaceutics, Madras Medical College, Chennai for their valuable advice as the Doctoral Committee.

I specially thank Dr. A.B.D. Selvam, Scientist, Botanical Survey of India, Calcutta, for providing the genuine samples of *Aquilaria malaccensis* collected from Assam.

I give my special thanks to proprietor Mr. Arvind, MBA (Aus), ARVIND HERBS, Karapakkam, Chennai and Mr. Senthil, B.Pharm., MBA, Manager Incharge, EPOCH Pharmaceuticals, Alapakkam, Chennai and members of Vel's College of Pharmacy, Old Pallavaram, Chennai, for their co-operation and constant support in carrying out and completing my Ph.D., and timely help in all the odd times.

I specially thank Dr. Vijaya Sundaram, Ph.D., Department of Botany, Womens Christian College, Chennai, for her advice and suggestions given in compiling the thesis.

I sincerely thank Mrs. Vijayalakshmi, M.Sc., JRF, Mrs. Mageshwari, M.Sc., M.Phil., Ph.D., SRF and office staffs, CSMDRIA, for their timely co-operation in carrying out my experiments successfully.

I thank Mr. Pradeep, M.Pharm., (Ph.D.), Prakash M.Sc., (Ph.D.) and Saravanan M.Sc., (Ph.D.), Research Scholars, CSMDRIA, for their help rendered during the course of the work.

I thank Dr. Chandra, Ph.D., for her help in carrying out Pharmacological experiments.

I express my thanks to Mr. Arun, M.Sc., (Ph.D.) and Mr. Pari Dayal, M.Sc., (statistics) for their help and guidance in carrying out statistical analysis for the Pharmacological experiments.

I also give my special thanks to Mr. Siva Kumar, B.Pharm., Mr. Srimanth Kumar, B.Com., Mr. Selvakumar, B.E., and Miss. Shankari, B.A., for their valuable help in designing and DTP work.

Of all I express my heartfelt thanks to my Parents, Father Mr. R. Viswanathan, DME., Mother Mrs. V. Vijaya, Brother V. Ramkumar, B.E., and friends for their moral and financial support and interest shown throughout my Ph.D., work.