

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I take this opportunity to express my indebtedness to Dr. M.M. Patel, M.Sc., Ph.D., for his unfailing encouragement and continued guidance throughout the present work. I also thank Prof. N.S. Pandya, M.Sc., Ph.D.(London), for his keen interest and for providing excellent facilities in the laboratory.

It is a pleasure to thank Dr. S.P. Patel for his excellent help in the course of this work. Thanks are also due to Dr. K. Jacob Rajan who has kindly gone through the manuscript. I have a special word for Mr. P.D. Patel, Mr. K.C. Abraham and other research associates for helping me in one way or the other. The co-operation of the Central Workshop, Faculty of Science is greatly acknowledged.

I am indebted to the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi and the State Industrial Research Committee, Government of Gujarat for financial assistance.

A.B. DARJI