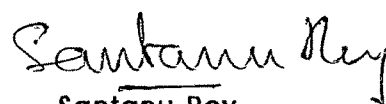


ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I had the privilege to carry out my research work under Prof. Surekha Dévi, Professor in Chemistry, Department of Chemistry, M.S. University of Baroda. She is my teacher, my mentor and very cordial person to work with. She guided me with utmost sympathy and understanding. It was a privilege to report to her almost daily and discuss and get her stimulating suggestions which shaped the destiny of this work. Her dynamism and interest was the main driving force to bring the research work to its present form. As I look back, I feel the change in myself. She is my mentor.


Santanu Roy

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Besides my mentor, Prof. Surekha Devi, I take this opportunity to express my deep sense of gratitude to Mr C. A. Samant, Development Manager, R&D Center, Asian Paints (India) Ltd., for his suggestions and constructive criticism during the entire span of my research work.

I am thankful to Dr. R. B. Tirolkar, General Manager, R&D Center, Asian Paints (India) Ltd., for his encouragement and enthusiasm regarding the work.

I am thankful to Prof. A. C. Shah, Head, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, M. S. University of Baroda, for providing the necessary facilities available in the department.

Prof. P. K. Bhattacharya, Department of Chemistry, M. S. University of Baroda, was always encouraging. I pay my humble respect to the great teacher.

I owe deep sense of gratitude to Prof. G. N. Devi, Department of English, M. S. University of Baroda for his help and encouragement throughout the span of my research work.

I sincerely thank Dr. M. Ravindranathan, DGM, R&D Center, I.P.C.L, Baroda, for providing I.P.C.L. library facilities.

I am thankful to Prof. C. Manohar, for the useful discussions and helping me in getting particle size distribution analysis.

I am indebted to Dr. S. Sivaram, Deputy Director, National Chemical Laboratory, Pune, for his help in getting the GPC analysis.

I thank Prof. G. Govil, TIFR, Bombay, and Prof. C. L. Khetrapal, IISc, Bangalore, for helping me in NMR analysis.

I thank Mrs. Sangeeta Pandya, Microbiology Department, for the TEM analysis.

I express my gratitude to Mr. P. G. Nagarkar and Mr. K. J. Rane, for their kind cooperation.

I thank my elders, Dr. U. S. Sathpathy and Dr. J. Das, I.P.C.L., R&D, and Dr. (Mrs.) D. Chakravorty, Chemistry Department, for their kind cooperation and help.

My friend Bharat Newalkar, and Pinaki Majumdar, Geology Department, were my constant companions throughout the span of my research work. I am thankful to Dr. S. Sathe and Mr. S. Reji Kumar for their friendship. I thank my juniors Alpesh Patel, Naveen Kumar, Paresh Sanghvi, Ragesh Brahmhatt, Ishit Thakore and Sonal Desai for their kind co-operation.

I gratefully acknowledge the painstaking effort put on by my friends Mr. Atul Patel and Mr. Samir Patel in doing an excellent typing with care and sincerity. I thank Mr. Sanjay Patel and Mr. J. M. Sinarkar for drawing the figures in this thesis.

I gratefully acknowledge the financial assistance provided by Asian Paints (India) Ltd. for carrying out the work.


Santanu Roy