

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Words fail to acknowledge the inspiring guidance and invaluable contribution received from **Dr. R.N.Ram**, Reader, Chemistry Department, Faculty of Science, M.S.University of Baroda for the present endeavour. I am greatly indebted to him for introducing me to this interesting field of catalysis. I take this opportunity to express my deep sense of gratitude for the stimulative instructions, constructive criticism and continuous encouragement received from him throughout the course of this work

I am gratefully indebted to **Prof.A.C.Shah**, Head, Chemistry Department, M.S.University of Baroda for providing adequate laboratory facilities and encouragement throughout the course of this work. I am very much thankful to **Prof.P.K.Bhattacharya**, Chemistry Department for the suggestions and encouragement received from him. I am highly thankful to **Dr. B.V.Kamath** for his guidance, fruitful discussions and constant encouragement.

I am grateful to **Dr. Nilima Kulkarni** for helpful discussions and guidance. I am highly thankful to **Dr.S.S.Madhavrao** and **Mr.S.L.Patel** for elemental analysis and encouragement. I am thankful to **Mr. H.R.Raval** and **Ms Jesal Gandhi** and **Mr.Girish Shirodkar** for TGA, UV-visible and IR spectra.

I am highly thankful to **Dr.M.Ravindranathan**, D.G.M. (R&D), IPCL, Baroda for providing necessary facilities to obtain surface area and FTIR. I am indebted to **Dr. D.T. Gokak**, **Dr.Tembe** and **Dr.G.C.Panday**, **Mr.Robin Anthony**, **Mr.Rajan Bosco** and **Mr Sanjay Singh** for helpful discussions and providing facilities like GC and FTIR.

I am thankful to **Dr. Jacob John**, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis for ESCA spectra.

I am thankful to **Dr.A.M.Mishra**, Head, R & D GACL, Baroda for IR spectra. I thank **Dr. Uday Sharma**, IIT, Bombay and **Mr.Shailesh Patel**, GACL for their help

I am personally thankful to my colleagues **Mrs Mery Yohanan, Dr.R.R.Darji, Dr. Sushila Amin, Ms Sonal Panday** and non-teaching staff members of Applied Chemistry Department, Polytechnic for their excellent co-operation.

I am thankful to my friends and co-research scholars **Dr. Jatin Shah, Dr. M.N. Ahmed, Dr. Bharat Nevalkar, Mr. Dilip Patel, Mr. Hitesh Sharma, Mr. Ajithkumar S, Mr. Sureshan C.A., Mrs Bina Pandit, Mr. Bijukumar** and teaching and non-teaching staff and research students of Chemistry department in their ample support and cooperation.

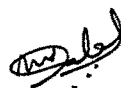
The financial assistance extended by UGC, New delhi is gratefully acknowledged.

I am also thankful to **Prof.R.A.Vora**, M.S.University of Baroda, National Science Foundation, USA, CSIR, New Delhi, **Prof. D.B.Dadyburjor**, University of West Virginia, USA, **Dr.T.S.R.Prasada Rao**, Director, IIP Dehradun, **Dr. N.M.Gupta**, BARC, Bombay, **Dr. Vincent Durante**, Sun Oil Co. USA, **Prof.R.K.Grasselli**, University of Delaware, USA, **Dr Frank Herkes**, Dupont, USA and **Prof. L. Guczi**, Hungary, for the encouragement and help.

I am thankful to the Head, RSIC, IIT Mumbai and Head RSIC, IIT Chennai for analysis of samples.

I am thankful to **Mr.T.C.Titus** for prompt and neat typing of the manuscript.

Finally I am at loss of words to express my humble heartfelt thanks and obligations to my parents, Sister and Brother-in-law for their patience and encouragement. I am specially thankful to my wife and daughter for their understanding and support.



Mahesh K. Dalal