

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to take this opportunity to express my deep sense of gratitude and respect to **Dr. Gopal L. Tembe (Guide)** for his constant encouragement, inspiring guidance and support throughout the progress of my research work. Words fail to thank him for his invaluable contribution to my research work. His deep-passion for perfection of work has not only taken care of my present study, but shall always be a guide to me in future.

I am extremely grateful to **Prof. H.S. Rama (Co-Guide)** for her encouragement, valuable guidance and support during the course of my research work.

Paying tributes to **Late Dr. R.N. Ram (ex-guide)**, I remember him for his valuable contributions, suggestions and constant encouragement in the first phase of my research work.

I am grateful to **Prof. A.K. Rakshit**, Head, Dept. of Chemistry, for the support and facilities provided to me during this work. I am also thankful to **Prof. B.V. Kamath**, **Prof. A.C. Shah**, **Prof. P.K. Bhattacharya**, **Prof. S. Devi**, and **Dr. S.S. Madhavrao** for their guidance and fruitful discussions.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to **Dr. P.T. Deota**, for his encouragement, guidance and fruitful discussions during my research work.

I am highly indebted to **Dr. M. Ravindranathan** (DGM, Research, IPCL) & **Dr. A.B. Halgeri** (DGM, R&D, IPCL) for their encouragement to pursue research and help me in need. My sincere thanks to the management of **Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited, Baroda**, for providing me the research facilities at their Research Centre.

Many thanks are due to **Dr. Avinash Pendse & Dr. Robin Antony** for helpful discussions, constant encouragement and facilities provided to me during this work.

I wish to acknowledge with thanks **Dr. R.V. Jasra** (Deputy Director & Head, Silicates & Catalysis Division), **Dr. S.H.R. Abdi**, **Dr.(Mrs.) R.I. Kureshy** and **Dr. N.H. Khan** (CSMCRI, Bhavnagar) for their help in chiral GC analysis related to catalytic asymmetric synthesis.

My thanks are due to **C.S.I.R., New Delhi & C.C. Shroff Foundation**, M.S.University of Baroda, for financial assistance.

I am thankful to **Dr. S.M. Pillai**, **Dr. A.R. Bandyopadhyay**, **Dr. S. Talapatra**, **Dr. P.A. Ganeshpure**, **Dr. A.V. Bedekar**, **Dr. Anil Wali**, **Dr. A.G. Basrur**, **Dr.(Mrs.) G. Kalpana**, **Dr. D. Rajeshwar** for their support during my research work.

I am grateful to Regional Sophisticated Instrumentation Centre (R.S.I.C.), I.I.T. Mumbai, for recording of SEM and Dr. Gundu Rao for his help in recording ESR.

My sincere thanks to my friends and colleagues, Mr. Dinesh Nair, Mr. Shailesh Patel, Mr. Sandip Patil, Mr. Piyush Upadhyay, Mr. Shivaji Sharma, Mr. Keyur Somani, Mr. Utkarsh Shukla, Mr. Keyur Joshi, Mr. S.P. Sahoo, Mr. Dilip Patil, Mr. Himanshu Patel, Mr. K.N. Solanki, Mr. B.L. Makhodia, Mr. R.S. Damor, Mr. Prasant Umare, Mr. K.K. Makwana, Mr. R.U. Ravalji, Mr. Rajan Bosco, Mr. Nagarkar, Mr. Bhavsar, Mr. Vasudev, Mr. Ninad Mehta, Mr. Rane, Mr. Dinesh, Mr. H.R. Rawal, for their constant support, concern and encouragement throughout my research work.

I am thankful to the teaching and non-teaching staff of the Chemistry department for their moral support and kind co-operation.

My sincere thanks to Mr. Abhay Athle & Mrs. Asha Athle (jijaji & sister) for their advice, continuous encouragement and moral support to me throughout my research work.

I wish to acknowledge my parents, in-laws, Mr. Mandar & Mrs. Medha Deodhar, relatives, Mr. & Mrs. C.V. Valodkar, all the members of Valodkar family, Dr. Deepak K. Shah (family physician), Mr. & Mrs. Gadgil, Mr. & Mrs. Nitin Muley and all my well-wishers who have directly or indirectly helped me during this period.

I am very grateful and indebted to my wife Neeta and son Himanshu for patiently standing by me during this strenuous period by showering their love and concern.


VAIBHAV B. VALODKAR