

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

At the very onset, I take the opportunity to express my deep sense of gratitude to my supervisor, Prof. A. K. Chakravarty for his novel guidance. I shall remain ever grateful to him for his sympathy and bearing with me throughout the course of work.

I am thankful to Prof. T. K. Sharma, ex-Director and Prof. K. B. Datta, Director, Centre for Life Sciences, University of North Bengal for extending certain facilities to carry out the work.

I am very much indebted to my co-workers, Dr. Amal K. Chakraborty, Dr. Tapas K. Choudhuri, Sri Saurov K. Sarkar and especially to Sri Bholanath Paul for various helps during experimental works and for going through the manuscript of the thesis.

I am thankful to the staffs of this Centre for their co-operation, and to Sri N. C. Ghosh for his excellent drawing of the figures.

I like to express my gratitude to my parents for their good wishes and blessings.

Thanks are due to my wife Mrs. Arunima Maitra for her endless inspiration and for helps during preparation of the thesis.

I like to thank also the Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi for awarding the Junior and Senior Research Fellowships during carrying out of the experimental works.

Uday K. Maitra