## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my gratitude to Associate Professor Dr. Supa Hannongbua, my supervisor, who helped, supported and guided me. Special thanks to Dr. Pensri Bunsawansong for kind help and giving very helpful discussions. I would like to thank my committees, Professor Dr. Peter Wolschann for his valuable suggestions and Associate Professor Dr. Supanna Techasakul for her helpful comments and suggestions.

Many thanks to Mr. Witcha Treesuwan for giving me helpful guidance to my work and I am also grateful for all the colleagues who keep me a company and enjoyable at Kasetsart University.

This work was supported by Thailand Research Fund (BRG 4780007). The Commission of Higher Education and the Postgraduate on Education and Research in Petroleum and Petrochemical Technology (ADB-MUA) are gratefully acknowledged for financial support and use of research facilities. Thesis-in-aid of the Graduate School is thanked for partial financial support. I would like to thank the Laboratory for Computational and Applied Chemistry (LCAC), Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, the computing centre at Kasetsart University and Computing Research and Development Division for computing facilities used for this work.

Finally, I would like express my deep gratitude to my family for their love and support and also my husband who always encouraged and helped me to reach this goal.

Veeramol Vailikhit October, 2006