



Acknowledgement

At this stage of my career, I am short of words to express my feelings for the many persons who have shaped my life, work and personality. First of all I fondly remember the care and attention showered on me by my guide Prof. R.Ramesh. His analytical approach and attention towards minor details are a quality to be imbibed. He patiently taught me the nuances of paleoclimatology and is one of the best teachers I have come across. I thank him from the bottom of my heart for all he has done for me. In the same breath I remember Prof. B.L.K. Somayajulu who introduced me to the science of studying past climates. His erudite discourses on various topics were always a treat to hear and his enthusiasm towards life in general and science in particular never failed to lift the veil of gloom and recharged me. Thank you, Soma.

I am indebted to Drs. A.J.T.Jull, G.S.Burr and M.S.Sheshshayee for carrying out supporting measurements during the course of this study. Help and encouragement provided by Prof. P.P. Patel and Prof. L.S. Chamyal is duly acknowledged.

I owe special thanks to Prof. S. Krishnaswami whose intelligent remarks, critical comments and scientific approach made me strive for better. I am grateful to Prof. S.K. Bhattacharya who was instrumental in teaching me the intricacies of mass spectrometry and taking special interest in my work. Many thanks to Prof. M.M. Sarin for his constant support and valuable inputs during my work in the chemistry lab. I thank the members of the Academic Committee for reviewing my work from time to time and providing their constructive inputs. Sincere thanks are due to Prof. J.N. Goswami, Prof. N. Bhandari, Prof. A.K. Singhvi, Prof. S.V.S. Murthy, Prof. Kanchan Pande, Dr. S. K. Gupta, Dr. P.N. Shukla, Dr. G. Srinivasan, Dr. J.S Ray, Dr. S. Singh (Jyoti and Sunil for me) and Dr. D. Banerjee for their words of encouragement and critical comments during the area seminars.

I express my sincere gratitude to Prof. M.S. Srinivasan who initiated me into micropaleontology and oceanography. He has been a steady source of inspiration for me. I am thankful to Dr. Devesh Kr. Sinha for generating my interest in Geology and taking personal interest in my career. Thanks are due to Dr. Rahul Mohan for helping me choose the right direction after my masters and for being there whenever I need

him. With affection I remember Dr. Ashish Sarkar from whom I learnt the art of the isotopic analysis of foraminifera. Thanks a lot, Ashish da.

No amount of words is sufficient to express my love and respect for Ravi da and Yadav ji. They personally ensured that I get best of the facilities, were always there whenever I needed them and went out of the way to help me. My sincere thanks to Jani ji and Sanyal who made the isotopic measurements possible. Due thanks to Padia ji, Kamlesh, Bhavsar bhai, Vaghela bhai and V.G. Shah for helping me during the course of various experiments.

I gratefully acknowledge the help extended by Library staff, Computer Center personnel, Workshop, Glass blowing and Liquid Nitrogen section. Without their support this journey would not have been so smooth.

Friends are like flowers in the garden of life and by the God's grace I am blessed with many flowers who always keep my garden full of their aroma. They are too many to name here but some of the names that flash in mind are Manoj (chiku and very cool), Pathak (unsatisfied with the world), Sudhir (the coolest one), Prashanto (opposite to his name), Santosh (the great entertainer), Neeraj (something different), Sanjeev (born lucky but frastu), Thakur, PK, Gere and Das babu. I also remember with warmth the company provided by other members of the PRL farmhouse tea club meeting unfailingly at 10 o' clock, 3.30 and 5.30 pm weekdays. Without them life will loose half of its charm. God bless them.

I thank my parents, nani ji, sanu and bunny for standing by me for the duration of this work and always encouraging me to be a paragon in my field. I am indebted to my soul mate Kiran who was a pillar of support for me during the draining period of thesis writing. Her belief in me is my greatest asset.

I am very much thankful to ISRO-GBP for supporting this work.