

Acknowledgements

At this point of time when I am summarizing my work at PRL for my Ph.D thesis, I would like to express my gratitude to many individuals who, with their sincere guidance and unconditional support made this thesis a reality.

First of all I would like to express my gratitude to my thesis supervisor Prof. R.Ramesh for his guidance, encouragement and support. He is the best teacher in the world who explains tough concepts in a simple way that straight-away goes into one's head and one can never forget the same. I have greatly benefited by him; otherwise learning complex phenomena of Ocean Science, whatever little I could learn, would have been very difficult for me. I also thank him for inviting me for innumerable parties at week-ends which helped me a lot in releasing my week's tension and starting afresh. I also thank Prof. L. S. Chamyal (Dept. of Geology, M.S. University of Baroda) for his interest in this work, and his help with university procedures.

I am indebted to the faculty of PGSDN here for their comments and suggestions during various phases of my work that certainly added to its quality. I specially thank Prof. S. Krishnaswami and Prof. M.M.Sarin whose questions, critical comments and suggestions during Area Seminars and 2nd and 4th year reviews helped me to improve this work. I also thank other members of the Academic Committee for their critical and positive comments.

I also thank Mr. R.M Dwivedi (Chief Scientist SS-222, SK-214), Dr. Prasanna Kumar (Chief Scientist SK-220) and Dr. M. Sudhakar (Chief scientist ABP-15) for giving me opportunities to participate in different cruises. Thanks are also due to Ms Mini Raman for providing me radiometer data of light measurements, Dr. Prabhu Matondakar and S.W.A Naqvi for Chl-*a* and nutrients data for Arabian Sea cruises, Dr. Sugandhini Sardesai for nutrient data for equatorial Ocean cruise and Dr. Rahul Mohan for Chl-*a* data for Southern Ocean cruise. I thank my friends Arvind, Thomas, Nagamani (all from SAC), Nuncio, Jeyu, Anil, Jyothi Babu and Madhu (all from NIO) for their help at various stages of my thesis work. Special thanks are due to Ravi Mishra, Meena, Anup, Amitabh, S.K.Singh for making "long and horrifying" Southern Ocean cruise memorable.

I specially thank Prof. UdayaKumar, Dr. M.S.Sheshshayee and Dr. Bindumadhava for their help during my stay at GKVK Bangalore for sample analysis. Thanks are also due to Bhushna for his help at GKVK. I still cherish those moments spent with them, especially parties in the evening, at Green Park.

I am grateful to Profs. Trevor Platt and Shubha Sathyendranath for giving me an opportunity to participate in POGO training programme and introducing me to satellite based oceanographic studies. I also thank all the participants of the training programme for making the stay in NIO RC-Kochi memorable.

I thank Dr. M. Sudhakar and Mr. Subrahmanyam of NCAOR Goa for all the help towards arranging different cruises. I also thank captain and crew members of FORV *Sagar Sampada* (SS-222), ORV *Sagar Kanya* (SK-214, SK-220) and *Akedemik Boris Petrov* (ABP-15) for their help during this work.

This work would not have been possible without valuable helps from P.K Gopi (stores), Parul ben, Gandhi and Deekshitulu (accounts), Ravishankar (Purchase), Ghanshyam bhai (transport), P. K. Gopi (stores), Bhavsar Bhai (Chemistry lab) and Vaghela Bhai (C-14 lab). Computer Centre staff are also much appreciated. I thank Mrs Nistha Kumar and Uma ben of PRL library for their support. I also thank PRL canteen staff for providing good food that kept me going all these years.

Thanks are also due to colleagues at PRL especially M.G.Yadava, J.T Padia, R.A. Jani, D.K.Rao, R.D.Deshpande, Navin Juyal for their encouragement and support all through my stay at PRL. I also thank Deepak Dhingra and Neeraj Srivastava with whom I spent my initial days at PRL. I would especially thank veteran members of "post-lunch" tea club: Jyoti, Ravi, Sunil, Sudhir, Deepu da, Shukla ji, Panda, and Santosh. Help from seniors like Aniraban da, Prasanta da, Sanjeev, Dilip, Sudeshna, Jayesh, Nagar, Morthekai, Neeraj, Manoj, Charan, Manish, Lokesh, Amit, Gowda and Pathak are also appreciated. I also thank "regular" tea club members Sumita, Ashutosh, Ritesh, Kushu, Akhilesh, Santosh, Salman, Tyagi, Rehman, Ashwini, Gyana, Shuchita, Kripa, Alok, Vineet, Priyam, Jayati and many more. Juniors like Rohit, Naveen, Arvind and Amzad made life much easy and enjoyable at lab and hostel: special thanks to them. I will never forget n-number of *chai* by Hanuman and Jayesh.

This page will be incomplete without mentioning my batch mates with whom I have shared all my feelings and frustrations. Shreyas and Subimal were always there with me in my good and bad times; Sanat and Uma, without pulling whose legs I never started my day; hard work of Sasadhar most often frustrated me. Cooking and eating veg and non-veg dishes with Shreyas, Subimal, Anirban da, Dilip, Jayesh, Archita and Santosh will always remain in my heart.

I can not forget to thank my cute little sis Neha (Dr. Neeharika Verma) who was always with me with her supporting words and relaxing laughter when it needed the most. Hours that we have spent talking to each other about our thesis and making plans to finish it on time, though I am a bit late, will always remain with me. At last I would like to thank my parents, brothers and sisters for their long wait to see this thesis. Being a Bihari I know what matters there at home is a government job and for my family the patience to wait for this thesis is unimaginable. I whole-heartedly thank them all for their support and encouragement. Tons of thanks to *bhaiya* and *bhabhi* who brought me so far since childhood that I could do Ph.D; thanks to *bhaiya* and *bhabhi* for everything they did for me. Mannu and Goldi, my two sweet nieces, always waited for this day to come, so a sincere thanks to them as well.