ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am indebted to my mentor and guru, Dr. S. Ganapathi, for his guidance and supervision in the present work. It was a privilege to work under him and get his stimulating suggestions which shaped the destiny of the investigation. Without his constant inspiration and support, the thesis would not have reached the present state.

I express my deepest thanks to Prof. S.J. Desai, Head, Department of Geology, M.S. University of Baroda, for providing necessary facilities.

I am thankful to Mr. Ajit Kapadia, Managing Director and Mr. Ravi Venkateswaran, ex-General Manager, Hindustan Oil Exploration Company Limited, for their help and support during the course of the field work and for rendering H.O.E.C. library facilities.

I am thankful to Dr. O.V.S. Murthy, Chief Geologist, Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Bellampalli, for extending help in providing access to core samples and valuable unpublished works. Thanks go to Mr. M. Lakshman, geologist, M.E.C.L.. Mandamarri, for his kind hospitality and help during the field work.

I express my sincere thanks to Prof. N.S. Sundaramurthy, Head, Dept. of Metallurgy, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, M.S.U., Baroda for taking personal care in carrying out X-Ray analyses.

Mr. Jayachandran Nair (Jaycee) was my closest friend and companion during the course of my research. I am indebted to Jaycee for his help and support during this period and the effort he put forth during the final stage.

I thank Mr. Amardeep Jain, H.O.E.C., and Mr. Ravi Pillai for their help in the field work. I gratefully acknowledge various other helps rendered by Mr. Jain during the subsequent periods of my research.

I am specially thankful to Dr. Atul Joshi for snapping the photomicrographs and for help in going through the proofs of the final draft. I sincerely thank Dr. K.C. Tiwari for taking an earlier set of photomicrographs.

I thank all my teachers, research colleagues and department staff members for their help in various capacities during the course of the study.

I owe a special gratitude to Prof. Nikhil Desai for his encouragement and moral support.

I gratefully acknowledge the painstaking effort put on by my friends Mr. Atul Patel and Mr. Samir Patel in doing an excellent word processing of this thesis with care and sincerity.

My academic career would not have reached the present stage without the support and encouragement of my parents. I dedicate this thesis to them.

Pinaki Majumdan