ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am greatly indebted to Dr. T. R. Venkatesan for introducing me to the field of geochronology and for his careful and patient guidance throughout the course of this work. I am also obliged to him for critically going through the manuscript of the thesis and making several useful suggestions. I am thankful to Prof. S. J. Desai for his constant encouragement and inspiration.

I am extremely grateful to Prof. R. K. Srivastava of Department of Geology, Udaipur for suggesting this problem, guidance in the field work as well as providing about half of the samples and several useful discussions.

I have had the good fortune to work with a number of colleagues at PRL who have helped me in numerous ways. I wish to record my sincere thanks to Dr. J. R. Trivedi who analyzed a few samples for Rb-Sr studies and to Mrs. Rashmi Jadeja, who helped me in data reduction for Ar-Ar studies. I thank Dr. Kanchan Pande for several suggestions and useful discussions which improved the thesis. Other senior members of Earth Sciences and Solar System Division, Profs. N. Bhandari, B. L. K. Somayajulu, S. Krishnaswami and Drs. S. V. S. Murty, J. N. Goswami, S. K. Bhattacharya, A. K. Singhvi, R. Ramesh, R. K. Pant, P. N. Shukla, M. M. Sarin and S. Kusumgar have always extended their assistance and encouragement. Mr Kurup and Mr Sivasankaran did excellent glass blowing work. I sincerely thank them all.

It is my pleasure to thank Prof. K. Gopalan of National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad and Prof. K. K. Sharma of Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun for their constructive suggestions during occasional discussions with them.

I enjoyed very much the close friendship of Gufran and Kotlia. The discussions with Shwetketu had always been inspiring and scintillating. Company of Bhusan, Naveen, Padia, Mathew, Anjan, Sarkar, Maqbool, Seema, Sarangi, Janardan, Tripathi, Birendra, Subramanian, Viju, Supriya, Rengarajan, Ganguli, Yadav, Manohar Lal, Paulin, Nirjhari, Jyoti, Mohapatra, Clement and many others who are now no more in PRL as well as other hostelers had always been cheerful. Ravi and Rashmi helped me a lot while finalizing the thesis. Mr A. P. Gohil and his family always provided a very homely environment. Mr D. R. Ranpura had ever been ready for help. I owe special thanks to them.

My sincere thanks are also due to Mrs. Barucha, Mrs Ghiya, Mrs. Patil and other staff members of the Library for their cooperation.

I am grateful to Prof. R. K. Varma, Director, PRL for the permission to continue my Ph. D. experiment work, even after leaving the institute. I am also thankful to ONGC management for the permission to continue the Ph. D. work. Part of this work was carried out at KDM Institute of Petroleum Exploration (KDMIPE), ONGC, Dehradun where I am presently posted. I am extremely thankful to Dr. S. K. Biswas, former Director, KDMIPE for getting my posting at KDMIPE and the permission to carry out Rb-Sr work at Geochronology Laboratory of the institute. I express my deep sense of gratitude to Mr. Kuldeep Chandra, Head, KDMIPE, Dr. Jagdish Pandey (GM, Geology), Shri K. N. Mishra (DGM, Chemistry) and Mrs. N. J. Thomas (Chief Chemist) for their sustained encouragement and support and to Shri N. K. Dutta (DGM, Geology) for providing ample freedom to carry out work at PRL during my short tenure at Ahmedabad project.

I am specially thankful to Dr. B. N. Prabhu for painstakingly going through the first draft which has substantially improved the thesis and to Dr. R. R. Singh for his constant encouragement to complete the work. I thank Dr. (Mrs). P. Rathi, Mrs. Minaxi Bansal, Dr. A. R. Vijan, S. Prasad, Pankaj and other members of Geochronology Laboratory, KDMIPE for their cheerful company and succor as and when needed.

I acknowledge the help received from Kakkad and Nambiar in neatly typing and finalizing the thesis.

I am extremely grateful to my wife Ichraj who has been the source of inspiration in all these agonizing years, and for all her involvement in my work in innumerable ways. My son master Vishal provided very tranquil environment at home by abstaining from his frolicsome activities during writing of the thesis.

Finally I wish to thank my parents and other family members for their ⁻ encouragement all these years.

Shakti Singh Rathore