Acknowledgements

It gives me immense pleasure to acknowledge all those who helped and supported me throughout my Ph.D. First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my research guide Professor L.S. Chamyal for his constant motivation and guidance since my post-graduation. I am very much indebted to Prof. Ravi Bhushan, Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, for his endless support and guidance throughout my study. I will remain grateful to him for introducing me to the world of geochemistry, palaeoceanography and radiocarbon dating. I am very much obliged to Dr. Alpa Sridhar for her continuous support and guidance. Her expertise in the field, friendly nature and scientific approach to a problem always inspired me. I am grateful to the Head of the Geology Department for providing facilities. I would like to thank all the faculty members of the Department of Geology especially Prof. D.M. Maurya for his support and encouragement.

I am also indebted to the Director of Physical Research Laboratory and the esteemed faculties Prof. Sunil Kumar Singh, Prof. J. S. Ray, Dr. Rengarajan and Dr. A.K. Sudheer for not only allowing me to use the laboratory facilities but also for valuable guidance and encouragement. I would be failing in my duty if I do not acknowledge the help received from Dr. Sanjeev Kumar of PRL, Ahmedabad in generating and interpretation of Nitrogen isotope data.

I would also like to thank Dr. Nitesh Khonde, Dr. Jaquilin Joseph, Dr. Parul, Dr. Vishal Ukey, Dr. Thatagatha Ghosh, Dr. Aditya Joshi, Kushal, Dr. Naimisha, Apurva, Joe, Dr. Haroon, Abhishek, Prabuthi and Akash for their support in making my days in the Department comfortable. I also acknowledge the help and support of PRL seniors Dr. Gyan, Dr. Vineet, Dr. Satinder, Dr. Prashant, Dr. Srinivas and PRL lab mates Dr. Damodar, Dr. Upasana, Dr. Venkatesh, Dr. Subha Anand, Dr. Chandana, Dr. Chinmey, Dipjyothi and Sneha. I also like to thank all the hostel mates especially Dr. Nitesh, Dr. Hemand Mande, Dr. Mohit, Dr. Rahul of MSU and Dr. Tanmoy, Dr. Monojit and Ejaz of PRL for the memorable moments.

I owe special thanks to my parents G. Durairaj, D. Muthu and my wife Viayalakshmi for providing moral support and encouragement all throughout. My brothers Genasan, Manian and Karthikeyan were always there when I needed them. I gratefully thank and acknowledge all my friends and colleagues who directly or indirectly have been extending their help and support.

Balaji D