Preface

This is a regional, comparative study of the early pastoral-cum-food producing cultures which flourished in the Deccan during the 2nd millennium B.C. I owe this subject to Sri. M.N. Deshpande, Deputy Director General of Archaeology in India, who initiated me into the field methods in Archaeology as early as 1957. When I carried out explorations under his direction in the Tungabhadra basin in Dharwar district, I realised that I could extend the survey in the other districts where the Tungabhadra meanders and make a comparative study of the recently discovered chalcolithic cultures of Northern and Southern Deccan. This involved not only further explorations but fresh excavations. This wish, I could realise, when a University Grants Commission Scholarship was awarded to me in 1962. Since 1964, to date, I have studied the problem and the result is the following thesis.

No individual could claim to carry out this kind of study all alone. I am indebted to various institutions and individuals, in completing this study. It is my pleasant duty to offer my sincere thanks to all of them.
I am extremely grateful to the University Grants Commission for awarding a scholarship which facilitated my stay in Poona for 2 years. An ad hoc grant was also made available to meet the initial expenses of the excavations at Tekkalkota. The excavations at Tekkalkota and Hallur planned to substantiate my thesis involved much more expenditure. The authorities of the Deccan College graciously granted enough financial assistance to meet the expenses of these diggings. To them my grateful thanks are due. The Director General of Archaeology in India, and the Collectors of Bellary and Dharwar kindly granted the permission for these excavations in time. I am extremely grateful to them.

While the excavations at Tekkalkota could be completed when I was still a student of the Deccan College, Hallur excavations had to be postponed for want of time. This could be done only in 1965 when I had become an employee of the Karnatak University. Both Dr. Sankalia and Dr. P.B. Desai, of the Deccan College and the Karnatak University respectively readily agreed to my suggestion to make this excavation a joint project. Dr. Sankalia provided the financial assistance and Dr. Desai recommended to the University authorities my deputation to carry out the
operations. I owe the success of this excavation to Dr. Sankalia, Dr. Desai and the University authorities, in no small measure. I am extremely thankful to them.

In the excavations themselves, I was ably helped by my friend and former colleague, Sri. A. Sundara, who also went through the type script of this thesis in spite of his own pressing need for time. Shriyuts K.C. Malhotra, R.S. Desai, G.C. Padwal, Y.S. Rasar and P.R. Kulkarni contributed their own share while the excavations progressed. To all of them, I am grateful.

It was a privilege for me to associate myself with Drs. K.R. Alur and Vishnu Mitter. They studied the Animal and Plant remains from Hallur respectively and favoured me with their reports in time. The Tata Institute of Fundamental Research promptly processed the Carbon samples and intimated the various dates. This saved me from much postulation and I could authoritatively write on the chronology. My personal gratitude is due to Drs. Alur, Vishnu Mitter, and Sri. D.P. Agrawal and the authorities of the Tata Institute.

Drs. S.B. Dec, Z.D. Angasari, G.M.S. Mate,
V.N. Misra and Prof. S.N. Rajguru, made my stay in the Deccan College most useful by their scholarly discussions. I have learnt a lot from them both academically and otherwise. Dr. Deo allowed my studying in his chamber all the 24 hours if necessary. I am extremely grateful to all these for their affectionate treatment during my stay in Poona.

I have learnt a great deal from the valuable discussions I had with Sri. B.B. Lal, Joint Director General of Archaeology, Sri. B.K. Thapar, Director of Explorations, Sri. M.N. Deshpande and Dr. and Mrs. F.R. Allochin. I deem it an honour to thank these scholars for allowing free discussions with them.

Due to the pressure of time on the eve of my departure abroad, the thesis had to be typed and bound in a short time. My friend, Sri. Hiregoudar typed the matter within a fortnight very neatly and with the least number of mistakes. I am highly thankful to him for his diligence.

I cannot express in words the help I have received from my two close friends Sri. Rangarao Desai and Krishna Potdar. They not only acted as my secretaries regarding my travel arrangements but personally attended to cutting, pasting and various
other items of my thesis. But for their timely help my thesis would not have attained the form in which it is now seen.

I owe a deep debt of gratitude to my Guru, Prof. H.D. Sankalia, but for whose constant help, encouragement and guidance, I would not have been what I am. It would not be possible to thank him in words. I would consider that the most fitting way of thanking Prof. Sankalia is to emulate his example and strive hard to contribute to knowledge by incessant work and this I would strive to do in the span of life before me.

P O O N A.

(M. S. Nagaraja Rao)