Acknowledgement

I feel blessed to have Prof. Sheila Mishra as my research supervisor. I sincerely thank her for the continuous support. It was always a privilege to learn from her discussions, which helped in refining my concepts and getting new ideas. I will never forget the way she cares for her a student. Her love and affection with which she treated me was more than a student could share. Her sweet and down to earth approach while talking about many aspects of human nature also helped to nurture my personality. Her unparalleled acumen in the field combined with the deep knowledge of the subject helped me come up with new interpretations and hypotheses. Her persona is simply unforgettable.

I convey my sincere gratitude to my mentor and co-supervisor Dr. P.K. Behera for the credit of “what I am today in Archaeology”, a teacher who introduced to and groomed me for archaeology. He has been guiding me in various aspects of research and his suggestions, discussions; inputs are always special and very helpful for this thesis. One of the most inspiring aspects about him is the energetic field work that he conducts with students on every holiday. I always feel very fortunate for being treated more than a disciple, something that was greater than what I expected.

The Indian Council of Historical Research is gratefully acknowledged for providing me scholarship for two years which has contributed a lot for the fulfillment of this dissertation successfully. Thanks to Dr. S.M. Mishra and his staff who cordially communicated all the official procedures. I am grateful to Dr. Aruni's helpful during the process of resuming my ICHR fellowship. The Erasmus Mundus Scholarship was a boon during my Masters at Portugal and Spain (2008-2010). It fulfilled many dreams, gave a lot of confidence and provided financial support which strengthened me and my academic carrier. Besides, Sisupalgarh Project (ULCA) under the directorship of Dr. Monica Smith also provided financial assistance in beginning of my Ph.D. The small scale research grants of Nehru Trust for the Indian Collections at the Victoria and Albert Museum New Delhi was also helpful to understand about the ethnography of Nuapada district.
My heartfelt reverence goes to Prof. Rajguru, the godly figure of Deccan College, with whom I had discussion on several aspects of geo-archaeology which helped me a lot in understanding the study area.

I am proud to be a part of prestigious Department of Archaeology of Deccan College and Post-graduate & Research Institution where towering scholars like Padmashree Prof. K. Paddayya taught us various courses. His lectures and classes are always precious to attend. I would like to convey my sincere thanks to Prof. K. Paddayya for his ingenious insights which helped me change my concept of field methods for finding Acheulian sites. He advised me of perseverance, holistic approach and encouragement throughout my Ph.D. His valuable comments during my pre viva encouraged me to think on various possibilities of answering research questions.

For help, support and encouragement my sincere and earnest gratitude go to my teachers: Prof. B.C. Deotare, Prof. P.P. Joglekar, Dr.Sushma Deo, Prof. Mukund Kajale, Prof. Vishwas Gogte, Prof Gouri Lad, Prof.Vasant Shinde, Dr. S.R. Walimbe, Dr. P. K. Thomas, Dr. Ashok Marathe, Dr. Shrikant Jadhav, Dr. P.D. Sable, Vijay Sathe, Dr. Abhijit Dandekar, Arati Deshpande-Mukharjee, Dr. Shahida Ansari, Dr. Vina Mushrif Tripathy, Dr. Shrikant Ganvir, Dr. Shrikant Pradhan, Dr. Satish Naik and Sachin Joshi, at Deccan College.

I am thankful to my favourite Prof. R.K. Mohanty who is more than a teacher for me. His love, support and courageous words in letting me feel capable to initiate any archaeological problem and cope up with the research life at Deccan College.

I would also like to acknowledge Prof. K.K. Basa, and Dr. Shanti Pappu, J.N. Pal, Dr Alok Kumar Kanungo, for being inspiring, providing constant encouragement and support.

Dr. Parth R. Chauhan's untrammeled scholarly eye, yet simpleton attitude is a blessing for new students of archaeology like me. I will always remain indebted for his valuable
suggestions and discussions on several issues which helped in the improvement of this thesis.

I am thankful to Dr. Shivaji Kshirsagar for his unconditional help for numbering and organizing the microlithic artifacts.

I am really thankful to Amit and Biswajit Tripathy (Jitu) who accompanied me during the April-May 2010 field work. They bore the dry hot summer of Orissa when mercury had risen to 45 degrees; they were still energetic and adjusting with all harsh situations. Jitu's devotion to archaeology is really appreciated. I really enjoyed those field days with an instinct to find sites and artefacts. Khirasindhu Barik and Subodh Mendley, the junior friends at Sambalpur University are like my brothers who helped me in cleaning and sorting artefacts were also helped by Sakir and Avinash. Teachers of Sambalpur University Dr. K.N. Sethi, Mrs. Neena Thakur, and S. Naik will always be remembered for their encouragement. My friends at Sambalpur University Sasikant Raut, Abani Panda, Nihar and Pradeep and my village friends Susanta, Suresh and all the other old men and women of my village are also acknowledged for their moral support.

How can I ever forget the friends at Deccan College without whom this dissertation would have ever seen the day light? These friends were always with me whenever I felt depressed or I was in despair. With my friends Yogesh, Burhan, Pankaj, Shantanu, Arif, and Nikhil. I shared the funniest moments of my life as well as the shrewdest academic discussions. Their unconditional help for drawing and organizing plates, proof reading, clearing confusions, orientation of thought process about various topics and providing new ideas through rigorous discussions became the backbone of my research. Their indefatigable passion towards my thesis and constant boost for the completion of my research cannot be penned. Our fables of friendship will go deep and long in the memory lanes of Deccan College history. It is impossible to forget Our Dinner Discussion Group of Burhan, Kim, Deepak and I for selecting good restaurants in Pune.
The dedication and in time help of my favourite and loving junior friends Akash Srinivas, Garima, Nagaraj and Durga Kale for their enormous help in organizing tables; statistical data and texts and for drawing stone tools in the last phase of the thesis is highly appreciated. Working with these young students, I feel secure about the future of archaeology. Mohan Pardhi and Soumi Sengupta helped a lot in organizing the references and other logistical support.

Nikhil is thanked specially for helping me in analyzing the artefacts and showing eagerness to help at any time without feeling tired. It is all my loving friends who have been helping me in each and every moment and their contribution is tremendous for this thesis. I am very much thankful to my friends Sikha, Pair, Arunima, Tejal, who helped me in taking measurement of artifacts necessary for the thesis. Thank you Nipon and Jaycee for helping me take photographs of artifacts.

I would like to express my gratitude and sincere thanks to my senior friends for advising and encouraging me, particularly Hemant Dave, Amol Kulkarni, Tilok Thakuria, Pranab Sharma and N. Shivkumar, Suresh Bomble Kanhu, Chanran Meher(Odisha).

I convey sincere gratitude to Neetu Agrawal, Kumar Akhilesh, Saleem Shaikh, Riza Abbas and Gurudas Shete for many fruitful discussions and suggestions on various issues about lithics, field methods, geoarcheology.

I am thankful to the companionship of friends Narendra, Ajmal, Varad, Nilesh Jadhav, Kanti, Deepak, Gopal, Vrushab Mahesh, Yongjun Kim, Vijay Sarde, Udaya, Jose Rapheal, Kalyan, Prateek, Gauri, Anagha, Sharda, Kanchan, Kanchini, Anwita, Suttapa, Meenakshi,Asthá Dibyopama, Nisha Sawant, at Deccan College for making my years at Deccan College Gents Hostel unforgettable. Also my junior friends Deep Sikha, Arvind, Chandrakant, Sneha, Himanshu, Jagruti, Vignesh,are also thanked.

This dissertation would have been impossible to complete without full access to the wonderful library at Deccan College. The staffs of Deccan College library are thanked for
their cooperation. Mrs. Trupti More, the librarian is acknowledged for her help and encouragement, Mr. Survase Dhananjay finds special thanks for helping in find the books very quickly is remarkable. Other library staff Shigvan, Samadhan, Manjiri, Subhas, Pallavi, Dattatray, Bhagyashri, Sandeep are also acknowledged for their support and help in finding books.

I convey sincere thanks to Rokde, for his help and keen interest for drawing stone tools also thanks to Dighe, Phule, and Pradhan for guidance in artefacts drawing.

Among the administrative staff I want to thank Mrs. P.G. Hole for her pleasing nature, Kulkarni, Mr. Vijay Kute, Shyam, Chandrakant S. Shendge and Wamanrao Gavade, Ganekar, Khadekar, and Gajanan, Bhandare, also thanks to Kachhi Bai for tea.

Deccan College Mess- Salini Mausi, Kanchan didi, Mohan Bhiya and Puja Bhabi, are gratefully acknowledged for serving food twice a day which gave enough strength for writing this thesis.

During our stay in the Chikhli village help and support of the driver and the primary school teacher (Guruji) and the laborers are sincerely acknowledged.

*I have always been very free from the family worries because of my younger brother Rabindra and my sisters: Puspa, Tara, Gita, who have been looking after my parents and giving me updates about their health and well being. I feel very fortunate that my sisters (Mamata, Mita) and brothers (Dilip, Chunu) are in Pune who have been very generous, encouraging and helpful morally as well as emotionally. I thank my little niece Eli for her love affection and sweetness. I have always been graced by my Baba and Mama, Amulya Dada, Surendra dada, Narendra dada, Jagbandu dada, and all Bahu’s for their constant support and encouragement.*

*Tosabanta Padhan*

*15th Feb 2013*

*Pune*