ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I feel it a great pleasure to place on record my deep sense of gratitude towards my beloved Research Supervisor, Dr. S. Ramanaiah, Professor in the Department of Geology, S. V. University College of Sciences, Tirupati and presently the Registrar, Yogi Vemana University, Kadapa for his valuable guidance, critical comments and encouragement throughout the progress of the work.

I am indebted to Professor R. Jagadiswaran Rao, former Principal of S. V. University College of Arts & Sciences, Tirupati and till recently Scientist, DMR&TUF Trust Project for his timely help in various ways that enabled me to complete this work.

I wish to express my grateful thanks to Professor Y. Venkatarami Reddy, Head of the Department of Geology, Professor A. Nagaraju, Chairman, Board of Studies, Professor R.C. Hanumanthu, Professor N. Balayerikala Reddy, Professor T. Sambasiva Rao, Dr. T. Madhu, Dr. K.S.S. Prasad, Dr. U. Suresh and Dr. B.C. Sundara Raja Reddy, Department of Geology, Sri Venkateswara University College of Sciences for help and encouragement. I thank Professor K. Kesava Raju for providing some data on Red Sanders including two photographs incorporated in this work.

I am thankful to my research colleagues – Dr. G. Sivanatha Reddy, Sri T. Ayyavaraiah, Sri R. Balaram, Sri K.R. Varaprasad Reddy, Sri D.B. Sankar for their help in several ways.

I wish to place on record my deep sense of love and gratitude for the blessings of my mother Smt. M. Sunkamma and father late M. Obulesu.

I express my gratitude to my elder brothers Sri M.C. Sunkanna and Sri M. Obulesu (Telugu Pandit Grade-II), my elder sisters Smt. K. Nagalakshmi, Smt. G. Sunkamma, my
younger sister Smt. G. Obulamma, my wife Smt. M. Lakshmidevi and my daughter Vijayasudha without whose encouragement, suggestions and support my task would have become more arduous.

I could take up this work and complete it successfully because of sanction of a research project under the Development of Mineral Resources & Technology Upgradation Fund (DMR&TUF) by Dr. V. D. Rajagopal, former Director of Mines and Geology and its continuance by Shri B. R. Susheel Kumar, Director of Mines and Geology. In addition, a large number of personnel working in the various Central and State Government Departments, mining industry, barefoot geologists who live on the mining industry and people at large in the study area have provided useful data. I place on record my grateful thanks to all of them.

My heartfelt thanks are to Smt. R Nagamani, wife of Professor R. Jagadiswara Rao for her cooperation.

I tender my sincere thanks to my best friends Sri D. Venkata Naidu, Sub-Registrar, Thanakallu Registrar Office, Anantapur, Sri T. Surendra Kumar, Assistant Plantation Manager, APFDC, Nellore District, Sri S. Shareef, Technical Assistant in Vigilance, Department of Mines and Geology, Tirupati for extending their all out moral support.

Finally, I am thankful to Sri P. Prabhakarababu of Sri Venkateswara University for assistance in several ways in the finalisation of this thesis.

S. Suresh