

CONTENTS

| | Pages |
|---|--------------|
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS | |
| SYNOPSIS | |
| LIST OF TABLES | |
| LIST OF FIGURES | |
| LIST OF APPENDICES | |
| LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS | |
| | |
| CHAPTER 1 – INTRODUCTION | 1-19 |
| 1.1 Weathering: A Prologue | 1 |
| 1.2 Weathering: A Review | 2 |
| 1.3 Objectives of this Research | 14 |
| 1.4 Plan of Treatment | 14 |
| 1.5 Study Area | 14 |
| Neyyar Basin | 15 |
| Tambraparni Basin | 15 |
| 1.6 Previous Work | 16 |
| 1.7 Relevance of the Study | 17 |
| 1.8 Materials and Methods | 18 |
| | |
| CHAPTER 2 – PHYSIOGRAPHY, CLIMATE AND GEOLOGY | 20-32 |
| 2.1 Introduction | 20 |
| 2.2 Physiography of Kerala and Neyyar basins | 20 |
| 2.3 Physiography of Tamil Nadu and Tambraparni Basin | 22 |
| 2.4 Slope | 23 |
| 2.5 Relative Relief | 24 |
| 2.6 Climate | 24 |
| Kerala and Neyyar Basin | 25 |
| Tamil Nadu and Tambraparni Basin | 26 |
| 2.7 Vegetation | 28 |
| 2.8 Geology of Kerala and Neyyar Basin | 28 |
| 2.9 Geology of Tamil Nadu and Tambraparni Basin | 29 |
| Teris of Tirunelveli | 30 |
| Structural and Tectonic Framework of Tirunelveli | 30 |

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--------------|
| 2.10 | Discussion | 31 |
| 2.11 | Summary | 31 |
| CHAPTER 3 – SOIL PROFILES | | 33-45 |
| 3.1 | Introduction | 33 |
| 3.2 | Nomenclature | 34 |
| 3.3 | Soil Profiles in the Study Area | 34 |
| | Horizons/sub-Horizons in Profiles | 35 |
| | Physiography- Profile relationship | 37 |
| | Lithologic control on soil horizons | 41 |
| 3.4 | Discussion | 42 |
| 3.5 | Summary | 44 |
| CHAPTER 4 –TEXTURAL PROFILE | | 46-52 |
| 4.1 | Introduction | 46 |
| 4.2 | Materials and Methods | 47 |
| 4.3 | Results and Discussion | 47 |
| 4.4 | Summary | 50 |
| CHAPTER 5 – MINERALOGY | | 53-64 |
| 5.1 | Introduction | 53 |
| 5.2 | Materials and Methods | 54 |
| 5.3 | Results | 54 |
| | Petrography of Light Minerals | 54 |
| | Inter-basin Mineral Abundances | 57 |
| 5.4 | XRD Analysis | 59 |
| | XRDA of NB | 59 |
| | XRDA of TB | 60 |
| 5.5 | Quartz-Plagioclase-K-feldspar (QPK) Plot | 60 |
| 5.6 | Gain and Loss of Minerals | 61 |
| 5.7 | Discussion | 61 |
| 5.8 | Summary | 63 |

| | |
|--|--------------|
| CHAPTER 6 – UP-PROFILE CHEMICAL ELEMENT VARIATION | 65-78 |
| 6.1 Introduction | 65 |
| 6.2 Materials and Methods | 65 |
| 6.3 Results and Discussion | 65 |
| Major Oxide Variation- NB | 66 |
| Major Oxide Variation- TB | 66 |
| Indices of Weathering | 67 |
| Degree of Weathering | 71 |
| A-CN-K Diagram | 73 |
| A-CNK-FM Diagram | 74 |
| Molar Ratio and Paleoclimate | 77 |
| 6.4 Summary | 77 |

CHAPTER 7 – SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS **79-83**

BIBLIOGRAPHY

APPENDICES