Acknowledgements

My deepest gratitude goes to my parents. They have always been a source of encouragement for me and would always persuade me to complete this work.

I would like to express my heart-felt gratitude and regards towards my Teacher and Guide Prof. (Dr.) D. Mukhopadhyay, Department of Geology, University of Calcutta, whose continuous and vigilant guidance have made this work possible. I am indebted to him in more than one ways. Apart from enhancing my knowledge in Geology, he has also taught me how to tackle a problem rationally and logically. I would also take this opportunity to express my regards and gratitude to Madam Mukhopadhyay, who has been a silent support to the students of Prof. Mukhopadhyay for over 5 decades.

I also express my gratitude to Prof. T. Bhattacharyya, Co-Supervisor in this work, for his spirited words that really rejuvenated me at difficult times. He is very encouraging and overwhelmingly enthusiastic.

I thank Prof. Harendra Nath Bhattacharya, Head of the Department of Geology, Presidency College, Kolkata for providing the infrastructural facilities of the Department needed for this work.

My wife, Dr. Nandini. Dasgupta, has always extended her helping hand during this research work. She urged me time and again to complete the work and gave me the much needed support in my difficult times. I thank you, Nandini, from the deepest core of my heart for all your efforts.

I express my deepest sense of gratitude to Prof. A. Saha of Presidency College for his support.

I thank Dr. M. A. Mamtani, of IIT, Khargapur, for helping me to carry out the AMS study in his Laboratory.

Special thanks are due to my friend and colleague Dr. S. Pal for taking his time and going through the entire manuscript with his valuable comments. I am also thankful to all other colleagues of the Department of Presidency College Kolkata as well as Department of Geology, Durgapur Govt. College, Durgapur. They have been a constant source of encouragement and moral support, much needed for this work.

My regards to my parent-in-laws for their support during this work.

I also thank the assistance extended to me by Mr. Deva Kathat of Birantiya and the Officials of the Forest Department of Sendra, Rajasthan.

Lastly, I must also thank my eight year old son Master Neelak Dasgupta who helped me in his own sweet manner.