ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I thank Dr. E. Thandapani, Head in charge, Department of Geology, Periyar University, Salem-636011, for his valuable advice and suggestions rendered by him without whose help this work would not be possible.

I thank Dr. S. Shanmugasundaram, Professor and Head of the department of commerce, Periyar University, Salem-636011, for his valuable advice and suggestions for completing the thesis.

I am thankful to Dr. S. Thirumurthi, Supervisor, Department of Geology, Periyar University, Salem-636011, for his valuable guidance, useful discussions with utmost patience and enthusiasm throughout the period of research work shaped considerably in improving the contents of this thesis.

I am much thankful to Mr. R. Chandrasekaran, for the help rendered by him during the research work.

I thank Mr. C. Boopalan, Mr. A. Perumal for their help to complete this work.

The kind co-operation of all the fellow research scholars is gratefully acknowledged. Special thanks are due to Mr. V. Bharath, Mr. N. Govindarajan, Mr. P. V. Thulasiraman, Mr. N. Ashok Kumar, Mr. R. Rajavel.
I would like to thank M. Balamurugan for their sustained encouragement.

I would like to thank Mr. R. Shankaranarayanan M.Com., B.L., Radha Computer Services, Salem-636007 for the neat execution of the thesis.

I thank Mr. A. Angappan, Mr. Mani of the department, Periyar University, Salem-11 for their help.

Finally, I am greatly indebted to my family members, who have been an unfailing source of encouragement and support throughout the arduous process of preparing a dissertation of this sort.

A. Allimuthu.