ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mere acknowledgment by writing may not be a true reflection I owe to the people who were the real spirits and supports in conceiving and culminating this work in the present form. Even then I find immense pleasure in fondly putting some of the name here because without that this thesis may be incomplete. Dr. K. Gopalakrishna, my professor and guide of this work is my guru and submit this thesis as my gurudakshina. Dr.V.A. Ayisha, my teacher and guide in the project was an immense support for me in completing my work and without the kind of support she had extended, this work could not have been possible. Both my teachers reminded me the need of completing the work whenever I was distracted. I am deeply indebted to Mr. Maran, my senior colleague in GSI who is always a mentor and it was under his guidance I was introduced into the subject of ostracod. Mr. A. C. Dinesh, my senior colleague in GSI was always there to help me technically as well as in the project formulation. Mr. C. Jayaprakash who is always a source of inspiration is fondly remembered. Thanks for your encouragement, advice and belief that helped me in completing this thesis. Dr. S. M. Hussain, is another name which I can never forget for his technical advice. Despite his busy schedule he was always there to address the species identification and was available for other technical discussions. Thank you very much for your valuable time. No words can reflect my gratitude to Shri Ajith Kumar for his continuous support throughout this work without that this would have been near impossible. My immense gratitude to Dr. Saju Vargheese for preparation of this thesis frame work and constant support. Shri B. K. Jishnu is another name I remember gratefully for the help and support in my work. Smt. Drishya and Shri. Arun Bhadran were always there to help me out whenever I needed support. I also thank Dr. Anoop and Deepak Jha of IISER for the laboratory support in this work. I am deeply indebted to the head of Geological Survey of India for permitting me to carry out this work.

Any work is the result of many hands and most of them may not be visible. The emotional support I have received from my family is highly appreciated. I submit to the almighty for everything I am and I have.

Place: PONNANI

N. M. SHAREEF