List of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgements</td>
<td>I-II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of Content</td>
<td>III-VII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of Tables</td>
<td>VIII-IX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of Figures</td>
<td>X-XV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mineral Abbreviations</td>
<td>XVI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>XVII-XXII</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION 1-18

Introduction 1-3

1.1 Factors controlling weathering 4-8
   1.1a Lithology 4-4
   1.1b Climate 4-5
   1.1c Tectonism 5-7
   1.1d Topography 7-7
   1.1e Biological activity and vegetation 8-8

1.2 Weathering and global climate 8-12

1.3 Weathering and mobilization of elements 12-16

1.4 Weathering and farmland formation 16-16

1.5 Objectives of the study 17-18

CHAPTER 2
GENERAL GEOLOGY OF KAVERI CATCHMENT 19-36

2.1 Physiography 19-19

2.2 Mountain range 19-20

2.3 Rivers drainage 20-21
2.4 Rain forests
2.5 Flora and fauna
2.6 Climate
2.7 Geomorphic evidence

2.7a Western Ghats not a true mountain range but represent the precipitous edge of an elevated plateau
2.7b Senile character of the plateau surface
2.7c Rejuvenation indicative of uplift
2.7d Drainage peculiarities
2.7e The Palghat gap

2.8 Geology of the Kaveri catchment area
2.9 Geological setting in the upper reaches of Kaveri
2.10 Evidence of neotectonic activities in the upper reaches of Kaveri
2.11 Geology of the study area

CHAPTER 3
ANALYTICAL TECHNIQUES AND METHODOLOGY

Introduction
3.1 Field studies
3.2 Mineralogical analyses
3.3 Analytical methodology
3.3a Sample processing
3.3b Sample dissolution
3.3c Carbonate leaching
3.3d Microwave digestion
3.3e Preparation of “B-solution” by acid digestion
3.3f Preparation of "A-solution" for determination of SiO₂
3.3g Rare earth elements separation
3.3h Optimization of the operating parameters for the
Instrument ICP-AES

3.3i Determination of loss on ignition (LOI)

3.3j Determination of chemical index of alteration (CIA)

3.4 Grain size distribution

3.4a International pipette method

3.4b Removal of soluble salts and carbonates

3.4c Removal of organic matter

3.4d Removal of free iron oxides

3.4e Method for separating sand, silt, and clay

CHAPTER 4
DYNAMIC WEATHERING IN THE KAVERI CATCHMENT REGION FIELD OBSERVATIONS – HOW DOES ROCK WEATHERING PROCEED IN NATURE?

Introduction

4.1 Physical Heterogeneities

4.2 Fracture Induced Weathering

4.3 Spheroidal Weathering

4.4 Regolith Induced Weathering

4.5 Life Induced Weathering

4.6 Dynamics of Weathering

CHAPTER 5
WEATHERING OF AMPHIBOLITES IN HUMID AND SEMI-ARID CLIMATIC SET-UP

Introduction

5.1 Sampling

5.2 Results
5.2a Mineralogy 73-77
5.2b Major and trace element geochemistry 77-89
5.2c REE Chemistry 89-101
5.3 Discussion 101-105
  5.3a CIA variations, Clay mineralogy and role of structural heterogeneities 101-102
  5.3b Mobility of Al, Fe and Ti 102-102
  5.3c Mobility of Cr and Ni 102-102
  5.3d REE mobilization 103-104
  5.3e Si-depletion and the role of local relief 104-105

CHAPTER 6
WEATHERING OF GNEISSES IN HUMID AND SEMI-ARID CLIMATIC SET-UP 106-144

Introduction 106-107
6.1 Results 107-134
  6.1a Mineralogy 107-114
  6.1b Major and trace element geochemistry 115-127
  6.1c REE geochemistry 127-134
6.2 Discussion 134-144
  6.2a CIA variation and clay mineralogy 134-135
  6.2b Mobility of Fe, Al and Ti 135-142
  6.2c Mobility of REE 142-144

CHAPTER 7
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION 145-155

7.1 Weathering of Amphibolite under low rainfall Vs high rainfall 147-148
7.2 Weathering of Gneisses under low rainfall Vs high rainfall 148-150
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.3 Differences and similarities in the weathering between amphibolites and gneisses in the study area</td>
<td>150-151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.4 Relative Importance of local structures in rocks and rainfall in the extent of Chemical Weathering</td>
<td>152-152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.5 Importance of weathering in farmland, sediment geochemistry and water chemistry</td>
<td>153-153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.6 Salient conclusions</td>
<td>154-154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.7 Scope for further research</td>
<td>154-155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix 1</td>
<td>156-160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td>161-176</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>