Acknowledgements

First and foremost, I express my heartfelt thanks to Prof. Ashok Kumar Singhvi and Prof. Narendra Bhandari and Dr. Kanchan Pande, for their support, encouragement and valuable advice throughout the thesis work and in the making of this manuscript. Prof. Singhvi’s good-humoured nature provided a congenial working environment in the luminescence laboratory. Kanchan’s role has been more of a friend rather than a vigilant co-supervisor over the past four years. I also thank Kanchan and Navin for sharing their field expertise during sample collection.


I am also obliged to Dr. V. Gogte for performing mineralogical analyses on my samples and allowing me to visit his laboratory at Pune, Drs. T.N. Bagati, R.K. Mohindra for providing the seismite samples for luminescence dating, Dr. B.P. Chandra for consenting to my Jabalpur visit and utilization of the Mechanoluminescence facility at Rani Durgavati University, Jabalpur, Dr. M. Krebetschek and T. Trautman in procuring TL spectra and Dr. M.A. Courtney for valuable discussions on the luminescence ages of Ghaggar and Chautang flood-plain deposits presented in this thesis.

The help received from Navin, Ramaswamy, Aniruddha, Raju, Manish, Ramachandran, Somesh, Anil, Cecilia, Ansu, Santhanam, Ratan, Siva, Nandakumar and Kishankumar is gratefully acknowledged.

I thank all my friends (and any probable enemies!) in PRL (especially my batch-mates Poulose, Watson, Sandeep, Abhijit, Shibu, Anshu and Prashant) for providing cheerful company.

I thank Mr. Pandian and Mr. Pranav (the electronic ‘whiz-kids’) for troubleshooting during many an occasion in the last four years.

I am grateful to the members of the PRL Library Staff for providing an excellent service.

I acknowledge Shanti and Sundar Bhavsar for drafting the figures, D.R. Ranpura for photographs and K.R. Nambiar for typing the thesis chapters at a ‘supersonic’ speed.

Finally I thank Ma, Baba, Bablu and Shonamoni for their concern over my well-being and for their affection, understanding and support.