

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I sincerely thank my guide Dr. B. R. Raghavan, Associate Professor and Co-ordinator, Geoinformatic Division, Department of Marine Geology, Mangalore University, my research supervisor, for providing me an opportunity to carryout research in the Coastal & Marine Research Laboratory, and the ISRO-SPONSORED GEOINFORMATICS LAB, and for also providing me a Project fellowship (Space Applications Center, Department of Space, Govt., of India, Sanction Order Ref. No: MWRG: MOP DOC No DOO35993 13-09-2004) and a Project Scientist position in the Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services, Ministry of Earth Sciences (Sanction No. INCOIS/093/2007). I place on record his keen interest in supervising this work. I thank Prof. T. R. Sreedhara Murthy, former Chairman Department of Marine Geology for his encouragement and inculcating the research temperament in our research group. Dr. C. Krishnaiah; Chairman Department of Marine Geology, Mangalore University is acknowledged for all the encouragement in the department.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Shilesh Nayak, presently Secretary, Govt. of India, Ministry of Earth Sciences and Dr. Prakash Chauhan, Scientist, Space Applications Center, Department of Space, Govt., of India for providing their encouragement and support through fellowships and a project scientistship. I acknowledge the encouragement by Dr. Srinivas Kumar, Dr Aneesh Lotliker Mr. R. S. Mahendra, INCOIS-SATCORE, Hyderabad, in terms of a Project Scientist. Miss. Mini Raman (SAC-ISRO) and Dr. Chauhan are specially thanked for processing the IRS-P4 OCM data. I thank Dr. C., Satheesh Sheno, Director INCOIS, Hydrabad for providing field campaign opportunities and for the use of the Satlantic Hyperspectral Spectroradiometer and other equipment. Dr. P. K. Dinesh Kumar, Scientist NIO Kochi and Dr. K. P. Ajaykumar, Reader, PG. Department of Geology, Govt. College, Kasargod, are acknowledged for providing reprints and encouragement to work on the shallow marine environment of the Arabian Sea. I thank Dr. Shyam Prasad and Dr. P.C. Rao and Mr. Kedekar for the facilities in SEM studies at the National Institute of Oceanography, Goa. I thank Dr. B. R. Manjunatha, my teacher and Dr. M. R. Nayak (Former Scientist, NIO and my supervisor for the M. S. dissertation), Dr. M. V. Ramana, Dr. O. S. Chauhan, Scientist NIO Goa for their valuable suggestions and encouragement. Dr. Shivanna, Associate Professor, Department of Marine Geology, Mangalore University and Dr. Channabasappa, are remembered for their encouragement. I thank Mr. Kumara Swami, Miss. Deepthi, Miss. Ashiwini, Mr. Shahab El Din, Mr. Mohammed. Nisaj K and Mr. N. Philip for help on the offshore campaigns.

I thank Dr. Dimple. K. Alva (EMC, Bangalore) and Dr. Vinod T., Bhat for introducing me to concepts and use of GIS techniques and also enabling the identification of benthic foraminifers. Dr. T. N. Prakash (CESS) was indeed kind to provide facilities in the sediment size analysis. I thank Mr. Manvendra Singh (Mauritius Institute of Oceanography) for providing me literature of the Indian Ocean. Mr. Thilakraj V. Bolar and Dr. B. K. Sunil, my research colleague is acknowledged for their help on trawlers.

I would like to thank my parents and Jaykishan, Shobakka, Abhilash, Shailesh Sudesh and Ashu for their encouragement.

Ms. S. K. Shylini.
Geoinformatics Division