ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, I wish to place on record, my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to my supervisor Prof. R.P. Tiwari; Head of Department, Department of Geology, Mizoram University; Aizawl, Mizoram; for his invaluable and indefatigable guidance and help throughout my endeavor. I am truly indebted!

I am fortunate to be surrounded by people who are supportive and considerate and who always stood by me along the way. Ms. Lalchawimawii, Mr. J. Malsawma, Mr. Laldinpuia, Mr. Paul Lalnuntluanga and Ms. C. Lalmuankimi, research scholars, Department of Geology, Mizoram University; you all proved indispensable and truly are the answers to my prayers.

Further, I am extremely thankful to all my esteemed colleagues, research scholars, students and non-teaching staff of this department for all the timely encouragement, insightful comments and especially for rendering peaceful working environment all the way through.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the help and co-operation in various ways received from Deputy Director General, Palaeontological Division, Geological Survey of India, Headquarters, Northern Region, Lucknow; and to Prof. M.P. Singh, Head of Department, Department of Geology, Lucknow University, Lucknow. Their kind hospitality during my stay at Lucknow is acknowledged and deeply appreciated as well.

I am greatly indebted to my family for putting up with the time constraints and anxiety imposed upon me during the course of my studies. Deepest gratitude and credit goes to my father Mr. R. Zamawia, and to my mother Mrs. Lalthlamuani for their love, constant prayers, unstinted support and sacrifices; not just for the completion of this task but for all my life’s endeavors. They are the backbones to my success and hence, it is to them that I dedicate this effort.
My sincere thanks are also to my wife Mildred and to my two daughters Ida and Eva, whose love and affection gave me the inspiration.

No less important was the contribution of Mrs. Karuna Tiwari, who merits special thanks for her understanding and who was always kind enough in making her husband available for me in my hours of need.

Last but not the least; I give thanks to the Almighty God for all the countless blessings that He has bestowed upon me.

Aizawl

Date: 1st Dec. 2008

(VICTOR ZOCHHUANA RALTE)