Acknowledgements

I wish to express my gratefulness to R Ramesh who initiated me to the wonderful world of geochemistry and palaeoclimatology and also for his tireless efforts and countless discussions in shaping the entire work. I like to express my deep sense of gratitude to S Krishnaswami, who with his great insight in the field of geochemistry guided me the finer intricacies of data analysis and their presentation. I am thankful to S J Desai for his constant encouragement and inspiration.

I express my appreciation and indebtedness to M M Sarin who taught me with great patience, the complicated methodology of cadmium geochemistry and also to R Rengarajan who extended full cooperation in this endeavour. I am beholden to S K Bhattacharya for his comments and criticisms and reviewing of this thesis. B L K Somayajulu has been a constant source of inspiration throughout this work. I am benefitted by the suggestions given by V Satyan.

I remember with pleasure the association of R Bhushan who shared the credit in establishing the Radiocarbon laboratory in the Chemistry Building and helped me in various stages of radiocarbon analyses. In this context I must acknowledge the inevitable and timely cooperation of M Yadav and S Kusumgar. I am also very much indebted to J P Bhavsar and R A Jani for their technical help in various stages, from sample collection, instrument handling to sample measurements.

I am extremely thankful to J M Lough for providing a coral sample belonging to Great Barrier Reef along with its density data and also for her continued support in various aspects of this thesis work. Thanks are due to M V M Wafar who provided me a coral sample collected from the Kavaratti lagoon. My sincere thanks go to G B Pant for providing a tree ring sample and also to R Shetye. I am benefitted receiving various data and useful comments from them. I thank M I Patel and J Veron for the identification of coral species.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge R B Dunbar and J E Cole who were kind enough to give me an opportunity in attending the coral workshop, the first of its kind held at La Parguera, Puerto Rico in Nov '92. I am also grateful for being invited by D Sheu and W C Wang to attend the PAGES workshop at Taipei in Apr '93. Both these workshops helped me a lot in widening my knowledge in the field of 'coral climatology'.

I wish to thank G T Shen who showed keen interest in the Cd work of Lakshadweep coral and provided valuable suggestions during the establishment of Cd geochemistry at PRL. I received helpful gestures and lot of encouragements from E R M Druffel, J E Cole, T McConnaughey, and D W Lea during the course of this work.

I would like to express my thankfulness to N Sinha and Deomurari for their technical cooperation in coral cutting and sampling. In this aspect I would like to thank J N Goswami for his kind permission in using his laboratory and also for his

suggestions and advice as (ex) Academic Committee chairman in academic as well as in non-academic affairs. I will always remember the sincere and timely effort of A R S Pandian, N R Manchanda and B L Panchal for their help in maintaining and smooth functioning of various instruments. Sai Iyer has always been a valued friend for his expertise in software handling. My special thanks go to G P Patel and V Ranganathan for their friendly cooperation in some aspects of this work. I am thankful to J T Padia, K Pande, N Bhandari, P N Shukla, J R Trivedi, T R Venkatesan, S V S Murty, R K Pant, A K Singvi, P Sharma, S K Gupta, V G Shah, K R Nambiar, K V Haridas, P G Thomas, G Kori and Arjun Premji for their cooperation in various aspects.

I also gratefully acknowledge the help rendered by P K Kurup & K K Shivshankaran and P G Ubale & his coworkers for their inevitable supports in glassware and hardware fabrication. D Ranpura was always active with smiling face in making several photographs. S C Bhavsar made my job easy by drafting many figures. I thank them all. I wish to express my appreciation to R R Bharucha and all other library staff for their quick and kind response in providing library materials and other documentation. I gratefully acknowledge the cooperations extended by the staff members of the computer centre, liquid nitrogen plant and the despatch section.

It is a pleasure to remember many happy moments with lively and educative discussions with Srini and Sarkar. I shared the joy in many academic affairs having discussion and association with Gopal, Renga, Bhushan, Avijit, Guru, Krishnan, Manoj, Debashis, Seema, Yadav, Somesh, Rama, Rajen, Sushma, Subrata, Jyoti, Yajna, Debabrata. During the agonizing days of thesis writing I especially remember the valued friendship of Himadri and the moral support of Pauline. I think myself fortunate having friendship with Ratan at the last stage of the hectic days of thesis writing. I thank my all other friends who extended help in some way or other, kept me jolly and cheerful and above all provided friendly and lively association in PRL which I will never forget. My sincere thank goes to P Chakraborty for her effort in the improvement of the thesis writing. Partial financial support for this work was provided by the Department of Ocean Development and INSA young scientist grant to R Ramesh.