

Dedication

To the memory of “Babu” N. Ramaswamy (11.5.1961-18.12.2025)

Sadly, N. Ramaswamy (widely known as “Babu”) did not live to see this volume in print, as he suddenly passed away on 18.12.2025. Babu’s absence is deeply felt, but we are grateful for all we shared with him. A serene and positive mind, a kind heart, and a generous spirit – Babu held a place in the heart of everyone who met and worked with him. His insights were invaluable, gained through interest, passion, and hard work. Babu was always ready to go the extra mile to reach a hard-to-reach site or to work beyond dusk to document a crucial inscription. With Babu around, everything felt possible. This book stands as a testament to his extraordinary dedication, a reminder of the impact Babu had on our lives and work.