

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In addition to the acknowledgements in the individual chapters I thank the following people for their contributions to the work presented in this thesis:

Jack Middelburg for being my PhD-supervisor giving me the freedom to do things my own way while keeping an eye on the big picture and giving me an occasional push in the right direction.

Eric Boschker for his help with starting up the method, especially the GC-c-IRMS part, and his contributions to chapters 1, 2 and 5.

Marco Houtekamer for his valuable help with the GC-c-IRMS analyses and other lab work.

Dick van Oevelen for the opportunity to analyze some of his samples and the subsequent stimulating cooperation that resulted in chapter 5.

Pieter van Rijswijk for his indispensable help with all kinds of lab work.

Perran Cook, Victor Evrard, Britta Gribsholt and Karel van den Meersche for daring to include me and “my method” into their work.

The other (former) CEME-scientists for stimulating discussions, presentations, cooperations, advice, etc.

Joop Nieuwenhuize, Peter van Breugel, Coby Kleppe, Jan Sinke en Yvonne van der Maas for their help in the lab and for doing all kinds of analyses.

Brad Eyre, Damien Maher, Lexie Walker and the other people at the Centre for Coastal Biogeochemistry, Southern Cross University, Lismore, Australia for the opportunity to work with you. The field work in the Brunswick Estuary was a great experience and I think our results turned out really nice.

Christiane Barranguet for introducing me to Jack at the CEME when I was looking for a PhD-job.

Anke for translating the short summary into german.

Carlo Heip for acting as my co-promotor.

Ron Benner, Jaap Sinninghe Damsté, Gerhard Herndl, Wim Admiraal and Riks Laanbroek for being members of my PhD-committee.