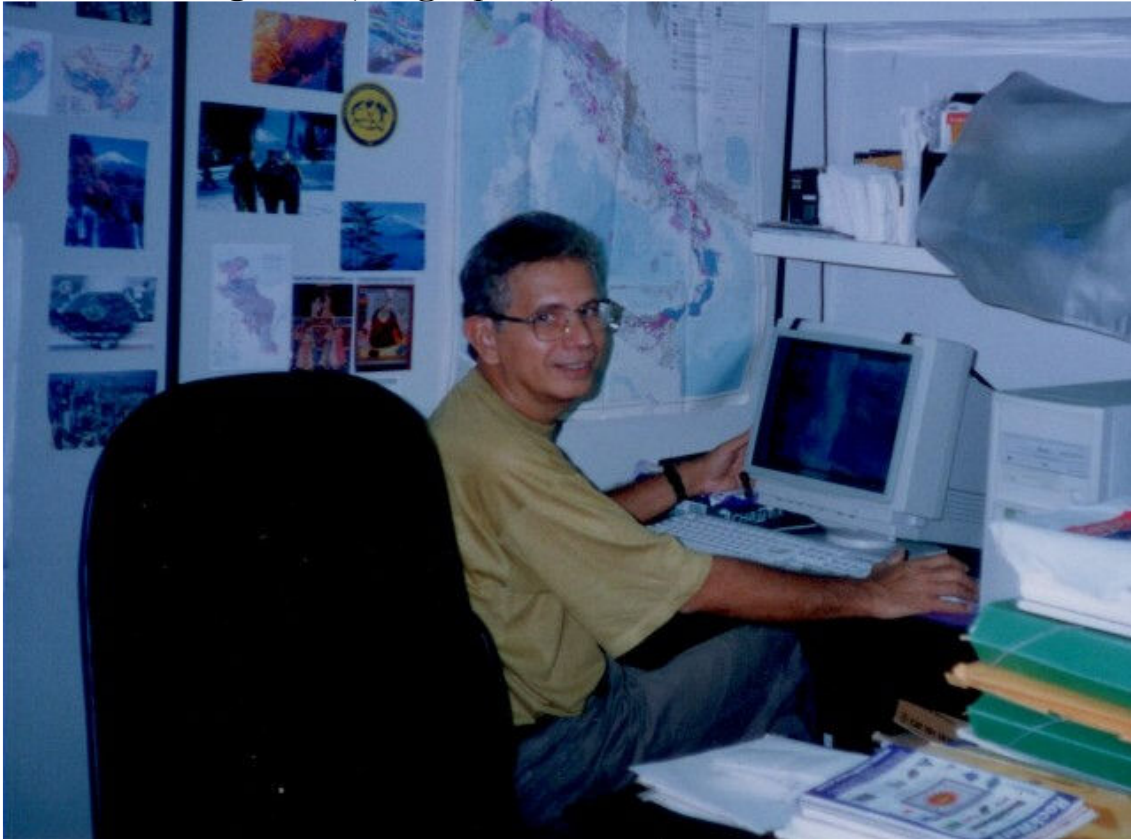


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Alcides N. Sial is a full-professor in the Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE) and holds a B.Sc. degree (Geology, 1966) from UFPE and a Ph.D. degree (Geology, 1974) from the University of California at Davis. He spent one year in the University of Texas at Austin (1977-78), the entire 1983 and 1988 in the University of Georgia at Athens, and three months (2001) in the University of Wisconsin at Madison, deepening his knowledge on stable-isotope geochemistry. He broadened his background on this subject through short-term traineeships at Tsukuba (sulfur isotopes), Japan (1988) and East Kilbride, Scotland (1991, 1996). His major interest is on igneous petrology (granites and basalts), litho- and stable-isotope geochemistry and isotope chemostratigraphy. He founded the Nucleus for Geochemical Studies (NEG) in 1984 and the Stable Isotope Laboratory (LABISE) in the Federal University of Pernambuco in September 1990.