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A fossil Eagle Ray fish from Eocene of Khasi Hills, Meghalaya

P. P. SATSANGI[1] AND R. BORA[2]

[1] Geological Survey of India, North Eastern Region, Shillong 793 003

[2] Directorate of Mineral Resources, Govt. of Meghalaya, Nongrim Hills, Shillong 793 003

The note records the occurrence of a large fossil fish belonging to the Egale Ray genus, *Myliobatis,* from the Eocene of Khasi Hills, Meghalaya. The specimen was collected from a quarry near Komorroh, (25°11'10" : 9°45'10") where the uppermost band of Sylhet Limestone (Prang Limestone) is being quarried. The Eocene succession in Khasi Hills is characterised by three limestone bands interspaced with sandstone. The geological set up (lithostratigraphic nomenclature after Murthy *et al.*, 1971) is as follows:

	Kopili Fm. (Upper Eocene)		
Jaintia Group	Shella Fm. (Lower to Middle Eocene)		Upper Sylhet Limestone Member
			Upper Sylhet Sandstone Member
			Middle Sylhet Limestone Member
			Middle Sylhet Sandstone Member
			Lower Sylhet Limestone Member
			Lower Sylhet Sandstone Member
	Langpar Fm. (Palaeocene)		

All the three Limestone Members of Shella Fm. are fossiliferous. The Upper Sylhet Limestone Member is fairly rich in fossils and has yielded molluscs, favid corals and a large number of foraminifers: *Discocyclina, Alveolina and Nummulites.* The only vertebrate known from this horizon of Khasi Hills are shark teeth. From Garo Hills, however, a pyconodont fish (Menon and Prasad, 1973) and a mammalian rib bone (G.S.I. News Vol. 9, No. 6. p. 6, 1978) are reported from the Siju Limestone wnich is considered as equivalent of Upper Sylhet Limestone Member.

The specimen under description is the largest dental plate of *Myliobatis* recorded, so far, from India.

DESCRIPTION

Sub-order : MYLIOBATOIDEA

Family : MYLIOBATIDAE

Genus : *Myliobatis* Cuvier 1817

Myliobatis Sp.

(Figure 1)

The dentition consists of a series of seven beautifully preserved, dark grey, shining teeth. The teeth are closely pressed to each other antero-posteriorly forming a dental pavement so characteristic of the genus Myliobatis. Each tooth is flat and hexagonal, about seven times broad as long. The teeth belong to the median row of the upper jaw. The lateral rows of the teeth are not fully preserved but their presence is marked by the remnants visible on either side.

Repository: The fossil (VF_1) is preserved in the Directorate of Mineral Resources, Government of Meghalaya, Shillong.

Remarks: Myliobatis is widely known from the Tertiary sediments. In India

it is known by partially preserved dentition, and spines from the Eocene of Kutch (Lydekker, 1886; Sahni and Mishra, 1975), and Garo Hills (Mukherjee, 1939) and Miocene of Orissa (Hora, 1939).

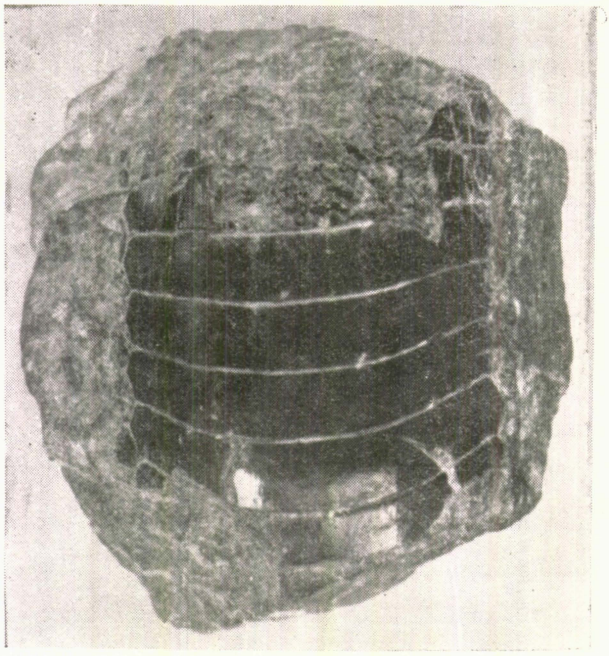

Figure 1. Myliobatis sp. (About $\frac{3}{4}$ nat. size).

Myliobatis is found inhabiting the present day tropical and subtropical seas. The three existing species of *Myliobatis* sp. in India: *M. nichofi*, *M. milvus* and *M. maculatus* are found near the mouth of river Ganga and Chilka lake and also along the eastern and western coasts. *Myliobatis* occurs commonly in the shallow bays, estuaries, over sandy flats and mud bottoms. It appears to feed mainly on the bottom chiefly on large crustaceans and molluscan shells for which the dentition is well adopted.

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