

PROCEEDINGS OF THE IX INDIAN COLLOQUIUM ON MICROPALAEONTOLOGY AND STRATIGRAPHY. Editors: S. C. Khosla and R. P. Kachhara. Distributor: Prints India, 11 Darya Ganj, New Delhi-110002, India, 1981, pages 298, Price Rs. 250/-.

Eversince the first Indian Colloquium on Micropaleontology and Stratigraphy was held in the year 1971 at Bangalore, there has been growing interest amongst workers in these fields and the enthusiasts on this subject continue to arrange similar colloquia in successive years at important research centres in India. The ninth colloquium was held at Udaipur in February 1981 under the auspices of the Geology Department, University of Rajasthan. The present publication includes the scientific papers that were read and discussed on the occasion.

The volume contains twenty-nine papers arranged in the following order: Foraminifera, Paleohistology, Precambrian Microbiota, Ostracoda, Palynomorphs, Nannoplankton, Stratigraphy and Miscellaneous. The papers deal with varied aspects of micropaleontologic and biostratigraphic problems from different parts of the country, including subsurface studies.

The section on foraminifera, which forms nearly one-third of the total papers published, has mainly focussed attention on recent progress on the late Cretaceous and early Tertiary sequences. The report on the re-classification of the Trichinopoly sedimentary basin in the light of recent findings is an important contribution. The paper on the foraminifera from the Narasapur Well-I is the latest addition to the wealth of microfauna of the Infra- and Inter-Trappean subsurface sediments. The study indicates that the Trap flows were emplaced between 65-70 m.y. (Late Maestrichtian) in this part of the 'Deccan' region.

Taxonomic studies on species of *Spiroclypeus* in the Cauvery Basin, *Miscellanea miscella* from the subsurface sequence of West Bengal, *Inordinatosphaera indica* from Rajasthan, and Planktonic foraminifera from the subsurface of Cambay provide additional data on the biostratigraphy of these sequences. An elaborate discussion on the systematics of *Nonion-Florilus* group is interesting and useful.

Studies on the spatial and temporal distribution of living foraminifera in relation to measured ecological parameters, is the only contribution on Recent foraminifera.

A contribution on Paleohistology reveals the significance of SEM studies in the dental and skeletal surface ultrastructures of Indian Tertiary vertebrates. The studies suggest a remarkable similarity between skeletal elements of the Siwalik vertebrates and their Recent descendants.

Another significant contribution is the report of microbiota from the banded iron quartzite of Gadag Schist Belt and from the *Chuar* shales of the Bhima 'Series' of Karnataka. The *Chuar* shales have yielded several palynofossil taxa suggesting late Proterozoic age.

Investigations on Ostracoda include Ostracoda from the subsurface of Jaintia Group, Meghalaya; Triassic Ostracodes of Kashmir Himalaya; Eocene and Oligocene Ostracoda from Kutch and Recent freshwater Ostracoda from the Pichola Lake, Udaipur. A revision of the Ostracode fauna from the Kutch Paleogene and their stratigraphic implications offer an insight into the present status of ostracode biostratigraphy.

Record of Eocene calcareous nannoplankton from Kutch and palynological and radio-carbon dating of late Quaternary peat deposits of Tripura are other informative and interesting articles. Some interesting and valuable stratigraphic contributions from onshore areas have been made which include; Late Paleozoic fossils from Kumaon Himalaya; Karewa Series of Kashmir; Pleistocene sediments of the Central Godavari valley; the age of the Jaisalmer Formation of Rajasthan; Lithostratigraphy of the Precambrian rocks around Chikhli, Betul District Madhya Pradesh; Stratigraphy of the Sohna-Jhirka section of Gurgaon District, within the Delhi supergroup; and stratigraphic significance of radioactive conglomerates in the Precambrians of Udaipur region.

Data on seasonal variation in the size distribution of Recent sediments from the Pulicat Estuary, Tamil Nadu, and a review on Framboids and Poly-Framboids with special reference to Indian subcontinent are articles of general interest.

The volume is elegant with well edited text and good illustrations for which the editors deserve commendation. Because of the high price, few can afford to own this volume. The volume should form an important reference to researchers in Micropalaeontology and Stratigraphy and will be a valuable addition to libraries.

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TRIASSISCHE MEGALODONTACEAE – ENTWICKLUNG, STRATIGRAPHIE UND PALAÖNTOLOGIE by E. Vègh-Neubrandt, Akadémiai Kiadó, Budapest, 1982, pp. 526, Price \$ 36.00.

The Hungarian Academy of sciences has brought out this publication written by the author on the basis of her personal experience and wide knowledge of working on Megalodontaceae for more than 25 years.

The book is divided into two main parts. Part I deals with the stratigraphic and palaeogeographic significance, classification, morphology, phylogeny and allied aspects of the bivalves belonging to the Superfamily Megalodontaceae. The author has amply demonstrated the stratigraphic and palaeogeographic utility of the fossils belonging to this superfamily, in view of its wide geographic distribution and short stratigraphic range. Some of the genera and species have important bearing on worldwide correlation especially during Upper Triassic. In addition, usage of Megalodontaceae has been discussed in detail for demarcating boundary between Triassic and Jurassic Systems. Systematic study of Megalodontaceae found within the Kioto Limestone (Upper Norian to Lower Dogger) succession exposed in different parts of the Himalaya may help in working out the detailed microbiostratigraphy and in delineating the Triassic-Jurassic boundary within this important stratigraphic horizon of Himalayas. Table I and II give an outline of the different families, genera and species alongwith their morphological characteristics. Stratigraphic distribution of all the known Megalodontaceae described from different parts of the world has been synthesized in Tables III and IV.

Part II deals with the palaeontological aspects of Megalodontaceae. Systematic descriptions, stratigraphic and geographic distribution, type locality and horizon of all the known genera and species belonging to the Superfamily Megalodontaceae and recorded from different parts of the world have been discussed in detail on the basis of modern nomenclature and classification. Each description is accompanied by detailed synonymy and discussion. All the genera and species described are supported by plates of good quality depicting important morphological features. Evolutionary developments within this important group of organisms have been discussed. From the Indian palaeontologists point of view it may be emphasized that all the genera and species described by different workers from the Kioto Limestone of Himalayas have been included and their stratigraphic implications discussed in detail in this part.

An exhaustive bibliography of all the important publications on Megalodontaceae from different parts of the world has been given at the end of the book.

The book is very well conceived, printing is excellent, plates and figures are of good quality and the price is reasonable. The book should serve as a useful reference work for all those working on this important group of fossils and can be recommended for acquisition by University libraries and personal collection of palaeontologists and biostratigraphers.

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