

Notes

XII INDIAN COLLOQUIUM ON MICROPALAEONTOLOGY AND STRATIGRAPHY

The 12th Indian Colloquium on Micropalaeontology and Stratigraphy was held this year at Delhi under the auspices of the Department of Geology, University of Delhi (21st–24th Dec., 86). About 100 delegates from different universities, O. N. G. C. and G. S. I. participated in the deliberations. A Pre-colloquium workshop on the little studied groups of microfossils in India (calcareous nanoplankton, radiolaria and calcareous algae) was held on the 21st Dec., 1986. The state of art regarding these groups of microfossils was reviewed and guidelines for future work were formulated. One of the recommendations was that young scientists should be encouraged to take up the study of these scarcely studied microfossils. The first step in that direction would be in the form of short training programmes where basic training regarding techniques and taxonomy could be provided to initiate the young workers on documentation of these microfossils from potential Indian Geological Formations.

The Scientific sessions were marked by the presentation of several key note addresses :

1. Status of Palynostratigraphy in India by Dr. B. S. Venkatachala.
2. Indian ostracods and their role in oil-exploration by Mr. D. K. Guha.
3. Palaeoecology of ostracods by Professor S. B. Bhatia.
4. Lower Palaeozoic Biostratigraphy and Biogeography in Himalaya by Professor S. K. Shah.
5. Foraminifera as pollution indicators by Professor R. K. Banerjee.

Prof: Ashok Sahni in his Presidential Address on the 'Application of Electron Microscopy to problems of Palaeontology and Biomineralisation' emphasised the utility of Scanning Electron Microscopy in palaeontological investigation for getting ultrastructural details of morphology, taxonomy and reconstruction of phylogenetic lineages, in the field of Biomineralisation in particular. The address included an illustrative account of the application of scanning electron microscopy in the study of Precambrian biota, soft part anatomy of fossil, shell structure, dental histology and palaeoenvironmental reconstruction.

Several papers were presented on Stratigraphy and correlation of Phanerozoic sedimentary basins of India, specially relating to

1. Late Cretaceous-Cenozoic foraminiferal biostratigraphy, Eocene carbonate turbidites sequence of Cauvery basin. (5)
2. Late Cretaceous-Cenozoic Biostratigraphy, Lithostratigraphy-Pranhita-Krishna Godavari basin. (5)
3. West Coast palynostratigraphy, Cretaceous-Paleogene on shore and off-shore Biostratigraphy. (9)
4. Gondwana palynostratigraphy, palaeobiogeography and systematics of ostracods, bryozoans from Bagh. (6)
5. Triassic conodont biostratigraphy, Cambrian biogeography, Permian stratigraphy of Eastern Himalaya. (12)
6. Palynostratigraphy, foraminiferid biostratigraphy, systematic account of coralline algae from Assam, Tripura and Andaman. (9)

In the section devoted to techniques, assessment and significance of data, a couple of papers reviewed fossil charophyte of India and their biostratigraphic utility, palynoflora and their stratigraphic significance, palynological data from Tal Formation and other horizons in Lesser Himalaya, and their assessment and the use of computer software in palaeontological studies.

The last section was devoted to environment and ecology (8 papers) information on biofacies, foraminiferal assemblages and their ecology, ostracod fauna from the beach, estuarine and lagoonal environment were presented. Biota from Banded Iron Formation of Karnataka was assessed for palaeoecological significance.

Thus the scientific sessions in the colloquium dwelt on the state of art and refinement of biostratigraphy of different sedimentary basins of India, took note of new record of fossils, (like the presence of *Nummulites* spp., characteristic of Upper Eocene in Jaisalmer Well Section by O. N. G. C.) and discussed its stratigraphic implication. The area of Ecology and Environment focussed mainly on biostratigraphic use of microfossils. The growing trend to have an integrated approach towards stratigraphic and environmental studies became obvious. This aspect would receive emphasis at the next colloquium which is proposed to be held at the Geology Department of the Lucknow University in 1988.

*Department of Geology
University of Delhi, Delhi 110 007.*

PRABHA KALIA

MY GEOLOGICAL PHILOSOPHY

We all live in houses of some sort. In order to live there comfortably and fruitfully, we need to know something about the construction of our dwelling, its heating and lighting arrangements, its water, fuel and electric supply, its sewage system its walls and its ceiling and its basement, its inhabitants, (human and other) and any possible dangerous defects it may have.

Well, in a large sense, the Earth is the house in which we all live in and it is equally important for all of us to know the story of that house—its structure, its history, its layers and their properties, its inhabitants (fossil and living), its geothermal budget, its plumbing, its waste disposal accommodations, its fuel, water and electrical facilities and its natural hazards.

We geologists are the technical assessors of this Earth dwelling place and as such we have a special responsibility to investigate and study all of its aspects as best we can, and to communicate our results in a way that can be understood by every one for the benefit of all mankind.

H. H. HEDBERG

CURRENT RESEARCH IN REGIONAL GEOLOGY

The Geological Society, London, recently organised a meeting to review current research in regional geology. Two papers dealing with Indian Geology—one by B. Chadwick, M. Ramakrishnan and M. N. Viswanatha on the 'Stratigraphical and tectonic development of late-Archaeon, intracratonic volcanosedimentary basins (Dharwar Supergroup)' and the other by B. F. Windley and T. Sugden on 'Geotectonic framework of the early-to-mid-Proterozoic Aravalli-Delhi orogenic belt, NW India' (p. 968) have been presented. The latest issue of the Journal of the Geological Society carries brief summary of the two contributions (Vol. 143, No. 6, pp. 967-968) which should prove to be of interest to the readers. Chadwick *et al*, consider that deposition and volcanism in the developing Dharwar basins formed a continuum with deformation and low-grade metamorphism during progressive evolution of an oblique-slip mobile belt. Many parts of the basement, according to them, were pervasively retrogressed by flushing of fluids, including CO₂ through myriad smallscale shear zones during deformation of the cover.

Windley and Sugden consider the Aravalli-Delhi orogenic belt as containing all the ingredients of a Himalayan-type belt that would be expected to have formed by continental-arc collision. Westward accretion of zones probably occurred ending with attachment of a Pan-African belt.

The full papers of the authors should prove to be interesting.