FOSSIL ALGÆ FROM THE UPPER TAL SHELL LIMESTONE AND THEIR AGE IMPLICATION

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ABSTRACT

A rich assemblage of upper Permian calcareous algae is described in this paper. These belong to the arenaceous upper Tal shell lime-stone exposed in the southern limb of Garhwal syncline in the lesser Himalayan zone near Dogadda. A total of fifteen species are recorded, out of these two are new. The assemblage indicates an upper Permian (Guadalupian) age for this horizon, here designated as Gunn codium zone.

INTRODUCTION

The expanse of the Tal formation as established by Middlemiss (1887) was extended and considered by Maithani (1972) include volcanic breccia and purple slates unit within upper Tals along with the Shell limestone and accompanied shales in Dogadda area (see Table 1). Kalia(1972) described upper Permian fusuline foraminifera namely, Neoshwagerina cf. crataculifera (Schwager), Rauserella sp. and Misellina sp. from the upper Tal shell limestone from the following localities:

- (i) North of the Main Boundary fault on Dogadda-Kotdwar road near Haldwani bridge.
- (ii) West-South-West of Gajwar from the limestone quarry at Bansi (N 29 46': E 78 39')!

The same horizon that yielded the fusulinid remains is characteristically rich in algae and bryozoa. In the present paper algal assemblage is being described. Inspite of the indurated nature of the rock, abundance of algal fragments has enabled the author to obtain desired oriented thin sections of algal genera required for detailed study and specific determinations. The species recorded provide overwhelming support for the upper Permian (Guadalupian) age of the Shell limestone as suggested earlier on fusuline assemblage criterion.

Upper Tal in Dogadda area is biostratigraphically being classified into the following formal units (Table 1.)

Gymnocodium zone: Oolitic shell limestone unit characterised by algae, fusuline foraminifera and cryptostome bryozoa.

Wentzelella zone: Shale unit characterised by corals, brachiopods and pelecypods.

List of the fossils recorded from the above mentioned zones is given below:

Gymnocodium zone:

ALGAE:

Family Solenoporaceae Parachaetes lamellatus Konishi, 1954 Family Gymnocogiaceae, Gymnocodium bellerophontis (Rothpletz) Accordi, 1956 Permocalculus ananti Kalia n., sp. Family Dasicladaceae Anthracoporella spectabilis Pia, 1926 Anthracoporella mercuri Elliott, 1968 Mizzia bramkampi Rezak, 1959 Pseudoepimastopora cf. likana (Kochansky & Herak) Elliott, 1968 Pseudovermiporella sodalica Elliott, 1958 Pseudovermiporella cylindrica Kalia n. sp. Diplopora sp. Velebitella triplicata Kochansky-Devide, 1964 Epimastopora sp. Family Codiaceae Hikorocodium eleganlae Endo, 1951 Hikorocodium aff. transversum Endo, 1957 Ortonella morikawai Endo, 1954

FORAMINIFERA:

Neoshwagerina cf. crataculifera (Schwager) Rauserella sp. Misellina sp.

CRYPTOSTOME BRYOZOANS:

Wentzelella zone:

Wentzelella salinaria (Wager & Wentzel) Grabau in

Huang, 1932

Hustedia sp.

Derbya cf. senilis

PECTINIDS

Tiny gasteropods

SYSTEMATIC DESCRIPTION

Phylum Rhodophycophyta

Class Rhodophyceae

Order Cryptomiales

Family Solenoporaceae

Genus Parachaetes Deninger, 1966

Parachaetes lamellatus Konishi, 1954

(P1.-3)

P. lamellatus Konishi, 1954, Japan Journ. Faculty Sci. Univ. Tokyo, sec. II, vol 9, pt. II, p. 236.

Remarks: The present specimen correspond well with the species described by Konishi, 1954 from the late Permian Kuma formation of southern Kyushu, Japan. Cells forming the tissue range 20-30 μ in width and 30-40 μ in height.

Repository: Author's collection, Hypotype no. II/1.13.

Family Gymnocodiaceae Elliot, 1955

Genus Gymnocodium Pia, 1920

Gymnocodium bellerophontis (Rothpletz) Accordi, 1956

(Pl. I, fig. 2)

G. bellerophontis (Rothpletz) Accordi, 1956, Pal. Soc. India, Journ. V. 1, no. 1, p. 82, 83.

Remarks: Segments of this species are quite common and measure up to 6.25 mm. in length and 2.0 mm. diameter; thickness of the wall ± 0.119 , maximum pore diameter in longitudinal section is 150 μ ; medulla does not show calcification.

Repository: Author's collection, Hypotype no. S2/3.2.

Genus Permocalculus Elliott, 1955

Permocalculus ananti n. sp.

(Pl. I—1)

Description: Thallus waxing and waning type with approximately equal bulge diameter, hollow with moderate calcification showing radial-oblique pores slightly expanding at the outer margin, length of the segment 7.05 mm., diameter 1.3 mm.; wall thickness 0.3 mm.; pore diameter 68 μ ; sporangia not observed.

Comparison and Remarks: This new species is similar to P. pulmosus Elliott 1955 described from the upper Permian limestone of northern Iraque but differs in the thickness of the wall, and all other dimensions. With other described species of Permocalculus the new species differs in possessing very long segments.

Etymology: The new sp ecieshas been named after Professor Anant Gopal Jhingran, Honorary Director of the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology and Ex-Professor and Head of the Geology Department, University of Delhi, on whose instance this micropalaeontological investigation in Dugadda area was undertaken.

Repository: Authors collection, Holotype no. II/8.1.

Phylum Chlorophycophyta

Family Dasycladaceae

Genus Anthracoporella Pia, 1920

Anthracoporella spectibilis Pia, 1920

(Pl. I-4, 5; Pl. II-1, 2)

A. spectibilis Pia, 1920, Zool. Bot. Gesell. WienAbh., Vol. 11, no. 2, p. 15.

Remarks: This cosmopolitan species occurs in the material, measurements of the various sections are given below:

			Stem D	iameter			
Specia	nen no.	Segment length	outer	inner	Wall thickness	d/D	Pore diameter
II/14.5 L.S.		4.33 mm,	1.15 mm.	0.7 mm.	p.35 mm	61%	0,034 mm.
II/3.3 TS.			2.0 mm.		Saler form,		35 pores in 1 mm, of wall.
II/13.1							

(a) L.S. .. 6.25 mm,

(b) T.S. .. 2.55 mm,

(c) L.S. (oblique) .. 4.2 mm,

Table 1

TABLE OF CLASSIFICATION AND AGE ASSIGNMENT TO GARHWAL SUCCESSION

MIDDLEMISS	[1887]	AUDEN (1937)	GANESAN (1972)	MAITHAN! (1972)	AND KAPOOR (1973)
NUMMULITIC	LOWER TERTIARY	NUMMULITIC EOCENE	SUBATHU EOCENE	SUBATHU EOCENE	
UPPER ▼ MES LOWER	ESOZOIC	T UPPER CRETACEOUS	Shell Limestone MESOZOIC Grity Quartzite	UPPER Shell Lst, Shales, Slates. Slates. (Including boulder State sequence).	
MASSIVE LIMESTONE	A G E .	KROL PERMIAN	KROL PERMO-TRIAS	S KROL FORMATION	
				INFRAKROL	
PURPLE SLATES AND VOLCANIC BRECCIA	AGE UNKNOWN	BOULDER URALIAN SLATES	VOLCANIC CARBONI- BRECCIA FEROUS (Boulder slate seq- uence)	INCLUDED WITHIN TAL	UPPER Ozt shale sandy Isi UDWER Grity Oz Boulder s sequence
essmalle to		NAGTHAT DEVONIAN CHANDPUR Lower Palaeozoic to Precambrian	HI HAN SO	NAGTHAT FORMATION CHANDPUR FORMATION	en pen
SCHISTOSE SERIES	A G E UNKNOWN	SCHISTOSE SERIES	SCHISTOSE PHYLLITE with LANSDOWNE GRANITE	SIMLA SLATES	

Anthracoporella mercuri Elliott, 1968

(Pl. II—3, 5)

A. mercuri Elliott, 1968, British Museum Nat. Hist. Bull. Geol. Suppl.4, pp. 22, 23.

Remarks: Upper Permian species similar tibilis but relatively thick walled and smaller kept under A. mercuri by Elliott who described Zenner formation of Tunisia. The fragraphresent material compare well with A. mercuri measurements are given below:

Diameter

Spec	imen no.	Segment length	Wall thickness ou	iter inner	d/D	Po
II/10.8b	L.S	2 mm.	0.3 mm, 0.7	5 mm, 0.4 mm.	53%	
II/1.3	L.S	2 mm	0.3 mm, 0.7	73 mm, 0.4 mm.	54%	
II/6.5	T.S	,	0.2 mm, 0.7	71 mm, 0.43 mm.	56%	

Repository: Author's collection, hypotype no. II/10, 8b, II/1.3, and II/6.5.

Genus Mizzia Schubert, 1907 (emend Razak, 1959) Mizzia bramkampi Rezak, 1959

(Pl. II—6)

M. bramkampi Rezak, 1959, Journ. Pal. Vol. 33, no. 4, p. 536.

Remarks: The illustrated section measures 1.4 mm. in outer diameter, 1.2 mm. in inner diameter, wall thickness is 0.28 mm. with 160 μ pore diameter, narrowing

to 40 μ at the base. The shape of the primis characteristically funnel shaped and compares well with M. bramkampi Rezak, dethe upper Permian Khuf formation of Saudi

Repository: Authors collection, hypotyp

Genus Pseudoepimastopora Endo, 196

Pseudoepimastopora cf. likana (Kochansk Elliott, 1968

(Pl. II—7, 8)

AS PROPOSED BY DIFFERENT WORKERS

DHIAL	TEWARI AND KUMAR (1967)	RAVI SHANKAR (1971)	KALIA
	NUMMULITIC	SUBATHU EOCENE (Lower to Middle.)	NUMMULITIC E OCENE
	UPPER TAI Spell Party APTIAN	UPPER Lst Mm Lower 8/or middle Cret UPPER Lst Mm Lower 8/or middle Cret Lower Cret to Middle Jurassic	Shell .Lst Gymnocodium Zone do Ne do
		KROL FORMATION	
	ta s		
WESTPHALIAN			
			OZT OVARTZITE LST LIMESTONE Mm MEMBER Fm FORMATION Cret. CRETACEOUS

r to A. specin size were ibed it from nents in the uri and their

re diameter

0.025 mm.

he specimen escribed from Arabia.

e no. S2/1.1.

y & Herak)

1960 Epimastopora likana Kochansky & Herak, Geoloskinjean zagreb, Vol. 13, p. 78.

1960 Epimastopora sp. Elliott, Quarterly Journ. Geol. Soc. London, V. 115, p. 219.

1968 Pseudoepimastopora cf. likana Elliott, (Kochansky & Herak) Elliott, British Museum Nat. Hist. supplement 4, Geology.

Remarks: Few well preserved sections of Pseudoepi-mastopora with typically developed bulbous pores are present. These are very similar to P. cf. likana described from the Permian Jebel qumer ornan limestone of Middle-East by Elliott. A near surface tangential section shows wall thickness of 0.5 mm. and pore diameter of 0.14 mm. The wall of the other illustrated section is 0.14 mm. thick.

Repository: Author's collection, hypotype nos. S2/7.7 and S2/2.3.

Genus Pseudovermiporella Elliott, 1958

Measurements:

	Specim	ien n	ιο.		Length	Thickness of Per- forated wall	Thickness of inner tube	Por diameter
S2/7-6	L.S.	••		••	1.25 mm,	0,91 mm.	0.6 mm,	0.0228 mm.
	T.S. a. b.			••	diameter 0.65 mm, 0.5 mm,	no. of pores 30 25		

Comparison and Remarks: The new species differs from P. sodalica in the presence of tubes which lie in contact but not tangled, in the smaller diameter of the tubes and in interpore space being wider than pores. It is also comparable to P. elliotti Erk & Bilgulay in size and the hexagonal nature of pores but is distinct in the presence of well defined lining, widely spaced pores and closely associated tubes.

Repotosiry: Author's collection Holotype no. S2/7.6.

COMPARISON AND REMARKS

	Specimen no.	Segment length	Diameter	Wall thickness	D.	ore diameter
	specimen no.	beginent length	Diameter	Wall tilleriess	1,	ore diameter
	100 to	A THE STATE OF THE				2 117
	0,00	of the warm of the work	• •			
TT/1.4		. 6.8 mm 1.	75 mm.	8.5 mm.	150	u

Remarks: The specimen resembles D. americana Johnson, 1951, in the club shape of the thallus; in other dimensions, it is comparable to D. alta Endo, 1961. Due to the lack of transverse sections, exact specific identification could not be attempted.

(Pl. IV-5, 6)

Genus Velebitella Kochansky-Davide, 1964 Velebitella triplicata Kochansky-Devide, 1964 Pseudovermiporella sodalica Elliott, 1958

(Pl. IV-2, 3)

P. sodalica Elliott, 1958, Micropal. Vol. 4, pp. 419-422. 1960 P. sodalica, Elliott Bull. Geol. Soc. Turkey, pt. I, p. 188.

Remarks: Many tangential-longitudinal sections very closely comparable to P. sodalica are observed in the thin sections of the rock.

Repository: Author's collection, hypotype no. S2/6.13.

Pseudovermiporella cylindrica n. sp.

(Pl. IV-1)

Description: Tubes of fine crystalline calcite, with a distinct inner lining which appears dark yellowish grey in thin sections; outer tube with radially arranged polygonal pores, interpore wider than pores.

Diplopora sp.

(Pl. IV—4)

Description: Thallus club shaped and undulated about half the diameter of the diame

Diplopora

Genus

.Description: Thallus club shaped and undulating, central stem club shaped, about half the diameter of the thallus, wall thick, branches arranged in whorls, narrowing towards outer surface, about 0.15 mm. in length, pore opening is 0.7 mm. in diameter.

Schafhault, 1863

V. triplicata Kochansky-Devide, 1964, Geol. Vjesnik Zagreb, V. 17, pp. 137-139.

Remarks: Few longitudinal and transverse fragmentsreferable to V. triplicata described from the middle and upper Permian of Yugoslavia are present in the rocksections.

Genus Epimastopora Pia, 1922

Epimastopora sp.

(Pl. IV—7)

mastopora, Pia are encountered in the material.

Family Codiaceae

Hikorocodium Endo, 1951. Genus

Hikorocodium elegantae Endo, 1951

(Pl. III-2-5)

H. elegantae Endo, Trans. Proc. Pal. Soc. Japan, no. 4, p. 127.

Remarks: A number of fragments of Hikorocodium Endo occur in the material, these are identical to H. elegantae Endo, described originally from the Mississipian and Permian of Japan. This species has also been recorded from the upper Carboniferous and Permian of Yugoslavia by Kochansky-Devide, 1964.

Hikorocodium aff. transversum Endo, 1957

(Pl. III—6)

Remarks: A few longitudinal wall sections of Epi- H. transversum Endo, 1957, Saitama Univ. Sci. Report, Ser. B, V. 2, no. 3, pp. 298-299.

> Remarks: Few sections referable to H. transversum Endo, are present in the material but are very small in size in comparison to the type specimen of this species.

> > Garwood, 1914 Genus Ortonella

> > > Ortonella morikawai Endo, 1954

(Pl. III—1)

O. morikawai Endo, 1954, Saitama Univ. Sci. Report, Sec. B, V. 2, no. 2, p. 241.

Remarks: A few sections of O. morikawai are present in the material, these show a tube diameter of 102 to 150 4 and angle of branching at 30°. This species has been recorded from the Carboniferous and Permian of Japan and Yugoslavia.

Note-The classification adopted here is after J. Harlan Johnson, 1963.

Table 2

GEOLOGICAL RANGES OF THE ALGAL GENERA OCCURRING IN THE TAL SHELL LIMESTONE

AGE	ME	SOZ	OIC	PER	MIAN	CARBON	IFEROUS	DEVONIAN	SILURIAN	ORDOVICIAN
	U	M	L	U /	L	U	Ĺ			
GYMNOCODIUM				Belfer	ophontis					
PERMOCALCULUS									-1922,012,000 i	ca nôteu:
ANTHRACOPORELLA				Mercuri Spectibi	lis		n seod edicen		al of sh observe	do osmodil es todidus
EPIMASTOPORA										
MIZZIA				Bramka	m p1			celeballaji Stalik to sp		
PSEUDOEPIMASTOPORA		l vij								essensi sa
PSEUDO VERMIPORE LLA		il ac		ar., (San					and Prey	
DIPLOPORA										
VELEBITELLA				Triplico	ita					de 2). An-
HIKOROCODIUM					AND THE STATE OF T			i energi bir	Local to al	of out no bi
ORTONELLA		1							91 ancilis	i i de proposition de la company
PARACHAETES	1				latus					

Table 3

KNOWN DISTRIBUTION OF ALGAL SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE UPPER
PERMIAN OF THE GARHWAL HIMALAYA

NAME	N AMERICA	WEST & CENTRAL EUROPE	MIDDLE EAST	INDIA	JAPAN	SALT RANGE
Parachaetes lamellatius					•	
Gymnocodium bellerophontis	1.0				(17)	•
Permocalculus ananti				27		
Anthracoporella spectibilis	alleng file	•				
Anthracoporella mercuri						
Diplopora cf. americana	0					
Pseudoepimastopora of likana				0		
Epimastopora sp.				0		
Mizzia bramkampi		•				
Hikorocodium elegantae					•	
Pseudovermiporella sodalica						io torro
Pseudovermiporella cylindrica				\$		
Ortonella morikawi	18481911	•	i nonge			
Velebitella triplicata		•				

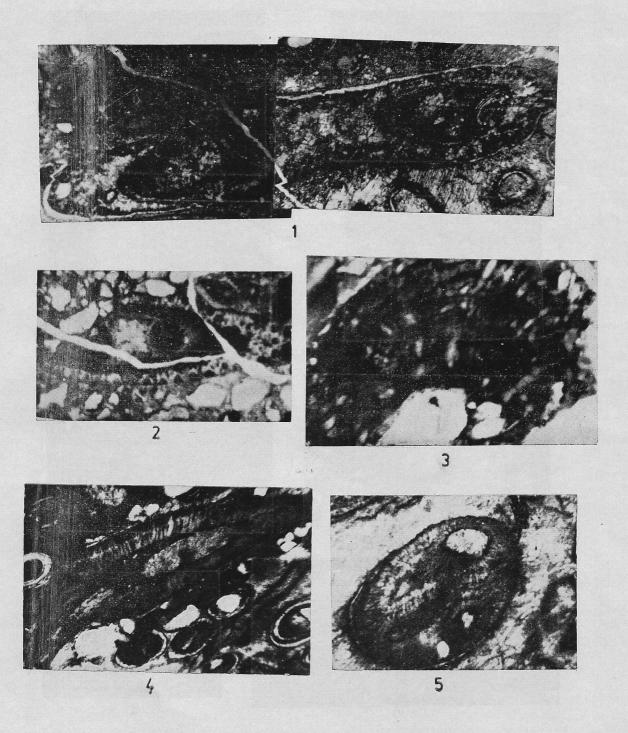
New species

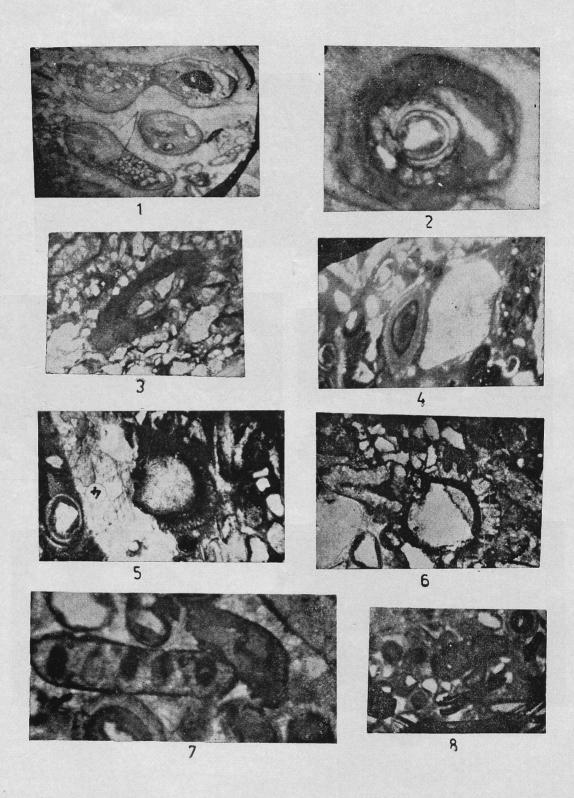
Similar but not identical species

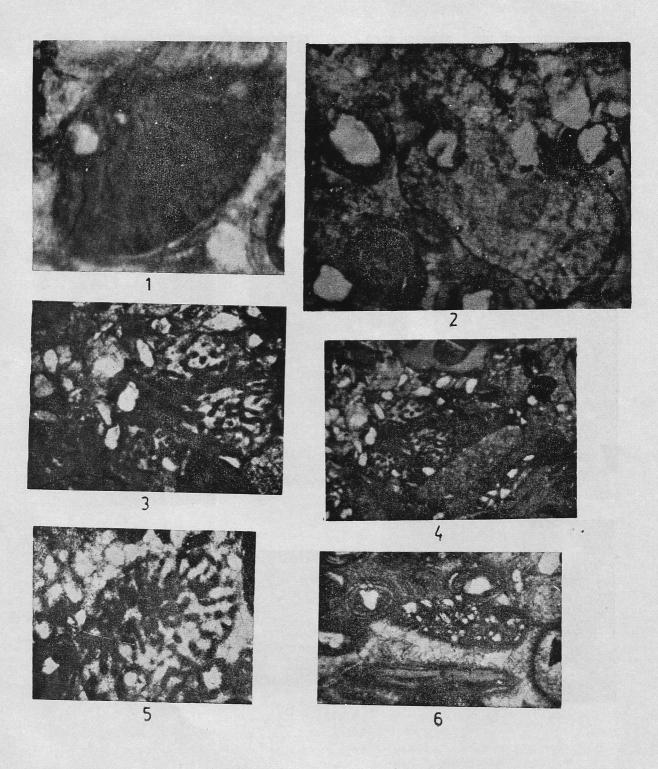
DISCUSSION AND COMPARISON

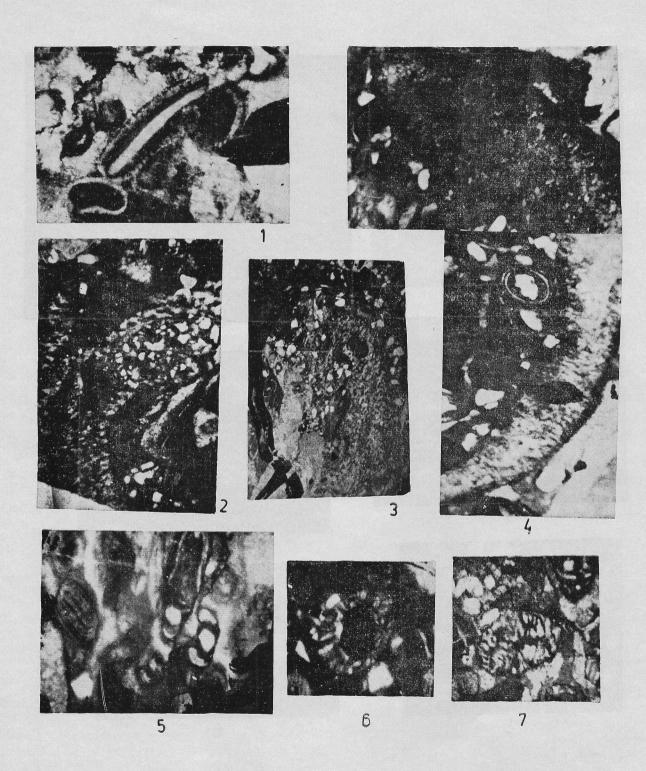
The age of the Tal formation had been uncertain and subject to contradictory assessments by different workers (see Table 1). The author's report (1972) on the occurrance of fusulinids, especially Neoschwagerina cf. crataculifera provides a more definitive and logical basis for the determination of the age of Shell limestone horizon in Dogadda area. The algal assemblage described in this paper is represented by fifteen algal species. Out of the twelve genera recorded herein, Gymnocodium, Mizzia, Pseudoepimastopora and Pseudovermiporella are restricted to Permian and the genus Permocalculus has not so far been recorded from the rocks older than Permian in age (see Table 2). An upper Permian age for the Tal Shell Limestone horizon of Dogadda area, deduced earlier by Kalia on the basis of fusulinid forms is further substantiated and keyed especially by the presence of Anthracoporella mercuri Elliott, 1968, Mizzia bramkampi Rezak, 1959, Pseudoepimastopora cf. likana (Kochansky & Herak) Elliott, 1968 and Gymnocodium bellerophontis (Rothpletz) Accordi 1956. As is evident from the Tables 2 & 3,

Gymnocodium bellerophontis is known from the upper Permian tethyan belt of the old world, namely Italy (Bellerophon limestone), Iraque (Zenner & Darari Formation) and Salt Range, Pakistan (Middle Productus beds). Rao and Varma (1953) while describing the Gymnocodium assemblage from the Middle Productus beds of Nammal gorge, observed that in view of the occurrence of Gymnocodium and also associated fusulinid genera Leela, Condofusiella and Nipponitella, the age of the middle Products beds is definitely indicated as upper Permian and not Middle Permian as was generally considered earlier. This was later confirmed by Teichert (1966) and Kummel and Teichert (1970) who assigned Upper Permian (Guadlupian) age to the Middle Productus beds (renamed as Wargal Formation) on the basis of its faunal content. Elliott (1955, 1968) described a rich algal flora from the Zennar and Darari Formations of Iraque and on the presence of characteristic species Gymnocodium bellerophontis, Mizzia velebitana assigned upper Permian age to them. The lower Zennar Formation includes Anthracoporella mercuri and is characterised by the presence of Neoschwagerina crataculifera and Wentzelella. In the upper









Tal Limestone also A. mercuri is found occurring with N. cf. crataculifera and the lower shale unit is characterised by the presence of Wentzelella salinaria. These typical forms and the associated assemblage suggests an upper Permian (Guadalupian) age for the Upper Tal Formation, particularly to the shales and oolitic Shell limestone in Dogadda area, here designated as Wentzelella and Gymnocodium zones, respectively.

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EXPLANATION OF PLATES

PLATE I

- 1. Permocalculus ananti n. sp. ×20; slide no. II/8.1.
- 2. Gymnocodium bellerophontis (Rothpletz) Accordi, 1956; ×12.5, slide no. S2/3.2
- Parachaefes lamellatus Konishi; ×36; slide no. II/1.13.
 Anthracoporella spectibilis Pia, L.S. ×24; slide no. II/14.5
- 5. A. spectibilis Pia, T.S. ×20; slide no. II/13.1.

PLATE II

- A. spectibilis Pia, ×78; slide no. II/3.1
 A. spectibilis Pia, T.S., ×28; slide no. II/3.3
 3-5. A. mercuri Elliott, 3. L. S. ×21; slide no. II/10.8b; 4. L. S. ×15, slide no. II/1.3; 5. T.S. ×35, slide no. II/3.11.
 Mizzia bramkampi Rezak; ×10; slide no. S2/3.11.
- 7, 8. Pseudoepimastopora cf. likana (Kochansky & Herak), 7. ×43, slide no. S2/7.7; 8. ×14; slide no. S2/2.3.

PLATE III

- Ortonella morikawai Endo, ×50; slide no. S2/3.13.

 Hikorocodium elegantae Endo, 2. T.S. ×50; slide no. S2/1.2; 3. T.S. ×25; slide no. II/6.16; 4. T.S. × 15; slide no. II/6.16.5. slightly oblique T.S. ×20, slide no. II/8.11.
- 6. H. aff. transversum Endo, ×20; slide no. II/8.12.

PLATE IV

- Pseudovermiporella cylindrica n. sp. ×32; slide no. S2/7.6.
 3. Pseudovermiporella sodalica Elliott. 2. ×20; slide no. S2/6.13.
 3. Diplopora sp. L.S. ×25; slide no. II/1.4.
 5. 6. Velebitella cf. triplicata Kochansky Devide; 5. L. S. ×35. 6. Slightly oblique T.S. ×60; slide no. II/1.10.
- 7. Epimastopora sp. ×7.2; slide no. S2/3.4.