CHAROPHYTES FROM THE INFRATRAPPEAN BEDS OF PAPRO, LALITPUR DISTRICT, UTTAR PRADESH¹

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ABSTRACT

The paper records and illustrates charophyte gyrogonites from the infratrappeans exposed in the vicinity of Papro hamlet, Lalitpur distrit, Uttar Pradesh. The charophyte oogonia were obtained from a 2-4 metre thick grey to greyish black silicified tuff. They comprise of four genera and five species of which two are new.

Gastropods and ostracodes occur in association with the charophytes, the former including dextral and sinistral forms of *Physa* as well as *Lymnaea*. A check list of fossil charophytes from India is also given.

INTRODUCTION

Investigations of the Papro area (78° 49' 20": 24° 14') Lalitpur District, U. P. in the winter of 1977 by the author in collaboration with Professor S. N. Singh and Dr. Surendra Kumar, have led to a systematic collection of a freshwater Infratrappean flora and fauna comprising of charophytes, gastropods and ostracodes. This paper deals with the description and systematics of fossil charophytic gyrogonites which have been recovered from a ash-grey to greyish-black silicified tuff, measuring 2-4 meters in thickness. These fossiliferous tuffs belong to the Papro Formation of Kumar, Singh and Singh (1978). On the basis of lithology, the Papro Formation has been further subdivided as shown below in Table 1.

Table 1

Deccan Trap	Dark greenish-black basalt
	Pitchstone Member 3 meters Silicified Tuff Member 2-4 meters Conglomerate Member 2-3 meters ——Unconformity————
Kaimur Sandstone	
Bijawar Formation	Phyllites and Schists.

The best exposures are to be found in two different nala cuttings sharing a Kaimur Sandstone divide, 3 km NNE of Papro (loc. cit.), tiny hamlet located 15 km SE of Sonrai (76°45'45": 24°19'15"). Sonrai is about 80 km SE of district head quarters of Lalitpur. The area falls under Survey of India Toposheet No. 54 L/15 and 54 L/16. (Fig. 1).

Associated with the fossil charophytes are the remains of ostracodes, as well as the gastropods—*Physa* and *Lymnaea*. The occurrence of *Physa* is particularly inter-

esting because of the rather wide intra-specific variation, with forms varying from 1 cm to 12 cm and the occurrence of both sinistral and dextral forms. A check list of all known fossil charophytes from India is given in Table 9.

The first known record of fossil charophyte from India is by Sowerby (1857) who described and figured *Chara malcolmsonii* from Suchet Hills, near Nagpur. This report was followed by Carter (1857) and Hislop (1860). However the most comprehensive account of intertrappean charophytes was given by Rao and Rao (1939) who described and illustrated 13 species from the intertrappeans of Kateru, Rajahmundry. Other notable contributors are Sahni and Narayan Rao (1943), Mahadevan and Sharma (1948), Vishnu Mittre (1952), Rama Rao (1955) Horn af Rantzien (1957), Bhatia and Khosla (1967) and Bhalla and Khan (1969).

During the present decade Bhatia and Mathur (1970, 1978), Shivarudrappa (1972), Tewari and Sharma (1972 a, 1972 b), Lakhanpal et al., (1974), Bhatia and Mannikeri (1976, 1977), have made significant contributions to our knowledge of fossil charophytes. Rao (1974)has also reviewed Indian fossil charophytes.

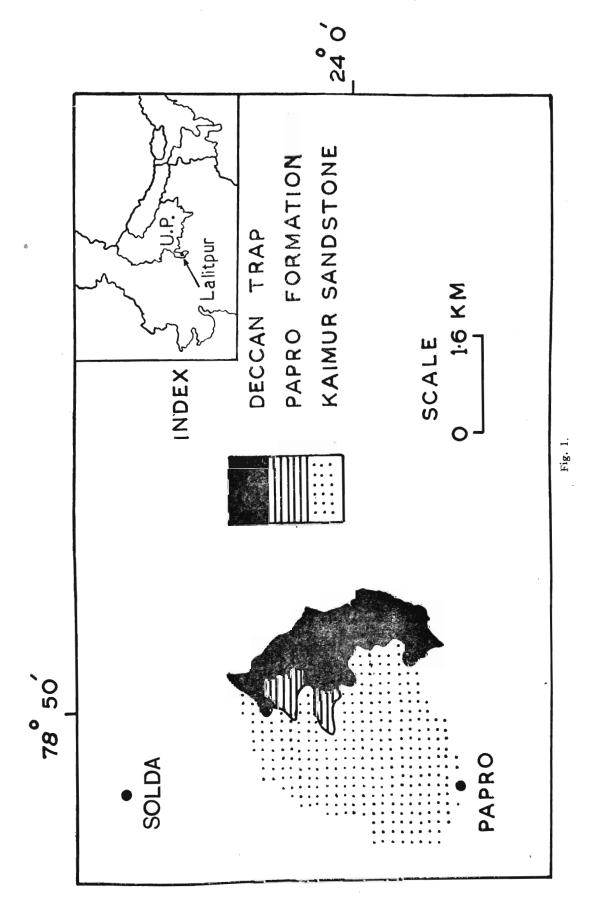
Singh and Mathur (1978) for the first time recorded few charophytic remains from the present locality. However, the most important contribution to the geology of Papro (loc. cit.) area, has been undertaken by Kumar, Singh and Singh (1978).

SYSTEMATIC DESCRIPTION

Classification and terminology for defining the shape and measurements of charophyte gyrogonites is after Grambast (1962) and Horn af Rantzien (1958) respectively.

Repository: All the figured specimens have been

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deposited in the Museum of the Geology Department, Lucknow University, Lucknow under the catalogue no. GLUMF 1256 to 1280.

Order Charales

Family Characeae Richad, 1815

Subfamily Charoideae Braun in Migula, 1897

Tribe Chareae Leonhardi, 1863

Genus Chara Lannaeus, 1753

Charites of Horn af Rantzien (1959)

Chara lalitpurensis SINGH sp. nov.

(Pl. I—la-c)

Description: Lime shell terete, prolate (ISI 133—146) ellipsoidal (ANI 47—52) rounded apically, conically prolonged basally, greatest diameter above mid-height; lime spirals five, sinistrally coiled, making two turns and a little more; ten to eleven concave convolutions, sharp and distinct intercellular ridges, spirals about 33-66 μ wide at EA; equatorial angle about 15°; apical poles rounded, lime spirals at apical periphery becomes slightly narrow and turn towards centre with consderable increase in width, these widths exceed those of equator; apical junction occurs along a moderately zigzag line; basal poles conically prolonged and protruding with rounded tips; basal pore outer opening regularly pentagonal, 25 to 35 μ wide.

Dimensions: LPA: 633-666 μ ; LED: 433-500 μ ; ISI: 133-146; NC: 10-11. (See also Table 2)

Remarks: Since taxonomic system proposed by Grambast (1972) is being followed in this paper, Charites of Horn af Rantzien (1959) has been considered under genus Chara.

Chara lalitpurensis closely resembles Charites molassica (Straub) reported by Horn af Rantzien (1959) from the Tortonian beds of Germany. The degree of concavity of spirals, larger size of gyrogonites and nature of apical poles of the former, differentiate it from the latter. Charites molassica (Straub) has been reported from India from Lower Siwalik (Miocene) beds of Uttar Pradesh by Lakhanpal et al. (1974) from which it can be distinguished in having higher number of convolutions.

It can also be distinguished from Chara strobilicarpa Reid & Groves by its smaller size and less protruding basal pole and different ISI value. Present form also differs from Charites surajpurica Tewari & Sharma (1972 a) described from Siwalik formation (Upper Pliocene) of Surajpur—Panchkula (Near Chandigarh) in dimensions specially ISI value.

Holotype: No. GLUMF 1256 (Plate 1, Figures 1a-c).

Type Locality: About 3 km NNE of Papro village,
Lalitpur, Uttar Pradesh.

Type Horizon: Ash grey to greyish black tuff 2-4 metre thick, Infratrappean, Eocene.

Chara bitruncata (REID and GROVES)
(Pl. I *- 2a-c)

Chara strobilicarpa var. bitruncata Reid and Groves 1921, p. 187, pl. V, fig. 13.

Charites bitruncata (Reid and Groves) Horn af Rantzien 1959, p. 67, pl. III, fig. 1-4.

Dimensions: LPA: 520-645 μ ; LED: 400-466 μ ; AND: 266-366 μ ; ISI: 130-193 (See Table 3).

Remarks: Horn af Rantzien (1959) establishd this species as Charites bitruncata to accommodate a form, originally described as Chara strobilicarpa var. bitruncata by Ried and Groves (1921) from Eocene of England.

Three well preserved gyrogonites of this species have been recorded from present material. The Lalitpur specimens are smaller in size but agree well in other characters like apical and basal pores, dimensions, with the figured specimen of Reid and Groves (Supra. cit.) However it has broader basal poles than species figured by. Horn af Rantzien (1959).

Genus Grambastichara Horn af Rantzien, 1959 Grambasrichara tornata (Reid and Groves)

(Pl. I—3a-c; Pl. II—1a-c)

Chara tornata Reid and Groves, 1921, p. 187, pl. V, fig. 1-3.

Grorves 1924, p. 87.

Horn af Rantzien 1954, p. 25.

Madler 1955, p. 294.

L. Grambast 1956, p. 113.

Gyrogonites tornata Pia 1927, p. 90.

Tectochara tornata Madler, 1955, p. 296.

Grambastichara tornata Horn af Rantzien 1959 p. 68.

Grambastichara cf. tornata (Reid & Groves) Tewari and Sharma 1972b p. 55.

Dimensions: LPA: 633-700 μ ; LED: 433-500 μ ; AND: 300-366 μ ; ISI: 136-146 NC: 10-12 (See Table 4).

Remarks: A few specimens belonging to this species have been recorded from the present material. Originally this species has been described by Ried and Groves from Eocene of England, as Chara tornata. Tewari and Sharma (Op. cit.) compared a form with this species from Wakha River Formation (Oligo-Miocene) near Kargil Ladakh. They also reported this genus from Upper Siwaliks (Pliocene) near, Chandigarh.

Present organ species closely resembles figured specimen of Horn af Rantzien (1959). Moreover measurements given in Table 4 further confirm their identity with this species.

Genus Microchara Grambast, 1959 Microchara sp. indet.

(Pl. II—2a-c, 3a-c)

Description: Gyrogonite moderate in size, longer than wide (LPA 533-633) and LED 433 to 500μ), subprolate ellipsoidal (ISI 120-146 and ANI 39-53), rounded apically, gradually tapering basally, distinctly projected below the base; apical cells indistinct, five spiral cells sinis-

Table 2. Dimensions of Chara lalitpuriences sp. nov.

S.N.		$^{\rm LPA}_{\mu}$	$_{\mu}^{\mathrm{LED}}$	$^{\rm AND}_{~\mu}$	ISI	ANI	NC	$_{\mu}^{\mathrm{WCE}}$	$^{\rm BPOO}_{\mu}$	Shape
Holotype GLUMF	1256	645	466	333	138	52	10	33	25	Prolate
Paratype GLUMF	1257	633	433	300	146	47	10	45	33	Ellipsoidal
Paratype GLUMF	1258	666	500	345	133	52	11	66	33	
Range		633 666	433— 500	300— 345	133 146	47— 52	10 11	33— 66	25— 33	
Average		649	466	326	139	50	10	48	30	

Table 3. Dimensions of Chara bitruncata (Reid and Groves)

S.N.		LPA µ	LED μ	AND µ	ISI	ANI	NC	WCE µ	вроо μ	Shape
GLUMF	1259	520	400	266	130	51	10	33	66	Subprolate
GLUMF	1260	645	466	366	139	5 7	10	66	60	Prolate
GLUMF	1261	525	420	270	132	51	10	45	66	Subprolate
Range		520— 645	266-— 466	266— 366	130 139	51— 57	10	33— 45	60— 66	
Average		563	428	300	133	53	10	48	64	

Table 4. Dimensions of Grambastichara tornata (Reid and Groves)

	1262	700	500							
1			300	3 66	140	52	10	66	Not visibl	e
,,	1263	633	433	333	146	5 3	10	60	33	
,, 1	1264	533	466	333	136	53	10	66	33 Pro	la te
,, 1	1265	633	466	300	136	47	10	64	45 elli	osoidal
,, 1	1266	600	433	300	139	50	10	50	40	
,, 1	1267	666	433	333	146	50	12	45	45)	
ge		633—	433	300	136—	47—	10—	45—	33—	
	,,	,, 1265 ,, 1266 ,, 1267	,, 1265 633 ,, 1266 600 ,, 1267 666	,, 1265 633 466 ,, 1266 600 433 ,, 1267 666 433 ge 633— 433—	,, 1265 633 466 300 ,, 1266 600 433 300 ,, 1267 666 433 333 ge 633— 433— 300—	,, 1265 633 466 300 136 ,, 1266 600 433 300 139 ,, 1267 666 433 333 146 ge 633— 433— 300— 136—	,, 1265 633 466 300 136 47 ,, 1266 600 433 300 139 50 ,, 1267 666 433 333 146 50 ge 633— 433— 300— 136— 47—	,, 1265 633 466 300 136 47 10 ,, 1266 600 433 300 139 50 10 ,, 1267 666 433 333 146 50 12 ge 633— 433— 300— 136— 47— 10—	,, 1265 633 466 300 136 47 10 64 ,, 1266 600 433 300 139 50 10 50 ,, 1267 666 433 333 146 50 12 45 ge 633— 433— 300— 136— 47— 10— 45—	,, 1265 633 466 300 136 47 10 64 45 ellip ,, 1266 600 433 300 139 50 10 50 40 ,, 1267 666 433 333 146 50 12 45 45

trally coiled, make little more than two turns; narrow intercellular ridges present; 11 to 12 concave to flat convolutions, spirals about 66 μ wide at EA; equitorial angle 10-15 degrees; basal opening 33 to 66 μ wide, pentagonal to circular.

Dimensions: LPA: 533-633 μ ; LED 433-500 μ ; AND 233-333 μ ; ISI: 120-146; NC: 11-12 (See Table 5).

Remarks: The present species is close to Microchara sp. indet. described and illustrated by Bhatia (1976) from Deccan intertrappean Beds of Nagpur. However, it is

slightly larger in size as is evident from measurements (Table 5). Lalitpur forms do not seem to resemble any known species of *Microchara*. More well preserved specimens are required before a definite specific name can be assigned.

Tribe Gyrogonae Grambast, 1956

Genus Gyrogona Lamarck, 1804 ex Lamarck
1822, emend. Grambast, 1956.

Gyrogonites Lamarck, 1804, non Pia, 1927. Brachychara Grambast, 1954 Brevichara Horn af Rantzien, 1956 Gyrogona bundelkhandensis Singh sp. nov.

Holotype: No. GLUMF 1271 (Plate 3, figures 1a-c). Description: Medium sized gyrogonites, with LPA-600-700 μ , LED 666-766 μ , AND 300-400 μ , terete, oblate spheroidal (ISI 90-95), and mostly ellipsoidal (ANI 45-57), apically rounded; apical rosette not well developed and present in depression, basally very broadly rounded; five cellular spirals, sinistrally coiled, making slightly more than one turn, seven to nine flat or convex convolutions; intercellular suture distinct; equitorial angle about 10° or less; basal pore opening 33 to 45 μ , circular in outline, not lower than surrounding surface.

Dimensions: LPA: 600-700 μ , LED: 666-766 μ , AND: 300-400 u, ISI: 90-95; NC: 7-9 (See Table 6 also).

Remarks: Gyrogona bundelkhandensis sp. nov. has superficial resemblance to English species, originally described by Horn af Rantzien (1959) as Brevichara hordensis from Eocene of Hampshire but can be distinguished from it, in having depressed rounded apical rosette, rather than

protruding. Moreover, higher number of convolutions, smaller size and general shape are other characters which separate this from *B. hordlensis* and other known species.

Type Locality: In a Nala cutting about 3 km NNE of Papro village, Lalitpur, U. P.

Type horizon: As grey to greyish black silicified tuff 2-4 metre thick. Infratrappean, Eocene.

Gyrogona coelata (REID and GROVES)

(Pl. II—4a-c; Pl. III—2a-c)

Chara coelata Reid and Groves 1921, p. 184
Kosmogyra coelata Pia 1927, p. 90
Chara coelata Reid and Groves; Rao and Rao, 1939, p. 5.
Brachychara coelata Grambast and Grambast 1954, p. 66
Gyrogona coelata Grambast 1956, p. 280
Brevichara coelata Horn af Rantzien 1959, p. 119

Dimensions: LPA 600-633 u, LED 666-733 μ , AND 266-400 μ , ISI 86-90, NO 7-8. (See Table 7).

Remarks: Originally this species has been reported from Upper Eocene Beds of England by Ried and Groves (1921) as Chara coelata. However from India, Rao and Rao (1939) described and illustrated from Deccan Inter-

Table 5. Dimensions of Microchara sp. indet.

S.N.		LPA µ	LED μ	AND µ	ISI	ANI	NC	WCE µ	вроо	Shape
GLUMF	1268	633	433	333	146	53	12	66	33	Prolate ellipsoidal
,,	1269	600	500	233	120	39	11	66	66	Subprolate Subovoi- dal
"	1270	533	433	333	125	50	11	60	66	Subprolate ellipsoi- dal
Range		533— 633	433— 500	233— 333	120 146	39— 53	12— 12	60— 66	33— 66	
Average		588	455	299	130	47	11	64	65	

Table 6. Dimensions of Gyrogona bundelkhandensis sp. nov.

S.N.			$^{\rm LPA}_{\mu}$	$_{~\mu}^{\mathrm{LED}}$	$^{\rm AND}_{~\mu}$	ISI	ANI	NC	WCE µ	BPOO µ	Shape
Holotype No.	GLUMF	1271	700	766	400	91	57	9	60	33	
Paratype No.	GLUMF	1272	633	666	300	95	47	8	66	40	
,,	,,	1273	666	733	366	91	55	7	80	45	Oblate Spheroidal
,,	,,	1274	633	700	333	90	53	8	60	33	ellipsoidal
,,	,,	1275	666	700	300	95	45	9	60	33	
,,	,,	1276	600	666	333	90	55	8	66	40	
Ran	nge	d	600— 700	666— 766	300— 400	90— 95	45— 57	7 <u> </u>	60— 80	33— 45	
Ave	erage		649	705	355	92	52	8	65	37	

S.N. LPA LED AND ISI BPOO ANI NCWCE Shape **GLUMF** 1277 733 400 33 633 86 63 8 80 700 400 90 73 7 33 1278 633 90 Oblate spheroidal 1279 600 666 333 90 36 55 66 1280 600 666 766 90 4.1 8 100 33 Range 600-666-266-86-44_ 66-33 -7_ 633 733 400 90 63 100 36 691 349 89 Average 616 56 84 33

Table 7. Dimensions of Gyrogona coelata (Reid and Groves)

trappeans, near Rajahmundry. The present form has fewer tubercles which are more or less pointed and more convolute than the figured specimens of Rao and Rao (op. cit.).

Table 8. Stratigraphical distribution of charophytes

AGE Charophytes	Cretaceous (Maestrichtian)	Palaeocene	Eocene
Chara lalitpurensis			××
C. bitruncata			××
Grambastichara tornata			××
Gyrogona bundelkhandensis			
G. coelata			$\times \times$
Microchara sp.	$\times \times \times$	××	$\times \times$

FEW REMARKS ON THE GENERIC STATUS OF GYROGONA

(Lamarck 1804, ex Lamarck 1822 amend, Grambast 1956.)

In the past, the generic status of Gyrogona Lamarck 1808 ex Lamarck 1822, has generated considerable controversy. It is therefore felt that a review of the observations made by different authors would help in clarifying its position.

Lamarck (1804) erected originally this genus with the type species Gyrogona medicaginula from tertiary of France. Later on Lamarck (1822) transferred this genus to Gyrogonites with Gyrogonites medicaginula as its type species. Grambast and Grambast (1954) typified their new genus Brachychara by Brachychara medicaginula which nomenclaturally remains the same as Gyrogonites medicaginula Lamarck. Not agreeing with this arrangement Horn af Rantzien (1956) observed "Being typified by the same species, these genera are nomenclatural synonyms, the older one of which has priority. The valid name of this principally Lower Tertiary organ-genus of charophyte

gyrogonites is thus *Gyrogonites* Lamarck and the name *Brachychara* should be considered illegitimate....."

Madler (1955) stated that Gyrogonites medicaginula Lamarck permits no detailed comparison with now recognised organ genera, and probably it included gyrogonites of Sphaerochara Madley.

Moreover it was difficult to prove Gyrogonites medicaginula of Lamarck and Brachychara medicaginula of Grambast and Grambast are same species of gyrogonites, and therefore Gyrogonites and Brachychara are synonyms nomenclaturally. Consequently Horn af Rantzien (1959) proposed new name Brevichara for Brachychara. He also put Chara wrightii Reid and Groves 1921, Aclistochara wrightii Grambast and Grambast (op. cit.), Brachychara wrightii Grambast and Grambast (1954) as synonym of type species of Brevichara—Brevichara hordlensis.

Grambast (1962) while proposing an exhaustive classification of fossil charophytes again reviewed position of this genus and finally reverted it back to Gyrogona Lamarck including Gyrogonites Lamarck 1822 Brachychara Grambast and Grambast (1954) and Brevichara Horn af Rantzien (1995) as its synonym.

From the foregoing discussion, the present author is of the view that old name *Gyrogona* as proposed by Lamarck (1804 ex Lamarck 1822) amended by Grambast (1956) should be retained rather than giving new names.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the charophytic flora, it can be safely assumed that fossiliferous beds of "Papro Framation" cannot be older than Maestrichtian. However, author is more inclined to favour Eocene age, as indicated by *Grambastichara* and *Gyrogona*. Stratigraphical distribution of charophytes of these beds, is given in the Table 8.

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EXPLANATION OF PLATES

All figures × 32 unless otherwise stated.

PLATE I

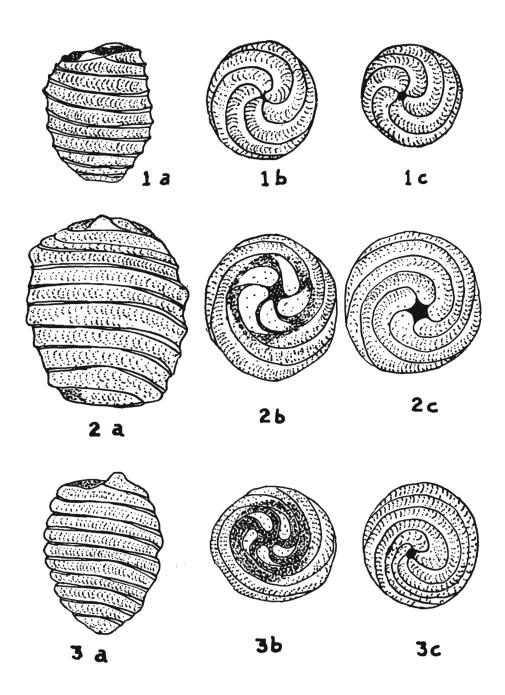
- 1-3. Chara lalitpurensis sp. nov. a, lateral view; b, apical view; c, basal view. Holotype No. GLUMF 1256.
- 4-6. Chara bitruncata (Reid and Groves), a, lateral view; b, apical view; c, basal view. No. GLUMF 1259. × 50.
- 7-9. Grambastichara tornata (Reid and Groves), a, lateral view; b, apical view; c, basal view. No. GLUMF 1265.

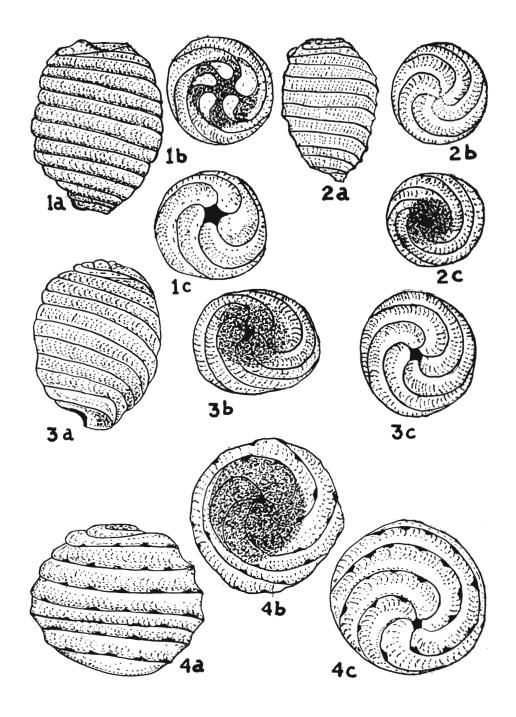
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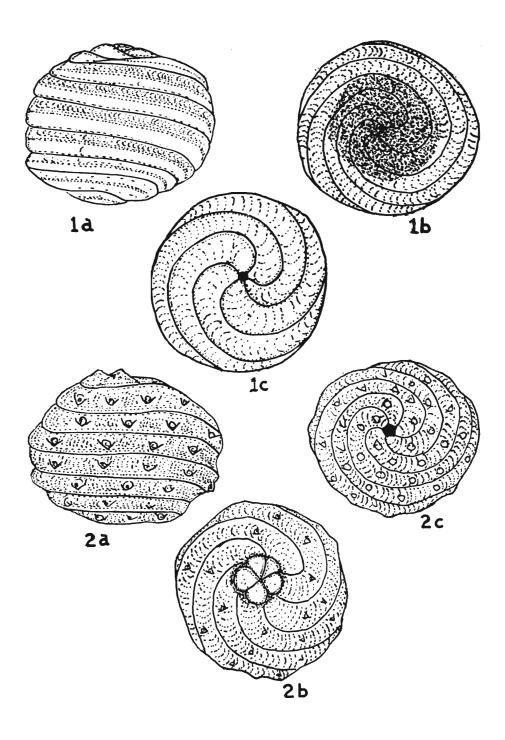


PLATE II

- 1-3. Grambastichara tornata (Reid and Groves), a, lateral view; b, apical view; c, basal view. No. GLUMF 1262.
- 4-9. Microchara sp. a, lateral views b, apical views; c, basal views. No. GLUMF 1270, GLUMF 1268.
- 10-12. Gyrogona coelata (Reid and Groves), a, lateral view; b, apical view; c, basal view. No. GLUMF 1278.

PLATE III

- 1-3. Gyrogona bundelkhandensis sp. nov., a, lateral view; b, apical view; c, basal view. Holotype No. GLUMF 1271.
- 4-6. Gyrogona coelata (Reid and Groves), a, lateral view; b, apical view; c, basal view. No. GLUMF 1280.