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Palaeoclimatic Clue of Central India during Maastrichtian Period

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Abstract: *In the central India late Cretaceous or Tertiary system of volcanic rock formation is known as Deccan Traps. In peninsular region of India, these traps spread about a very large area of 5, 20,000 km covering almost all of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, part of Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh marginally. In these beds, besides to all groups of plants, Ostracodes, Molluscus, fishes & other vertebrates flourished. The important fossiliferous localities of Maharashtra includes Malabar and Worli hills of Mumbai and Vidarbha region which includes Buldana, Amravati, Chandrapur, Kondhali, Mahurzari, Phutala tank, Takli and Sitabuldi near Nagpur; Nawargaon, Maragsur near Wardha; Jhargad, Sibla near Yeotmal. Fossil localities of Madhya Pradesh includes Singhpur, Mohgaonkalan, of Chhindwara Districts, Parapani, Shahpura, Ghugua, of Mandala district.*

The important flora of Central India divided into two assemblages as follows:

I) The Vidharbha-Chhindwara Assemblage

II) Fossil assemblage from Mandla-Dindori district

From the analysis of fossil flora of boh assemblage the following habitats and climatic conditions can be suggested (i) Coastal or estuarine – Sonnertioxylon, Palmocarpon, Arecoidocarpon, Cocos. (ii) Mangrove and Saline habitat - indicated by Acrostichum, Pandanaceoxylon, Palmoxylon, Viracarpon and Nipa. (iii) Fresh water - indicated by fresh water algae. (iv) Marshy – Fungal forms which grew luxuriantly. Acrostichum and Aeschynome a plant of marshy habitat. (v) Terrestrial and upland- indicated by conifers and other arborescent angiosperms. (a) The wet Evergreen to Semi-evergreen forest: - Conifers, Cocos, Aeschynomene, Elaeocarpus, and Ailanthus. (b) Dry deciduous forest – Phoenix (Palmoxylon sps.), Grewia, Anacardioxylon, and Ebenoxylon.

Keywords: *Megaflora, Diversity, Fossils, Deccan Intertrappean beds, Maastrichtian*

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