

# UPPER TRIASSIC FOSSIL PLANTS FROM SON RIVER SECTION NEAR GIAR, SHAHDOL DISTRICT, M. P., INDIA

In the Gondwana succession of Shahdol District, Madhya Pradesh, sediments exposed on the east bank of Son River near Giar, have yielded plant fossils fairly well preserved in greenish sandy shale of Tiki Formation. Because of being in the form of compressions, these fossil plants are ideally suited for their epidermal studies.

However, before the discovery of this outcrop, reports of fossil plants from the vicinity of Son Valley have already been made by RAO (*in* KRISHNAN, 1958), SINGH (*in* SASTRI *et al.*, 1977) but none of the records has furnished any description or figure. Besides, a palynoflora has also been described by MAHESHWARI AND KUMARAN (1979) from adjacent sediments of Giar, consisting of non-striate disaccate pollen grains including a few pteridophytic spores.

The recent megafossil collections, as examined by their cuticular structures, have revealed definitive occurrence of fossil taxa *Lepidopteris* (1sp.), *Dicroidium* (3 spp.) and *Elatocladus* (2 spp.) associated with some other conifers and equisetaceous stems bearing ridges and grooves. In this flora too, *Dicroidium* appears to be significantly represented but relatively lesser in frequency as compared to other older Triassic deposits of South Rewa Basin. Further, the conspicuous presence of genus *Elatocladus* ascribes a younger aspect to these beds in the Triassic formations of India.

Thus the entire megaf flora of Giar beds corroborates precisely to late Triassic age, as earlier envisaged by ROY-CHOWDHURY *et al.* (1973), and MAHESHWARI *et al.* (1978) upon the palaeontological and palynological grounds, respectively.

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## EXPLANLTION OF PLATE 1

- Fig. 1. *Lepidopteris* sp. B. S. I. P. no. 35654,  $\times 1$ .  
Fig. 2. *Dicroidium* sp. B. S. I. P. no. 35475,  $\times 1$ .  
Fig. 3. *Elatocladus* sp. B. S. I. P. no. 35676,  $\times 1$ .

