EQUISETITES SEHORAENSIS SP. NOV. FROM JABALPUR FORMATION, MADHYA PRADESH

Genus *EQUISETITES* Sternberg

Equisetites sehoraensis sp. nov.

Figs. 1-3

Diagnosis—Stem stout, maximum available length 21.5 cm, width 1.5-2 cm. Internodes 4.5-6 cm long, marked with prominent ridges and grooves. Nodes slightly enlarged, occurring at long intervals and bearing leaf-sheaths. Leaf-sheaths 1.5-2 cm long, composed of 16-20 segments, commisural flanges narrow, leaf-teeth linear with acute apices.

Holotype—Specimen no. BSIP 36539.

Locality—Sehora on Sher River, Narsinghpur District, Madhya Pradesh

Horizon & age—Jabalpur Formation, Early Cretaceous

Remarks- Only two specimens of *Equisetites sehoraensis* were collected by one of us (Sukh-Dev) from the Sehora sediments. Both the stem pieces possess thin carbonised crust, but none of them contains well preserved 'phytolemma' to show the detail epidermal features.

Comparison—*Equisetites sehoraensis* is morphologically distinct from *E. rajmahalensis* Oldham & Morris 1863 known from Rajmahal Hills, Bihar, and Kutch, Tarnetar and Surendranagar districts of Gujarat (Roy, 1968; Borkar & Chiplonkar, 1973) in having comparatively longer internodes with distinct ridges and grooves. The number of leaf-segments in the leaf-sheath in the former is comparatively less, whereas in *E. rajmahalensis* 25-30 segments are present. *Equisetites mobergii* Moller described by Moller & Halle (1913) from Scania comes close to the present species in having similar number and arrangement of leaf-segments with acute apices but differs in being much larger in size with smooth internodes and thus, the present specimens have been described as a new species.

References

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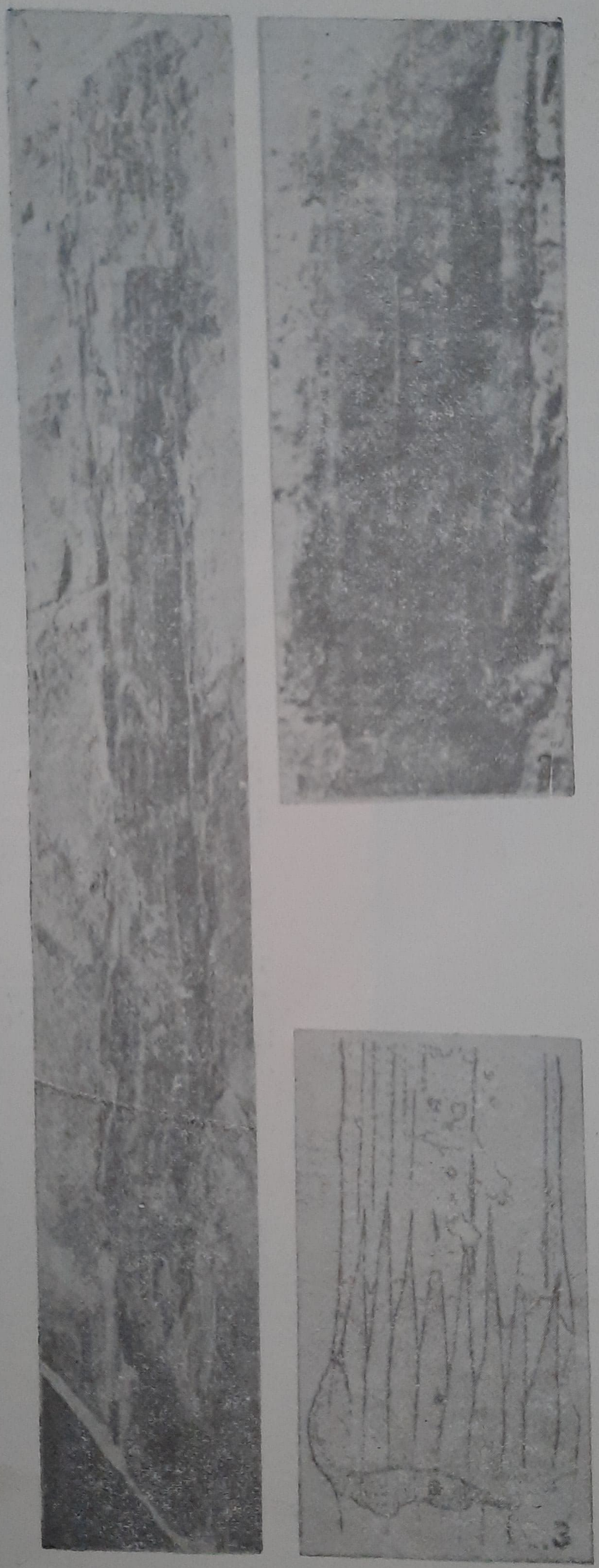

Fig. 1—*Equisetites sehoraensis* sp. nov; holotype, specimen no. B S I P 36539 × 1.
Fig. 2—Part of the same specimen showing a leaf-sheath at node and ridges and grooves at internodes, × 2.
Fig. 3—Illucidating nodal region with leaf-sheath, × 2.