

# *Morrisia rajmahalensis* (Feistmantel) Bose & Banerji from Prakasam District (Andhra Pradesh)

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ALONG the East Coast of India, Upper Gondwana plant fossils occur at several localities. Among these places Uppugunduru and Vemavaram are rich in fossil plants.

Recently authors have collected plant fossils from this area which are preserved as impressions on fine grained reddish-yellow coloured sandstones. The flora is dominated by cycadophytes. One of the specimen showing interesting features is described below.

*Genus- Morrisia* Bose 1958

***Morrisia rajmahalensis* (Feistmantel) Bose & Banerji 1981 (Fig. 1)**

The specimen (Fig. 1) is a pinnate leaf measuring 5.3 cm in length and 4.7 cm in width. The rachis is 2

mm thick and gradually becomes narrow towards the apex. Pinnae are lanceolate in shape, arranged in alternate fashion and measure 3 cm long and 1 cm broad. They are attached to the rachis by entire base at an angle of 35°. Margins of pinnae entire and apex is acute. Each pinnae shows a midrib. Secondary veins emerge from the midrib and after curving show forking.

The characters of the specimen closely agree with *M. rajmahalensis* (Feistm.) Bose & Banerji and hence it is identified as such.

Bose (1958) instituted the genus *Morrisia* for unipinnate leaves with pinnae showing venation of *Taeniopteris* type. Recently Bose and Banerji (1981)



Fig. 1. *Morrisia rajmahalensis* (Feistmantel) Bose & Banerji x 1.5

have given a brief account of cycadophytic leaves and noted three species from India. *M. rajmahalensis* is earlier reported from Rajmahal Hills in Bihar and Golapalli from Andhra Pradesh. Present specimen is collected from Vemavaram, a new locality, suggesting wider distribution of *M. rajmahalensis* on the east-coast.

*Type* - VMR/90/87

*Locality* - Vemavaram, District Prakasam, Andhra Pradesh

*Horizon* - Late Jurassic

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