

FOSSIL WOOD OF *ARTOCARPUS* FROM THE TERTIARY OF ASSAM

A new fossil wood belonging to the genus *Artocarpus* is recorded here from the Tipam sandstones, exposed in a stream cutting near Kartikcherra about 50 kms south of Hailakandi, District Cachar, Assam. It shows the following anatomical characters.

Growth rings indistinct. *Vessels* medium to large in size, t. d. 105-315 μ , r. d. 120-330 μ , mostly solitary (Fig. 1), sometimes in radial rows of 2-4, round in cross-section, 2-3 per sq. mm and heavily occluded with tyloses; vessel members 165-450 μ long with truncate or tailed ends; perforations simple; intervessel pit-pairs bordered, alternate, large, 10-12 μ in diameter, orbicular in shape with linear to lenticular apertures (Fig. 3). *Parenchyma* paratracheal, vasicentric to mostly aliform, rarely aliform-confluent joining two adjacent vessels (Fig. 1). *Xylem rays* 1-6 (mostly 3-5) seriate (Fig. 2), occasionally with latex tubes, 3-4 per mm; ray tissue heterogeneous, formed of heterocellular rays consisting of procumbent cells in the middle portion and 1-3 rows of upright cells at one or both the ends; sheath cells sometimes present on the flanks of the rays. *Fibres* non-libriform, slightly thick-walled with big lumen, non-septate, and oval to polygonal in cross-section.

A detailed comparison with the modern woods indicate that the present fossil wood closely resembles the extant species *Artocarpus chaplasha* Roxb. and *A. incisa* Linn. of the family Moraceae (PEARSON & BROWN, 1932; METCALFE & CHALK, 1950; KRIBS, 1959).

Although a rich flora is known from the Tipam sandstones of Assam (PRAKASH, 1972; PRAKASH & TRIPATHI, 1975, 1976, 1977), this is the first record of the fossil wood of *Artocarpus* from India and abroad. The present fossil wood is described here as *Artocarpoxylon kartikcherraensis* gen. et sp. nov.

Holotype—B.S.I.P. Museum No. 35317.

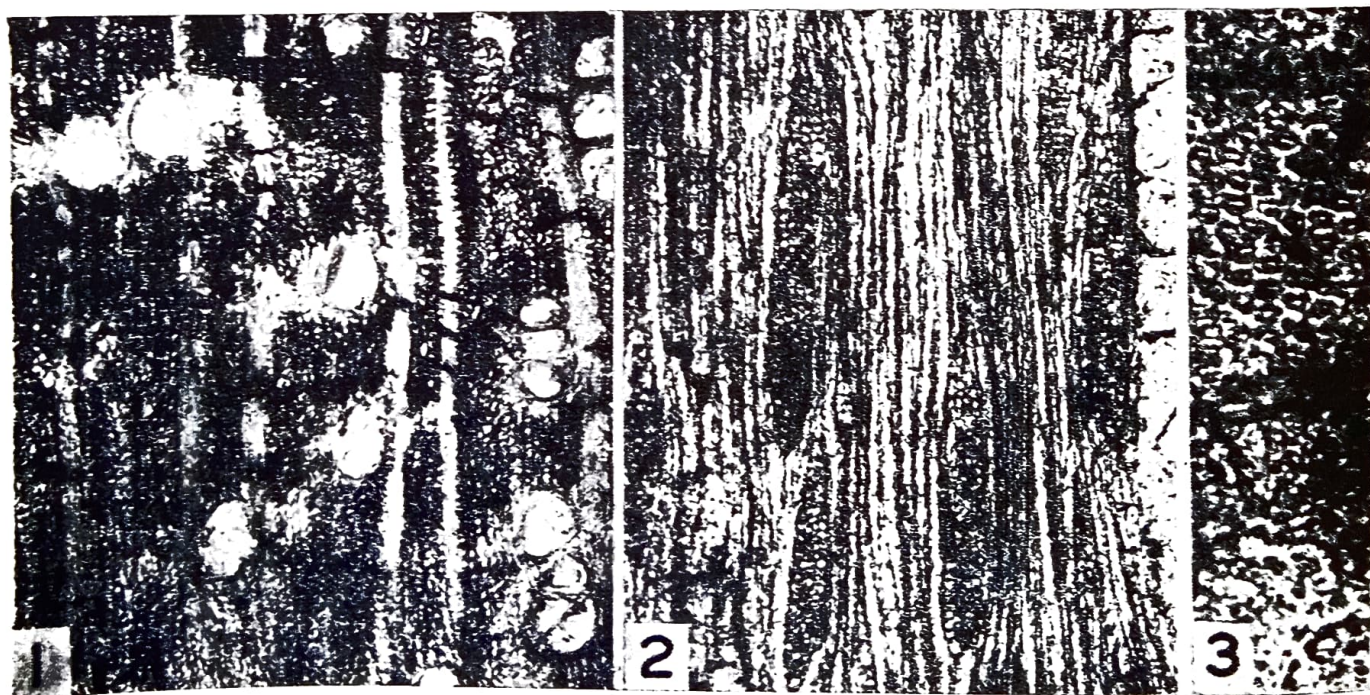


Fig. 1. *Artocarpoxylon kartikcherraensis* gen. et sp. nov.—Cross-section showing the distribution of vessels and parenchyma, $\times 25$. Sl. No. 5890. Fig. 2. Tangential longitudinal section showing the xylem rays, $\times 45$. Sl. No. 5889. Fig. 3. Intervessel pit-pairs, $\times 250$. Sl. No. 5889.

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CEPHALOZIA KASHYAPII UDAR NOM. NOV. FROM EASTERN HIMALAYAS

In a study of the genus *Cephalozia* in eastern Himalayas UDAR AND KUMAR (1976) described a new species, *C. laxifolia* from Darjeeling, eastern Himalayas. Since it is a pre-occupied specific epithet (personal communication : Drs. J. Lal and R. Grolle), the following nomenclatural change is proposed :

Cephalozia kashyapii Udar nom. nov.

Syn : *C. laxifolia* Udar & Kumar, *Geophytology* **6**(1): 35-45, 1976; non *C. laxifolia* Lindb., *Musc. Scand.*, p. 3, 1879.

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