

- (13) *Parmelia aurulenta* Tuck.
Thallus corticolous to saxicolous, fertile. W. Nepal, Karnali Anchal, Jumla area.
- (14) *Parmelia flexilis* Kurok.
Thallus corticolous, fertile. W. Nepal, Bheri Anchal, Dailekh area.
- (15) *Peltigera rufescens* (Weis.) Humb.
Thallus corticolous, fertile. W. Nepal, Seti Anchal, Doti area.
- (16) *Phaeographina pyrrochroa* (Mont. et v. d. Bosch) Zahlbr.
Thallus corticolous, fertile. C. Nepal, Bagmati Anchal, Manichur area.
- (17) *Sticta platyphylla* var. *praetextata* Räs.
Thallus corticolous, sterile. W. Nepal, Seti Anchal, Doti area.

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FOSSIL WOOD OF *DRACONTOMELUM* FROM THE LOWER SIWALIK BEDS OF HIMACHAL PRADESH, INDIA

A new fossil wood belonging to the genus *Dracontomelum* is recorded here from the Lower Siwalik beds of Kokhra near Nalagarh in Himachal Pradesh. It shows the following diagnostic anatomical features.

Growth rings absent. *Vessels* large to medium-sized or small, t.d. 45–225 μ , r.d. 60–255 μ , usually solitary or in radial multiples of two, rarely three or more or in clusters, normally round to oval or elliptical, 4-7 per sq. mm., sometimes filled with tyloses (Fig. 1); vessel members 210–450 μ long with truncate ends; perforations simple; intervessel pit-pairs bordered, alternate, large, 8–12 μ in diameter, round to oval in shape with linear-lenticular apertures. *Parenchyma* narrow vasicentric to slightly aliform (Fig. 1), sometimes joining adjacent pores. *Xylem rays* 1-5 (usually 2-4) seriate (Fig. 2), 7-10 per mm; ray tissue heterogeneous formed of homocellular to heterocellular rays. *Fibres* non-libriform, septate, oval to angular in cross-section.

A detailed comparison with the modern woods indicates that the present fossil wood closely resembles the modern species *Dracontomelum mangiferum* Bl. (MOLL & JANSSONIUS, 1908; KANEHIRA, 1924; HENDERSON, 1953; DESCH, 1957; KRIBS, 1959; ANONYMOUS, 1963) of the family Anacardiaceae.



Dracontomeloxylon palaeomangiferum gen. et sp. nov. Fig. 1. Cross-section showing the distribution of vessels and parenchyma, $\times 55$. Sl. No. 5498/56-1014. Fig. 2. Tangential longitudinal section showing the xylem rays, $\times 60$. Sl. No. 5497/56-1014.

As this forms the first record of the fossil wood of *Dracontomelum* Bl. from India and abroad, it is reported here as *Dracontomeloxylon palaeomangiferum* gen. et sp. nov.

Holotype—B. S. I. P. Museum No. 56/1014.

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