



MOLLUSCAN AND INSECT REMAINS FROM THE TYPE KASAULI FORMATION AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE

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ABSTRACT

Here we report the first gastropods and insect remains from the Kasauli Formation, (Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh) in addition to the record of the pelecypod *Parreysia (Radiatula) kohlii*. The gastropods are associated with broad-leaved plants and are abundant in pockets. They can be taxonomically assigned to *Melania kargilensis* and *Planorbis*, both taxa are known to occur from coeval beds at Kargil in Ladakh. Another taxa cf. *Brotia dobataensis* known from the Miocene Siwalik Surai Khola locality of Nepal is also present. The Kasauli molluscan fauna has common elements to the assemblages reported from Laren (Larea) locality near Udhampur and Kargil (Ladakh). The insect wing is referable to the order Blattaria which includes the cockroaches. Scanning electron microscopy has been used to provide greater details of the fine structure of the material. Reconstruction of basinal palaeoenvironments suggests large bodies of stagnant water forming under euxenic conditions in a facies similar to that found in Laren, Udhampur (Jammu and Kashmir). The Kasauli biotic assemblage, as now known, represents the first floras and faunas of an extensively developing lower Miocene foreland basin.

Key words: Molluscs, insects, palaeoenvironments, taphonomy, Kasauli Formation