Journal of The Palaeontological Society of India
Volume, 51(1), June 2006: 43-55

ISSN 0522-9630

PERMIAN PALYNOLOGY FROM INDIA AND AFRICA - A PHYTOGEOGRAPHICAL PARADIGM

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ABSTRACT

A comparison of Permian palynoflora of India and Africa has been attempted to interpret phytogeographic provincialism in Gondwana. Megafloral records from different Gondwana continents reflect a single large phytogeographic province during Permian time, wherein *Glossopteris* was the most characteristic element that dominated the vegetation. However, the analysis of palynological records from the Gondwana continents suggests that this floristic uniformity was more apparent than real. There are differences within the region. The palynological uniformity is much pronounced during the Early Permian, whereas the differences are more striking during the Late Permian.

A close similarity between India (Godavari and Satpura basins) and south-eastern half of Africa has been visualised during Late Permian on the basis of palynological records. Indian palynosequences are interestingly parallel to that of Africa rather than that of Australia. The *Guttulapollenites* palaeophytogeographic province has been recognised in central part of Gondwanaland extending from the Salt Range (Pakistan) in the north to the Amery Basin (Antarctica) in the south, Satpura–Godavari basins (India) in the east to Mid-Zambesi–Luangawa valley (Africa) in the west.

Key words: Gondwana, Palynology, Permian, India, Africa, Phytogeographic Provincialism