



OCCURRENCE OF MEGASPORES IN THE LOWER GONDWANA SEDIMENTS OF THE GUNDALA AREA, GODAVARI GRABEN, A. P., INDIA

NEERJA JHA¹, RAJNI TEWARI¹ and M. SALEEM²

¹BIRBAL SAHNI INSTITUTE OF PALAEOBOTANY, 53 UNIVERSITY ROAD, LUCKNOW 226 007, INDIA

²OSMANIA UNIVERSITY, HYDERABAD, INDIA.

E-mail: neerjajha@yahoo.co.uk

ABSTRACT

Permian megaspores are reported from the Barakar Formation of the Gundala area, Godavari Graben, Andhra Pradesh, India. The assemblage comprises the taxa *Bokarosporites rotundus*, *Banksisporites utkalensis*, *Talchirella trivedii* and a new genus *Gundalasporea spinosus*. Quantitatively, the megaspores are not as abundant as in other areas of Godavari Graben. Structurally also, their exosporia are not complex, being laevigate, verrucate and simple spinate as compared to the highly modified exosporia of megaspores of other areas of the same graben. Nevertheless, their occurrence is significant since it indicates presence of cryptogams probably of lycopsid or sphinopsid affinity in the area. Moreover, occurrence of a new genus viz. *Gundalasporea spinosus* adds to the knowledge and diversity of megaspore assemblage in the Godavari Graben.

Keywords: Megaspores, Lower Gondwana, Barakar Formation, Gundala area, Godavari Graben