



SOME PLANT MEGAFOSSILS FROM THE SUB-HIMALAYAN ZONE (MIDDLE MIOCENE) OF WESTERN NEPAL

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ABSTRACT

A systematic study on leaf impressions collected from the middle Miocene sediments of the Sub-Himalayan zone exposed near the Seria Naka and Koilabas, western Nepal, revealed the existence of nine more taxa during the middle Miocene. These taxa belong to the genera *Donax* (Marantaceae), *Uvaria* (Anonaceae), *Flacourtia* (Flacourtiaceae), *Qualea* (Polygalaceae), *Shorea* (Dipterocarpaceae), *Iodes* (Icacinaceae), *Ochna* (Ochnaceae) and *Paranephelium* and *Arytera* (Sapinadaceae). The genera like *Qualea*, *Iodes* and *Arytera* are new to the Tertiary sediments of Indian subcontinent. The present-day distribution of comparable extant taxa indicates existence of an evergreen to moist deciduous forest under tropical, warm humid climate in and around the study areas in the sub-Himalayan zone of western Nepal, as compared to the mixed deciduous forests there at present day.

Keywords: Plant megafossils, Sub-Himalayan zone, Churia Group, Middle Miocene, Palaeoclimate, western Nepal