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FUNGAL REMAINS FROM THE NEOGENE SEDIMENTS OF MAHUADANR VALLEY, LATEHAR DISTRICT, JHARKHAND, INDIA AND THEIR PALAEOCLIMATIC SIGNIFICANCE

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ABSTRACT

Fungal remains are recorded from the Neogene fossiliferous beds exposed along the Rampur Nala and Birha River in the vicinity of Mahuadanr locality in Latehar District, Jharkhand, and their significance in understanding the palaeoenvironment discussed. The the exposed section is mainly constituted of pyroclastic rocks, conglomerates, sandstones and organic-rich shales. However, the lower part of the shales has yielded a very rich fungal assemblage with 22 well established forms, and 10 other types of spores and fruiting bodies of uncertain affinities very frequent in the sediments. The assemblageg suggests that the region experienced a humid climate during the course of sediment accumulation with a thick vegetation providing suitable substrates for the growth and proliferation of fungi.

Keywords: Tertiary, Fungal remains, Depositional Environment, Mahuadanr, Jharkhand