



CONTROVERSY CONCERNING 'CAMBRIAN' FOSSILS FROM THE VINDHYAN SEDIMENTS: A RE-ASSESSMENT

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ABSTRACT

In 1998, Azmi created a controversy by announcing the discovery of small shelly fossils and brachiopods of the Cambrian age from the Rohtasgarh Limestone (Rohtas Formation) of the Semri Group (Lower Vindhyan). This discovery did not find much favour with most of the workers. In the mean time, Azmi and his group continued to support the Cambrian age for the Rohtas Formation by extending their work in other areas within the Vindhyan Basin (the Chitrakut area) as well as outside the Vindhyan Basin (the Gangolihat Dolomite) (Azmi *et al.*, 2007). Recently, his discovery became alive again with the publication of a paper by Bengtson *et al.* (2009), who studied the phosphatic stromatolites of the Tirohan Limestone (= the Rohtas Formation) of the Chitrakut area. Bengtson *et al.* (2009) discussed the identification of small shelly fossils reported by Azmi *et al.* (2007) from the Tirohan Limestone and rejected their claim of the Cambrian element in the microfossil assemblage. They also dated the phosphatic stromatolites of the Tirohan Limestone as Palaeoproterozoic. Though Bengtson and his group did not work on any material from the Rohtasgarh Limestone (Rohtas Formation) from where Azmi has originally described brachiopod and small shelly fossils, still Bengtson *et al.*'s (2009) work helped in resolving the age controversy created by Azmi's (1998) work. The Bengtson *et al.* (2009) support the traditional age given to the Vindhyan Supergroup. The Semri Group can be bracketed between Palaeoproterozoic and Mesoproterozoic and the Upper Vindhyan can be given the age between Mesoproterozoic and Ediacaran as there is no evidence of any Cambrian fossil within the Vindhyan Basin.

Keywords: Vindhyan Supergroup, Small Shelly Fossils, Semri Group, Tirohan Limestone, Rohtas Formation, Brachiopod