



THE GYMNOSPERM POLLEN GENUS *CALLIALASPORITES* DEV EMEND. MAHESHWARI 1974 IN THE MESOZOIC SUCCESSION OF INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The gymnosperm pollen genus *Callialasporites* Dev emend. Maheshwari (1974) exhibits much variation in the exinal features. In India, the first appearance of this taxon is indicated by the occurrence of *C. turbatus*, *C. microvelatus* or *C. dampieri* species in Rhaetian – Hettangian transition. However, this genus attains abundance in the Middle Jurassic and continues upto the Lower Cretaceous on the Indian peninsula, as well as else where in the Gondwana region. During this time span, much morphological diversity has led to the erection of many species to the genus. This apparent complexity, and the stratigraphic significance of the species are investigated in this paper. Among the twenty nine species that have been erected, only nine are considered to be sufficiently distinct to be used for dating and correlating rock successions.

Keywords: Morpho-taxonomy, *Callialasporites*, Triassic, Jurassic, Cretaceous, India