



## PALAEOECOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF TURRITELLINE DOMINATED GASTROPOD ASSEMBLAGE FROM THE INFRATRAPPEAN BEDS OF THE RAJAHMUNDRY AREA, ANDHRA PRADESH

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### ABSTRACT

A molluscan fauna dominated principally by the large *Turritelline* (referred to as *Turritella* Lamarck, 1799) gastropods occurs in thick Infratrappean beds of Doddukuru along with *Volutomorpha* (Gabb, 1877) and bivalves such as *Venericardia* (Lamarck, 1801), *Cardium* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Glycymeris* (Da Costa, 1778) and *Tellina* (Linne, 1758). They are found in the Soma quarry near Gowripatnam and also in the Tadapudi canal section where blocks of sandy limestone (Infratrappean beds) dredged from the bottom of a canal, contain abundant *Turritellines*. High density of *Turritellines* indicates shallow shelf environment with well-oxygenated conditions below wave base. This is the first report of such an assemblage from the Infratrappean beds of east coast of India; their palaeogeographic and palaeoecological significance is also discussed.

**Keywords:** Palaeoecology, *Turritella*, Infratrappean, Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh