

GEOLOGICAL AND PALEOBOTANICAL EVIDENCE FOR
TRIASSIC GLACIATION FROM KURUNEGALA

Kapila Dahanayake
Earth Sciences Division
Institute of Fundamental Studies, Hantana, Kandy

H A H Jayasena
Dept. of Geology, University of Peradeniya

B K Singh
Central Ground Water Board, Lucknow, India

R S Tiwari and Archana Tripathi
Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow, India

In various localities of the lowlands of Kurunegala District, sedimentary successions consisting of clay, sand and till-like sediments extending to depths of more than 30m can be observed. In sand and till-like sediments, angular unweathered feldspar grains and pentagonal flat pebbles characteristic of glaciation are encountered. In successions dominated by sands and clays a clear rhythmicity- again suggestive of glacial varves- is noted.

Preliminary palynological observations on the organic component of clayey layers from stratigraphic sections at Metibokka and Pussella show the presence of genera Lundbladispora, Callumispora, Verrucosisporites, Palyfordiaspora, Lunatisporites, Striatopodocarites, Satsangisaccites, Falcisporites, Densipollenites. The association of these genera suggests an early Triassic age for the sediments.