THE Paleobotanical Society, organised the First
Indian Geophytological Conference in Lucknow
from 21st to 24th December, 1975. The com-
plexion of the Conference was the combination of Geological Sciences, Biological Sciences (includ-
ing Paleobiological Sciences) and Oil Sciences.
Although the Conference had the title Geophyt-
ological Conference, it was more than paleobotanical
in its deliberations. The Conference was held in
8 sessions.

Two sessions were devoted to plant morphology and
taxonomy where twentythree papers were
presented highlighting the importance of the pollen
morphological studies of the tri-colporate, the
ontogeny of stomata of some members of Apocyn-
aceae (Trivedi and Upadyaya), the oil-bodies in
South Indian liverwort (Udar and Nath) and the
genetic engineering for certain ornamentals
(Raghuvanshi and others).

Two sessions were devoted to Paleobotany and
Phylogeny where twenty papers were presented on
the following subjects: (1) A new genus from the
Deccan Intertrappean beds of Madhya Pradesh
(B. S. Trivedi and others), (2) A new genus and
species based on the study of wood material
(K. S. Patil), (3) The new taxa, of Chara, Agaricus
and Nitellites, from the Intertrappean beds of
different regions (T. V. Sivarudrappa, T. K. Trivedi,
S. B. Batia and A. R. Kulkarni), (4) New species
Ottocaria, Palmoxyylon and Phyllophyllum (Manju
Banerjee, S. S. Berlinge, S. A. Paradkar, Sukdev
and Zeba Banu). The papers dealing with fossil
algae were presented by A. K. Pal and others on the
assemblage of undoubted Permian age from Garhwal
Himalaya. Only one paper dealing with the Pollen
was presented by S. K. Bakshi and Urmila Deb.
This paper covered the Cenozoic sequence of Assam
and Bengal regions and the morphological evolu-
tionary trends of two genera.

One session was devoted to stratigraphy at which
thirteen papers were presented. The papers covered
stratigraphic aspects of Algal Stromatolites of
Vindhyans of Western Rajasthan (G. Barman and
K. K. Varma), spore-pollen assemblage from Iran
and Kobra Coal Fields (D. C. Bharadwaj and
others), Paleo-stratigraphic zonation of the coal
bearing Horizon of Godavari (A. A. Mohiz and
N. Ramana Rao), Palino-stratigraphy of the Mukir
Formation (S. C. D. Sah and others), Paleontologi-
cal demarcation of the Subathu and Daqshai sedi-
ments of Simla Hills (H. P. Singh and others) and
Geologic range of Fossil Algae from the Mesozoic
rocks of Trichinopoly District of Tamil Nadu, South
India (S. Sambe Gowda). This paper dealt with the
stratigraphic range of leading genera and also the
genus Corallina. The fossil algae in this region
could be used for palaeoecological interpretations.
The paper by M. N. Vishwanathaiah and others on
the stratigraphic position of Badami group dealt
with the acritarchs groupable into three distinct
assemblages ranging in age from Ordovician to
Silurian. The paper by D. C. Bharadwaj and A.
Dwivedi dealt with the statistical approach to the
circumscription of species in spore disperse.

The Conference was also concerned with the
plant ecology and geography. These papers were
dedicated with geographical and ecological aspects
of the living as well as the fossil plants. Paper
by Ramanujam was concerned with the palynolog-
ical approach in regard to the study of palaeoecology
and palaeogeography of the plant kingdoms
represented by Warkalli deposits of Kerala. Paper
by Thothathri dealt with phytogeographic studies of
Andaman and Nicobal regions. Paper by Pattanaik
and Sharma concerned itself with preliminary
studies of economically important plants of the
Ganjam District in Orissa State.

Session VIII was devoted to sedimentology and
biopetrology with eight papers. One paper
by Navale dealt with the Biopetiology of Kargali seam of the East Bokaro Coal Field in Bihar, the rest of the papers were concerned with the sedimentological studies of rocks of some regions in the Central and Northern parts of India. Paper by Basumallick and Sharma was concerned with the discovery of Glaucenites from Eocene carbonates of Assam region. The paper by Arambodha Ghosh on the overgrowth in Albite and K-Feldspar, as found in the fresh-water Lameta beds, was of interest because of his reasoning that the marine conditions need not necessarily be ideal for Na+ and K+ metasomatism. A paper by A. R. Bhattacharya was concerned with Zircon and Tourmaline, from the Precambrian arenaceous rock units of distinct Lithostratigraphic units. He has shown that the shape and size of these two minerals can be used as distinct criteria for recognizing the differences in apparently similar-looking rock units.

Of the two symposia, one was concerned with the soil plant relationship and the other with the climatic vicissitudes in India during the Gondwana times. In the former symposium there were as many as twentyfive papers, all dealing with the mineralogical influence on the growth of plants and their distribution pattern. The latter symposium had eight papers dealing with the climatic vicissitudes of the Gondwana Era in India. The discovery of lowest Gondwana beds, equivalents of Talciris, consisting of unsorted boulders and khokhi shales in the Chingelpet District of Tamil Nadu, discovered by the workers of G.S.I. was not, unfortunately, a part of the review presented at the session by one of the workers of the G.S.I.

The Conference was inaugurated by Vice-Chancellor Kaul who dealt with the palaeogeographic distribution of plants of the South Asian and Australasian regions. The Presidential address by Prof. R. C. Mishra dealt with the application of geobiological techniques in the exploration for economically important mineral deposits. The author of this report hopes that the first geophytological conference would be a happy augury for many more in the years to come.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON 'USE OF NON-HUMAN PRIMATES IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH'

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RECOGNIZING the importance of non-human primates in biomedical research to the overall welfare of mankind, the Indian National Science Academy sponsored an international symposium on the 'Use of non-human primates in biomedical research'. The objectives of the symposium were: (1) to evolve an international convention of non-human primates to avoid depletion of wild populations by the growing needs of research, (2) to direct efforts towards formulation of scientifically sound programmes of management and conservation of non-human primates as a valuable natural resource.

The symposium was held in New Delhi from November 3-8, 1975 and was attended by 120 leading biomedical scientists from 13 countries, representatives from the World Health Organization and from all research institutions and agencies in India. Forty-two papers were presented, dealing with the use of non-human primates in areas of biomedical research directly relevant to human health and welfare, namely, reproductive biology, contraceptive technology, nutrition, neurobiology, surgery, infectious diseases, immunology, psychopharmacology, toxicology, pharmacology and the study of non-human primates in the wild and their conservations.

The discussions focussed attention on issues of vital importance, namely:

(a) relevance of using non-human primate models in biomedical research and other biomedical endeavours,

(b) Consideration of steps to be taken to conserve non-human primate populations which represent a valuable natural resource,

(c) specific recommendations for judicious and restrained use of non-human primates in biomedical research.