

Magnolia lacoena, *Diospyros rotundifolia*, *D. amblyensis* and *Cassia vaughani*. *Hamamelites cordatus* was observed in the Upper Cretaceous rocks of south Carolina and Georgia¹⁴.

Platanus shirleyensis and *Oreodaphne shirleyensis* are the characteristic species of the Upper Cretaceous Tuscaloosa Formation in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama¹⁵. And *Terminalia phaeocarpoides* has been reported in the Upper Cretaceous of Bohemia, and Mc Bean Formation (Clairborne Group, Eocene) of the USA¹⁴.

As is evident, the discovered megafloal assemblage (in profuse quantitative composition) belongs to the Upper Cretaceous age. Since most of the leaf impressions occur in entirety—and not as bioclastic limestone debris and so there is no question of contamination and reworking of sediments—and entirely of Angiosperm class, they undoubtedly are of Upper Cretaceous age. And since the Tal Formation conformably overlies the upper Krol Formation in the Maldeota area (figure 1 B), the former sequence cannot be of Pre-Cretaceous age.

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NEWS

LASER IN SURGERY

For the first time, surgeons have applied the laser beam to cure cardiac arrhythmia. The operation has been successfully performed at the Kaunas Medical Institute (Soviet Baltic). After dissecting the thorax, surgeons aim the laser beam at an auricle, destroying those fascicles of nerve fibres which cause an increased frequency of systoles and arrhythmia. According to the scientist, the method of laser surgery is very

convenient for surgeons: the operation lasts 20 or 30 seconds, obviating the need for artificial blood circulation. The cardiologist can perform operations on the heart without surgical operation. Such operations are being already experimented on animals. Soviet doctors also apply lasers to treat the gastrointestinal tract, burns and in thoracic surgery. (*Soviet Features*, Vol. XXIII, No. 194, December 27, 1984)