



Figure 2. *Ditremaster* sp., aboral view ($\times 1.75$ approx.).

small tubercles is present on coastae between each pore pair. In ambulacrum III both the pores of pore pair are elliptical in shape (maximum and minimum diameters 0.45 mm and 0.15 mm respectively) and are separated by a single tubercle.

Ambulacral plates simple and in poriferous zone each plate is perforated by a pore pair. The length and width of the largest ambulacral plate are 2.28 mm and 0.45 mm respectively. The specimen has only a 1.14 mm wide peripetalous fasciole which passes all around the extremities of petals, curving sharply inwards just posterior of petals II and IV.

The test is ornamented with non-perforated and non-crenulated tubercles which are sunken in small circular scrobicules. Orally, these are denser than those on aboral side. However, peristome and periproct are not preserved in the specimen.

The presence of a peripetalous fasciole and ethmolytic apical system with two genital pores confirms it to be a hemiasterid. It has also been observed that at the generic level, the other morphological characters of the specimen share with two genera namely *Ditremaster* Munier-Chalmas, 1885 and *Opissaster* Pomel, 1883, but the former differs from the latter in not having an oval test, deep frontal sinus and a centrally situated apical system¹⁰.

The specimen no. I-133 has been deposited in the Regional Palaeontological Laboratory, Geological Survey of India, Jaipur.

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Marine Permian fossils from foothills of Bhutan Himalaya

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The sequence of rocks with marine Permian fossils referred to as Seti Khola Formation in the present paper is well exposed in the Sankosh valley of Bhutan. The 1000-m-thick fossiliferous Formation is overlying Siwalik, with a northward dipping thrust (Main Boundary Thrust) separating the two. Fossils, represented by brachiopods, gastropods, bryozoans and crinoids, suggest late Lower Permian age. Sedimentological studies indicate a shallow-water mixed environment to lagoonal environment.

WELL-PRESERVED marine Permian fossils represented by brachiopods, gastropods, bryozoans and crinoids have been discovered from the Sankosh valley of Bhutan Lesser Himalaya (see Figure 1). The fossil locality is defined by coordinates $26^{\circ}44'$ and $89^{\circ}48'$; best outcrops are exposed along the Seti Khola. The Seti Khola Formation that lies north of Siwalik and south of Phuntsholing formation was considered part of the continental Gondwana sequence by majority of workers^{1,2} and Eocene by others³. Profuse biotic activity in the Formation warranted a closer examination and systematic search for the fossils.

Three mappable units separated from each other by a tectonic plane are demarcated (Figure 1). The Siwalik Group of rocks (thickness ~ 1700 m) are exposed in the south of the area and are thrust over by the rocks of the Seti Khola Formation. The northward dipping thrust designated as Main Boundary Thrust (MBT) separates the two units. In the north, Phuntsholing formation with quartzite and phyllite is thrust over the Seti Khola Formation. This Formation with over

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