

the comprehensive list of Deccan Inter-trappean plant fossils is not in the least comprehensive, probably because the exhaustive review of the subject by Bande *et al.* (1988) has not been relied upon. The same is true for the list of Lower Gondwana plant fossils (Table 24.1) which is based on information as old as 1966 and 1974. The two chapters on application of palaeobotany to exploration of fossil fuels, though very welcome additions, could have been better organized. Even a novice in palaeopalynology knows that 'macerated sediment' (p. 292) is not mounted for palynological studies, or that polyvinyl alcohol is not a mounting medium (p. 302), or that histograms cannot be drawn by qualitative analysis alone (p. 293). One can go on adding to this list of errors and omissions, which is large enough to confuse even a seasoned teacher of palaeobotany.

Agashe's book essentially is a poor imitation of its worthy predecessors. Its below-average production, uniformly poor line-drawings, often incoherent running

matter, repetitive and many a time out of place statements, and umpteen printer's devils are enough to keep the student at bay. Even the name of Adolphe Brongniart, Father of Palaeobotany, is misspelled as Adolphus Brogniart throughout the book. Both Queen's and American spellings are used, for example, Paleobotany, color, and fossilised, organised, etc. In expression and grammar the book is not better than many High School texts. The author claims to have given 'a good amount of coverage' to Gondwana and Tertiary floras of India, probably that is why, out of the papers by Indian authors listed in the References, almost 15 per cent are those of the author, rest 85 per cent are shared by 50-odd other authors. The Gondwana student is not introduced to the monumental palaeobotanical contributions of Ottokar Feistmantel. Recent contributions on Indian palaeobotany are for the most part not referred. A large number of the publications cited in the text are not listed in the References; quite a few are wrongly

cited, and not all the references are arranged in an alphabetical and chronological order. The author and the publishers are also to be faulted for not indicating source of a large number (> 50) of illustrations borrowed/redrawn from published literature. There is supposed to be a concluding chapter on ongoing palaeobotanical research in different countries, etc. (p. 2). I miss this chapter in the Review Copy. In spite of the all inclusive title, this book has failed the expectations of the Indian students, both undergraduate and the graduate. Oxford and IBH Publishers will be well-advised to withdraw this edition of the book, get it properly pre-reviewed and thoroughly edited, and only then print a new edition.

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