THE PERMIAN BRACHIOPOD FAUNA OF THE HIMALAYA: PALAEOBIOGEOGRAPHIC IMPLICATIONS

TRILOCHAN SINGH

WADIA INSTITUTE OF HIMALAYAN GEOLOGY, DEHRA DUN, INDIA

ABSTRACT

The Permian brachiopods occur abundantly in the Lesser and the Tethyan belts of the Himalaya. A detailed account of the brachiopod fauna from different localities in the two belts is given in the paper. The fauna can be grouped biostratigraphically into Early and Late Permian. The Early Permian fauna is characterised by Ambikella, Taeniothaerus, Cyrtella, Reticularia, Brachythyris, Wyndhamia and others. This brachiopod fauna is characteristically associated with Eurydesma-Deltopecten fauna its older part. The Late Permian brachiopods include Lamnimargus, Costiferina, Uncinunellina, Waagenoconcha, Lyttonia, Krotovia and others.

The palaeobiogeographic implications of the Permian brachiopod fauna of the Himalayan region have also been discussed. It is suggested that, in general, cold climatic conditions prevailed in the Himalayan region during the Early Permian except a few localities, followed by a warmer phase in Late Permian times. The analysis also suggest that this fauna belongs to Gondwana biogeographical province.

INTRODUCTION

The Permian brachiopod fauna are found abundantly in the Himalaya and are distributed throughout the Permian sequences in Salt Range (Waggen, 1882-85; Reed, 1931, 1936, 1944; Kummel and Teichert, 1970; Grant, 1970; Ibrahim-Shah, 1977; Waterhouse and Gupta, 1983), Zanskar (Nanda and Singh, 1976; - Srikantia et al., 1978b; Gupta and Waterhouse, 1978c), Lahaul and Spiti (Diener, 1899, 1915; Srikantia et al., 1978a; Gupta and Waterhouse, 1978 a,b), Kashmir (Diener, 1915; Bion and Middlemiss, 1928; Reed, 1932; Nakazawa et al., 1975; Nakazawa and Kapoor, 1981), Bhadarwah-Bhallesh-Chamba (Gupta, 1971; Kapoor, 1973; Raina et al., 1975, Datta and Bhattacharya, 1975), Kinnaur (Chopra et al., 1980), Garhwal (Chaturvedi and Talent, 1972; Shankar et al., 1973; Waterhouse and Gupta, 1978, 1982; Gupta, 1982), Kumaun (Mamgain and Sastry, 1971; Valdiya and Gupta, 1972; Shah and Sinha, 1974), Nepal (Waterhouse, 1966, 1976, 1978), Sikkim (Muir-Wood and Oakley, 1941; Sahni and Srivastava, 1956; Gupta and Waterhouse, 1979), Bhutan (Gupta and Waterhouse, 1979), and Arunachal Pradesh (Diener, 1905; Sahni and Srivastava, 1956; Singh, 1973, 1978a,b).

These localities fall into two main belts of the Himalaya, viz. the Lesser Himalayan belt and the Tethyan Himalayan belt. The Lesser Himalayan localities include those of Bhadarwah-Bhallesh-Chamba, Garhwal, South Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh, while the Tethyan Himalayan localities include those of Zanskar, Lahaul and Spiti, Kinnaur, Kumaun, Nepal, North Sikkim and Bhutan. However, Salt

Range and Kashmir have their separate identity which cannot be attributed to any of the above two belts.

THE BRACHIOPOD FAUNA

The brachiopods are reported from a number of localities in the Himalaya (fig. 1) as mentioned above. These localities have been grouped biostratigraphically into two faunal groups, i.e. Early and Late Permian. In the present paper, the Early Permian is regarded as comprising the Asselian, Sakmarian and Artinskian stages, and the Late Permian includes Kungarian, Kazanian, Punjabian and Djulfian stages. The distribution of brachiopod faunal localities is shown in table 1, and the brachiopods occurring in these localities are given in Appendix I.

The overall fauna is represented by 51 families. The common families include Spiriferidae, Syringothyrididae, Marginiferidae, Chonetidae, Martiniidae, Linoproductidae, Licherwiidae and Monticuliferidae. These families are represented by 97 different genera, besides some other indeterminable genera. Of these, 17 are restricted to the Early Permian, 40 to the Late Permian, and rest are common to both. The most common genera are Neospirifer, Cleiothyridina, Spiriferella, Marginifera, Dielasma, Linoproductus, Dictyoclostus and Derbyia.

The Early Permian brachiopod fauna occurs in the Dandot, Sardi and Amb Formations of Salt Range, Ralukung Volcanic Succession of Zanskar, Lower Kuling Formation of Lahaul and Spiti, Diamictite and Pyroclastic Divisions of Agglomeratic Slate in Kashmir, Tramawala Formation of Bhadarwah-Bhallesh-Chamba, Boulder Slate Formation of Garhwal, Upper Palaeozoic sediments of South Sikkim, and Garu Formation of Arunachal Pradesh. The fauna is characterised by the presence of Ambikella, Taeniothaerus, Cyrtella, Reticularia, Brachythyris, Wyndhamia and others. This brachiopod fauna is characteristically associated with Eurydesma-Deltopecten fauna in its older part.

The Late Permian brachiopods are known from Wargal and Chhiddru Formations of Salt Range, Sarchu Limestone of Zanskar, Upper Kuling Formation of Lahaul and Spiti, Zewan Formation of Kashmir, Talai Formation of Bha larwah-Bhallesh-Chamba, Late Permian sediments of Kinnaur, Kuling Shale Formation of Kumaun, Nangung and Senja Formations of Nepal, Lachi Series of North Sikkim, and Black Mountain area of Bhutan. The characteristic

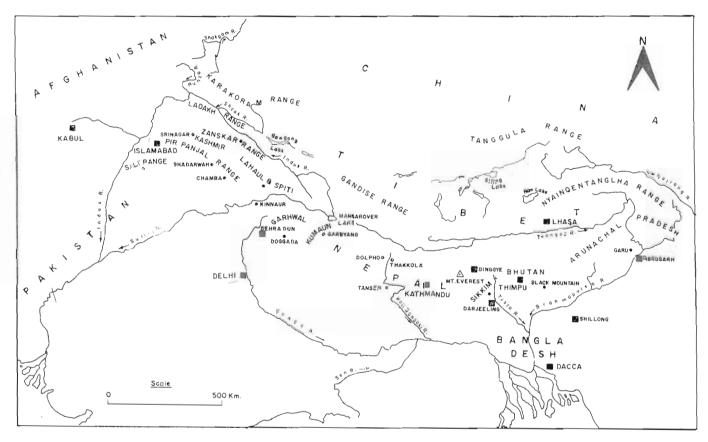


Fig. 1. Permian Brachiopod localities in the Himalaya.

Table 1: Distribution of Permian Brachiopods in the Himalaya

AGE	STAGE	CHARACTERISTIC FORMS	DISTRIBUTION
LATE PERMIAN	Djulfian Punjabian Kazanian Kungarian	Lamnimargus, Costiferina, Uncinunellina, Waagenoconcha, Lyttonia, Krotovia	Wargal and Chhidru Formation, Salt Range; Sarchu Limestone, Zanskar; Upper Kuling Formation, Lahaul and Spiti; Zewan Formation, Kashmir; Talai Formation, Bhadarwah-Bhallesh- Chamba; Tidong Valley, Kinnaur; Kuling Shale Formation, Kumaun; Senja and Nangung Formation, Nepal; Lachi Series, Sikkim; Black Mountain area, Bhutan
EARLY PERMIAN	Artinskian Sakmarian Asselian	Ambikella, Taeniothaerus, Cyrtella, Reticularia, Brachythyris, Wyndhamia	Tobra, Dandot, Sardi and Amb Formations, Salt Range; Ralu Kung Volcassic succession, Zanskar; Lower Kuling Formation, Lahaul and Spiti, Diamictite and Pyroclastic Division of Agglomeratic Slate, Kashmir; Tramawala Formation, Bhadarwah Bhallesh-Chamba; Boulder Slate Sequence, Garhwal; South Sikkim; Garu Formation, Arunachal Pradesh.

genera of this fauna include Lamnimargus, Costiferina, Uncinunellina, Waagenoconcha, Lyttonia, Krotovia and others.

The fauna shows strong affinity with the Australian fauna. Early Permian fauna also compares closely with the Tibetan fauna.

PALAEOBIOGEOGRAPHIC IMPLICATIONS

The Permian marine sequences are not continuously exposed in the Himalayan domain, except in the Salt Range and Kashmir which provide a key to numerous other sporadically distributed less complete successions in other parts of the Himalaya. Furthermore, the Early Permian sediments have more or less a complete record of brachiopods, whereas the Late Permian brachiopods are poorly recorded. Though it is difficult to examine the fauna according to its exact superpositional relationship, the available data in lateral extent can, however, be useful in understanding the environmental conditions.

In Salt Range, the Permian sequence begins with tillite, overlain by some marine beds with a Eurydesma fauna. Brachiopods are particularly well represented in the Amb Formation having slightly more diversified fauna. The overlying Wargal and Chhidru Formations have a highly diversified fauna including characteristic species of Aulosteges, Callispirina, Cleiothyridina, Waagenoconcha and others. The Permian fauna here in the basal section indicates a cool environment, while that of the upper part is interpreted as changing from warm temperate to tropical one.

In Kashmir, the base of the Permian sequence is marked by the Diamictite Division which, according to Nakazawa et al. (1975), is not indicative of glacigene conditions; it is, however, interpreted to represent colder conditions on the basis of the characteriscold water brachiopod genus Ambikella accompanied by a Eurydesma fauna. Similar conditions are also indicated for the overlying Pyroclastic Division, which contains Ambikella, Stepanoviella, and other characteristic cold water forms. However, the Late Permian Zewan Formation contains a highly diversified fauna including Costiferina. Waagenoconcha, Cleiothyridina, Cancrinella and other brachiopods associated with fusulinids. This is indicative of tropical conditions. Thus, the Kashmir fauna indicates cold water conditions during the Early Permian and tropical conditions during the Late Permian.

The Early Permian brachiopod fauna of Lahaul

and Spiti, South Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh is associated with a *Eurydesma* fauna and is closely related to the Kashmir and Salt Range faunas. This fauna is indicative of cold water conditions. However, the Early Permian fauna of Garhwal, Bhadarwah-Bhallesh-Chamba and Zanskar shows little diversification, though the analysis of brachiopod fauna (Singh, 1987) is indicative of temperate conditions. This is very significant as this fauna also contains *Eurydesma*. This might indicate intermixing of cold and warm water fauna.

The Late Permian brachiopods from Zanskar, Lahaul and Spiti, Bhadarwah-Bhallesh-Chamba, Kinnaur, Nepal and North Sikkim include Lamnimargus, Waagenoconcha and other characteristic forms indicative of warm water conditions. In contrast, the brachiopods of Kumaun Tethyan Himalaya indicate cold water conditions (Waterhouse and Bonham-Carter, 1975, p. 1096; Singh, 1987).

Thus, it is suggested that the cold climatic conditions prevailed in the Himalayan region during the Early Permian with the exception of a few localities, where it witnessed a warmer phase during the Late Permian time.

The analysis also suggests that the Permian brachiopod fauna of the Himalaya belongs to one biogeographic province, viz. the Gondwana biogeographic province, the northern boundary of which lies to the north of the South Tibet.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is grateful to his colleagues Dr. N.S. Mathur and Dr. N.S. Virdi for going through the manuscript. Facilities rendered by the Director of Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology are thankfully acknowledged.

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Appendix - 1: Brachiopod Fauna of the Himalayan Localities

LOCALITY	AUTHORS	GROUP/ FORMATION	AGE	BRACHIOPOD FAUNA
I. SALT RANGE	Waagen (1882-85), Reed (1931, 1936, 1944), Kummel and Teichert (1970), Grant (1970), Waterhouse and Gupta (1983)	Chhidru Formation Wargal Formation	Late Permian	Orthis, Aulosteges, Callispirina, Chonetella, Cleiothyridina, Derbyia, Enteletes, Hemiptychina, Hustedia, Kiangsiella, Lyttonia, Martinia, Neospirifer, Orthotichia, Notothyris, Richthofenia, Spiriferella, Mentzelia, Waagenoconcha, Spirigerella, Spiriferina, Whitspakia, Meekella, Athyris, Ruthenia, Linoproductus, Strophalosia, Chonetes, Chonetinella, Oldhaminia, Streptorhynchus, Dictyoclostus, Buxtonia, Cancrinella, Marginifera, Uncinunellina, Uncinella, Camerophorina, Dielasma, Elivina, Purdonella, Spiriferellina, Pugnax, Juresania, Haydenella, Chonetina, Lissochonetes, Rhynchophora, Dielasmina.
		Amb Formation Sardi Formation Warchha Formation Dandot Formation Tobra Formation	Early Permian	Orthis, Orthotichia, Derbyia, Dictyoclostus, Marginifera, Neospirifer, Strophalosia, Dielasma, Chonetes, Notothyris, Martiniopsis, Athyris, Spirifer, Discina, Streptorhynchus, Aulosteges, Rhynchophora, Dielasmina, Hemiptychina, Hustedia, Uncinella, Spiriferella, Martinia, Paeckelmanella, Mentzelia, Spiriferellina, Cleiothyridina, Spirigerella, Pugnax
II. ZANSKAR	Nanda and Singh (1976), Srikantia et al. (1978b), Gupta and Waterhouse (1978c)	Sarchu Limestone	Late Permian	Lamnimargus, Spiriferella, Spiriferellina, Neospirifer, Camerotoechia, Athuris.
		Ralukung Volcanic Succession	Early Permian	? Derbyia, Kiangsiella, Juresania, Refimargomtfera, ? Reticulatia, Cletothyridina, Linoproductus, Spiriter. Spiriferella, Chonetes, Marginifera
III. LAHAUL AND SPITI	Diener (1899, 1915), Srikantia et al. (1978a), Gupta & Waterhouse (1978a, b)	Kuling Formation	Late Permian	Marginifera, Chonetes, Lamnimargus, Anidanthus, Spiriferella, Productus, Cleiothyridina, Neospirifer
			Early Permian	Neospirifer, Cleiothyridina, Dielasma, Kiangsiella, Streptorhynchus, Aulosteges
IV. KASHMIR	Diener (1915), Bion & Middlemiss (1928), Reed (1932), Nakazawa et al. (1975), Nakazawa & Kapoor (1981).	Zewan Formation	Late Permian	Schellwienella, Derbyia, Chonetina, Lissochonetes, Marginifera, Pustulla, Waagenoconcha, Costiferina. Linoproductus, Athyris, Cleiothyridina, Neospiriter. Dielasma, Wellerella, Ruthenia, Spingerella, Camarophorina. Lyttonia, Dictyoclostus, Haydenella, Hemiptychina, Spiriferellina
		Pyroclastic Division and Diamictite Division	Early Permian	Stepanoviella, Taeniotherus, Buxtonia, Neospirifer, Ambikella, Wyndhamia, Spiriferella, Cyrtella, Trigonotreta, Fusispirifer, Streptorhynchus, Syringothyris, Martiniopsis, Reticularia, Cancrinella, Strophalosia, Fusella, Brachythyris
V. BHADAR- WAH BHALLE- SH- CHAMBA	Gupta (1971), Kapoor (1973), Raina et al. (1975), Datta & Bhattacharyya (1975)	Talai Formation	Late Permian	Lissochonetes, Marginifera, Spiriferella, Spiriferina

LOCALITY	AUTHORS	GROUP/ FORMATION	AGE	BRACHIOPOD FAUNA
;		Tramawala Formation	Early Permian	Ambikella, Cleiothyridina, Derbyia, Dictyoclostus, Fusispirifer, Lissochonetes, Neospirifer, Pseuuosyrinx, Streptorhynchus, Taeniothaerus, Trigonotreta, Marginifera, Schellwienella
VI. KINNAUR (TIDONG VALLEY)	Chopra et al. (1980)		Late Permian	Spiriferella, Costiferina, Lamnimargus, Waagenoconcha, Cleiothyridine, Dielasmatids, Neospirifer.
VII. GARHWAL LESSER HIMALAYA	Chaturvedi & Talent (1972), Shankar <i>et</i> A <i>al.</i> (1973), Waterhouse & Gupta (1978, 1982), Gupta (1982)	Boulder Slate Sequence	Early Permian	Spirifer, Neospirifer, Eomarginifera, Pseudomarginifera, Linoproductus, Dictyoclostus, Derbyia, Wyndhamia, Lissochonetes, Cancrinella, ? Anidanthus, Brachythyrinella, Cleiothyridina, Strophalosia, Streptorhynchus. Waagenoconchu. Chonetes.
TETHYS	Mamgain and Sastry (1971), Valdiya and A Gupta (1972), Shah & Sinha (1974)	Kuling Shale Formation	Late Permian	Paramarginifera, Spiriferella, Linoproductus, Chonetes, Dielasma, Waagenoconcha, Cleiothyridina, Spirigerella, Marginifera, Costiferina, Strophalosia, Lyttonia, Productus, Martinia, Neospirifer, Ruthenia
IX. NEPAL TETHYS HIMALAYA	Waterhouse (1966, 1976a, 1978)	Senja Formation And Nangung Formation	Late Permian	Aulostegid, Krotovia, Dictyoclostus, Canerinella, Terrakea, Cleiothyridina Suleirugaria, Echinalosia, Lialosia, Paucispinauria, Spiriferella, Martiniopsis, Reticularina, Callispirina, Hoskingia, Megasteges, Platyconcha, Orthotichia, ? Arctitreta, Sulcataria, Chonetinella, Strophalosia, Waagenoconcha, Marginifera, ? Echinauris, Lamnimargus, Reticulatia, Costiferina, Cancrinella, Uncinunellina, Stenoscisma, Neospirifer, Pteroplecta, Ambikella, Spiriferellina, Rhynchophora, Dielasmina
X. NORTH SIKKIM	Muirwood & Oakley (1941), Gupta and Waterhouse (1979)	Lachi Series	Late Permian	Dictyoclostus, Linoproductus, Marginifera, Waagenoconcha, Uncinunellina, Spinferella, Syrin othyris, Archtreta, Suleataria, Cleiothyridina, Syringothyrina, Fusispirifer, Neospirifer, Pustella, Chonetes, Camarotoechia.
XI. SOUTH SIKKIM	Sahni and Srivastava (1956)		Early Permian	Neospirifer, Productus, Ambikella, Spirifer, Syringothyris, Cyrtella
XII. BHUTAN (BLACK MOUN- TAIN AREA	Gupta and Waterhouse (1979)		Late Permian	Linoproductus, Stenoscisma, Lamnimargus, Anidanthus. Leptodus, Spiriferella, Neospirifer
XIII. ARUNA- CHAL PRADESH	Diener (1905), Sahni & Srivastava (1956), Singh (1973, 1978a, b)	Garu Formation	Early Permian	Chonetes, Lissochonetes, Linoproductus, Subansiria, Neospirifer, Ambikella, Martinia, Productus, Spirifer, Spiriferina, Reticularia, Dielasma, Syringothyris