

Palaeo-ecological significance of Coralline algae from the Maniyara Fort Formation (Oligocene) of the Kachchh, W. India

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The study area forms a part of the Kachchh Basin, which forms the northern part of the state of Gujarat, lies between Lat. 22° 45' - 24° 0'N and Long. 68° 15' - 71° 30'E. This area also forms the northern extremity of the western coast of India. The outcrop section is well exposed in Waior Village and Bermoti Village of Maniyara Fort Formation of the Oligocene. This paper deals with the coralline algal assemblages of the Oligocene sediments of southwestern Kachchh. Some of the limestone units belonging to Oligocene sediments are known to be potential sources for the recovery of coralline algae from the Coral Member and Bermoti Member of the Maniyara Fort Formation (Oligocene). The algal assemblage is dominated by the genera of articulated and non-articulated coralline algae. Seven coralline algal species have been recorded from the Maniyara Fort Formation. Out of seven taxa, two species belong to sub-family Corallinoideae, four taxa have been assigned to sub-family Melobesioideae and one taxon belong to sub-family Lithophylloideae. These taxa dominate the studied coralline assemblage and seem to be significant from the palaeoecological point of view.

Key-words: Maniyara Fort Formation, Oligocene, Palaeo-ecology, Coralline algae, Kachchh, India.