

Microbiota from the Maldeota Section of BLAINI Formation, KROL Belt Lesser Himalaya

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Blaini Formation in the type Maldeota Section has been divided into seven members. The diamictite beds are lenticular and occur at four levels. The topmost bed of diamictite (Member F) is correlative to the Marinoan?nantau/Varangian glacial. It is conformably capped by pink / purple shale with lenticular dolomite (Member G). The dolomite is correlated with the similar “cap carbonate” of the GSSP, and has been taken to demarcate the base of the Cryogenian-Ediacaran boundary. The only microfossil remain so far known is Blainella, a fossil algae in thin section. To enhance our knowledge, a detailed study has been undertaken in the area. Macerated and thin section studies of diamictite have yielded a rich population of well preserved organic-walled microfossils (OWM) comprising of acritarchs, cyanobacterial remains along with vase-shaped microfossils. These acritarchs belong to Sphaeromorhida, Sphaerohystrichomorhida and Fusomorphida subgroups. Associated cyanobacterial microfossils are solitary, group of sphaeroidal cells (loose/compact), aseptate / septate and coiled trichome with / without mucilaginous sheath comparable to the extant algal group Chroococcales, Eoentophysales and Nostocales. The overall assemblage is comparable to the biota of Cryogenian successions recorded from different parts of the world namely Australia and China.