

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910734825303321
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Titolo	Microbiota from the Late Cretaceous-Early Palaeocene Boundary Transition in the Deccan Intertrappean Beds of Central India : Systematics and Palaeoecological, Palaeoenvironmental and Palaeobiogeographical Implications // by Ashu Khosla, Omkar Verma, Sachin Kania, Spencer Lucas
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cham : , : Springer Nature Switzerland : , : Imprint : Springer, , 2023
ISBN	3-031-28855-6
Edizione	[1st ed. 2023.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (292 pages)
Collana	Topics in Geobiology ; ; 54
Disciplina	561.09548
Soggetti	Paleoecology Paleontology Bioinformatics Archaeology Earth sciences Computational and Systems Biology Earth Sciences
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Chapter1. Introduction to Indian Late Cretaceous-Early Palaeocene Microbiota from the Deccan Intertrappean Beds of the Chhindwara District, Madhya Pradesh, India -- Chapter 2. Historical Background of Late Cretaceous-Early Palaeocene Microbiotic Assemblages from the Deccan Intertrappean Beds of the Chhindwara District, Madhya Pradesh, India -- Chapter 3. Geology and Stratigraphy of Microbiota-Bearing Deccan Intertrappean Beds of the Chhindwara District, Madhya Pradesh, India -- Chapter 4. Indian Late Cretaceous-Early Palaeocene Deccan Microbiota from Chhindwara District, Madhya Pradesh: Systematic Studies -- Chapter 5 Palaeoecological and Palaeoenvironmental Implications of the Cretaceous-Palaeogene Microbiota-Bearing Deccan Intertrappean beds of the Chhindwara District, Madhya Pradesh, India -- Chapter 6. Palaeobiogeographical Implications of Late Cretaceous-Early Palaeocene Microbiota from the Deccan Intertrappean beds of the

This book describes the microbiota of the intertrappean beds in the Chhindwara District, Madhya Pradesh, India. In this work, special emphasis is placed on the microbiota from the Late Cretaceous-Early Palaeocene transition of the central Narmada River region. Recently, the intertrappean beds of the Eastern Deccan Volcanic Province (one of the subprovinces of the Deccan Volcanic Province) have received considerable attention, which resulted in the addition of some significant biotic assemblages to the existing record from the Dindori-Chhindwara area of the province. The biotic assemblages include charophytes, ostracods, foraminiferans, fishes, frogs, lizards, turtles, crocodiles, and mammals. In spite of the recent discoveries, the known fossil record of the Late Cretaceous-Early Palaeocene biota of India is not sufficient and thus does not permit us to speculate on the possible impact of environmental changes triggered by the Deccan volcanic lava flows on the contemporary biota and to precisely document their palaeoecologic, palaeoenvironmental and palaeobiogeographic implications. The recent biotic reports from the intertrappean beds exposed in the Chhindwara region of the Eastern Deccan Volcanic Province clearly indicate that these beds have a vast potential in terms of fossil content, which could reveal new and dissimilar biotic remains when compared to the Western Deccan Volcanic Province. The record of diverse accumulations of freshwater charophytes, brackish to freshwater ostracods, and planktic foraminiferal and fish assemblages from the intertrappean beds of Jhilmili and adjacent areas of Early Danian (P1a) age and lying just north of Chhindwara town and in the heart of peninsular India has intriguing implications for defining the age limits of the basaltic flows. The occurrence of non-marine taxa, for example, algae, molluscs, and vertebrates, associated with brackish water ostracods in the nearby Singpur and Mohgaon Kalan localities of the Chhindwara region, has also raised concerns about the sedimentary environments of these intertrappean beds. The new finds (presented in this book) prove useful for the better understanding of the palaeoecology and palaeoenvironment of the biota and also throw light on various paleobiogeographic models proposed for the northward drifting Indian plate. The microbiotic assemblages of the intertrappean beds of the eastern Deccan volcanic province at District Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh are documented in this book. The microbiota of the central Narmada River region, the charophytes, ostracods, planktic foraminifera, and fishes, receive special attention in this study.

2. Record Nr.	UNICAMPANIAVAN00278485
Autore	Hanada, Masanori
Titolo	MCMC from Scratch : A Practical Introduction to Markov Chain Monte Carlo / Masanori Hanada, So Matsuura
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Singapore, : Springer, 2022
Descrizione fisica	ix, 194 p. : ill. ; 24 cm
Altri autori (Persone)	Matsuura, So
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia