

CARNOCONITES RAJMAHALENSIS (WIELAND) COMB. NOV. FROM THE JURASSIC OF RAJMAHAL HILLS, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Excepting the mode of preservation the specimen of *Williamsonia(?) rajmahalensis* Wieland and those of *Carnoconites laxum* Srivastava have been found to be similar. Therefore, the specimens described by various authors as *Carnoconites laxum* Srivastava are being named as *Carnoconites rajmahalensis* (Wieland) comb. nov.

Key-words — *Carnoconites*, *Williamsonia*, Rajmahal Hills, Jurassic (India).

सारांश

राजमहल पहाड़ियों (भारत) के जूराई कल्प से कार्नोकोनाइटिस राजमहलेन्सिस (वीलैंड) नव संयोजन —
महेन्द्रनाथ बोस, पंकज कुमार पाल एवं टॉम मैक्सवेल हेरिस

परिष्करण के ढंग को छोड़कर विलियमसनिया? राजमहलेन्सिस वीलैंड तथा कार्नोकोनाइटिस लेक्सम श्रीवास्तव के प्रादर्श आपस में एक सदृश प्रेक्षित किए गये हैं। अतएव कार्नोकोनाइटिस लेक्सम श्रीवास्तव के नाम से विभिन्न लेखकों द्वारा वर्णित प्रादर्शों को इस शोध-पत्र में कार्नोकोनाइटिस राजमहलेन्सिस (वीलैंड) नव संयोजन से नामांकित किया गया है।

WHILE working on various organs belonging to the *Pentoxylon* plant we had the occasion to examine the specimen described by Feistmantel (1877, pl. 39, figs 5, 5a, 5b) as "*Inflorescence or Fructification of Cycadeous plants*" from Murrero (now known as Mandro), Rajmahal Hills, Bihar. The specimen was later on described by Wieland (1911) as *Williamsonia(?) rajmahalensis*. In all its available features this specimen agrees with the petrified specimens of *Carnoconites laxum* Srivastava described by Srivastava (1944, 1946), Sahni (1948) and Vishnu-Mittre (1953). However, the mode of preservation of Feistmantel's specimen is different. Besides Feistmantel's specimen (Fig. 1), similarly preserved specimens have also been collected from two other Jurassic localities of the Rajmahal Hills, viz., Onthea (Fig. 2) and Sakrigalighat (Bose, 1959, pl. 3, figs 8, 9). We are convinced that Feistmantel's specimen, described by Wieland (1911) as *Williamsonia(?) rajmahalensis*, and the

petrified specimens described by various authors as *Carnoconites laxum* Srivastava belong to the same species. Thus, according to Article 55.1 of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, *Carnoconites laxum* Srivastava should now be known as *Carnoconites rajmahalensis* (Wieland).

Carnoconites Srivastava, 1944

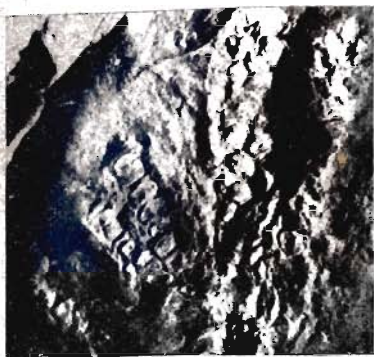
Carnoconites rajmahalensis (Wieland) comb. nov.

Basionym:

1911 *Williamsonia(?) rajmahalensis* Wieland, *Amer. J. Sci.*, 32, p. 461, fig. 17D.

Synonyms:

1877 "*Inflorescence or Fructification of Cycadeous plants*" Feistmantel, *Mem. geol. Surv. India Palaeont. indica*, Ser. 2, 1 (2), p. 79, pl. 39, figs 5, 5a, 5b.



FIGURES 1, 2 — *Carnoconites rajmahalensis* (Wieland) comb. nov. 1, Holotype, from Mandro, G.S.I. no. 4514, $\times 2$; 2, specimen from Onthea, B.S.I.P. no. 35699, $\times 1$.

- 1919 *Haitingeria rajmahalensis* (Wieland) Krasser, *Denkschr. Akad. Wiss. Wien. Math. — Naturwiss. Kl.*, **97**, pp. 3, 16, fig. 10.
- 1928 *Strobilites pascoei* Sahnı, *Mem. geol. Surv. India Palaeont. indica*, n. Ser. **11**, p. 42, pl. 6, figs 98-100.
- 1944 *Carnoconites laxum* Srivastava, *Proc. natn. Acad. Sci. India*, **14** (1), p. 75, pl. 2, fig. 13.
- 1946 *Carnoconites laxum* Srivastava, *Proc. natn. Acad. Sci. India*, **15** (6), p. 207, pl. 8, figs 75-78.
- 1948 *Carnoconites laxum* Srivastava: Sahnı, *Bot. Gaz.*, **110** (1), p. 73, figs 30-33, 44.
- 1953 *Carnoconites laxum* Srivastava: Vishnu-Mittre, *Palaeobotanist*, **2**, p. 83, pl. 5, fig. 1.
- 1959 *Carnoconites laxum* Srivastava: Bose, *Palaeobotanist*, **7** (1), pl. 3, figs 8, 9.
- 1974 *Carnoconites laxum* Srivastava: Rao, p. 207, in K. R. Surange *et al.* (eds) — *Aspects & Appraisal of Indian Palaeobotany*.

Holotype — Specimen no. 4514 of the Geological Survey of India, Calcutta (Feistmantel, 1877, pl. 39, figs 5, 5a, 5b).

Occurrence — Mandro (Murrero: *locus typicus*), Sakrigalighat and Nipania of the Rajmahal Hills, Bihar, India.

Horizon & Age — Rajmahal Formation; Upper Jurassic.

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