

Investigation of a Monocot Caryopsis from the Deccan Intertrappean Beds of Mohgaonkalan, M.P., India

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Abstract: *The present paper deals with the study of a fossil unilocular, monocot caryopsis collected from the well-known locality of Mohgaonkalan, Chhindwara district, M.P., India, which is of uppermost Cretaceous to lower Eocene age. The fruit measures 2.78 – 2.89 mm in length and 2.34 – 2.45 mm in breadth. The fruit is unilocular containing single large seed with the aleuron layer inside the fruit. The pericarp measure 260 to 305 um thick and multilayered, differentiated into three zones i.e. outer, middle and inner zone. Seed is large and measures 2.00 to 2.12 X 1.89 to 2.00 mm in size. Seed coat is bitegmic in nature. Embryo is monocot type and ill preserved. Placentation is basal. Dehiscence is not seen. Vasculature is not clear. The specimen is compared with living genus of modern families and reported fossil monocot fruits as it resembles more with modern family Graminae it is kept under this family but as a separate genus Caryopseocarpondeccanensis gen. et sp. nov..*

Keywords: Deccan, Intertrappean, fossil, cherts, monocot, fruit, caryopsis

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