



Section of Pungadi-limestone showing accumulation of the remains of *Terquemella lenticularis* sp. nov. × 75

for the exact determination of the geologic age. They add, however, markedly to the probability, that the traps of the Rajahmundry area erupted in Tertiary, not in Cretaceous time. Further progress will depend upon the finding of more complete, specifically determinable algal remains in the Rajahmundry-limestone, but even more on the discovery within the tropical regions of other comparable algal floras in rocks of precisely known age.

A fuller description of the Rajahmundry Dasycladaceæ, with plates, will be shortly published in the Proceedings (*Sitzungsberichte*) of the Vienna Academy of Science.

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a modern character. This becomes the more evident, when we compare it with the flora of the Danian Niniyur strata of the Trichinopoly district (Rama Rao and Pia, 1936). Here the living genus *Neomeris* is entirely missing. It is replaced by the extinct *Indopolia*. The more primitive genus *Dissocladella*, represented in the Rajahmundry-limestone by a single, doubtful specimen, is fairly common in the Niniyur strata. The *Acicularia* found in them differs markedly by its stout shape from the one mentioned above.

Summing all these facts we may conclude, that the Dasycladaceæ of the Rajahmundry-limestones do not yet supply a sufficient basis

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—, "*Holosporella* cf. *H. siamensis* Pia, from the Rajahmundry limestones," *Rec. Geol. Surv. Ind., Calcutta*, 1937, 71, Part 4.

Pia, J., "Upper Triassic fossils from the Burmo-Siamese Frontier.—A new Dasycladacea, *Holosporella siamensis* nov. gen., nov. sp., rom. etc.," *ibid.*, 1930, 63, 177.

—, "Sammelbericht über fossile Algen: Dasycladaceæ 1928 bis 1936, mit Nachträgen aus früheren Jahren."—*Neues Jahrb. f. Min. usw.*, Stuttgart, 1937, III, 1020.

Rama Rao, L., Narayana Rao, S. R., and Sripada Rao, K., "On the age of the Deccan Traps near Rajahmundry," *Proc. Ind. Acad. Sci.*, Bangalore, 1936, 3, No. 2, 157.

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## Element 87.

THE discovery of element number 87—the last but one of the missing elements in the periodic table—has been made in France. The finding of this elusive element, whose discovery has been previously reported and afterwards disproved, was made by Horia Hulubei, in France.

The discovery has not yet been reported in scientific journals but was discussed by Dr. F. R. Hirsh, Jr., research fellow at the California Institute of Technology, speaking at a seminar of the physics department. Dr. Hirsh reported that Hulubei's discovery was made as a result of a suggestion of Dr. Jesse W. M. DuMond, research associate at the institute. In 1930 Dr. DuMond first suggested an apparatus, known as the curved crystal focussing spectrograph, which was modified by M. Cauchois and used by Hulubei in the discovery of element number 87.

While at Cornell University Dr. Hirsh, one of the 17 or 18 investigators who sought the formerly missing element, reported to the American Physical Society that he was unable to confirm a prior claim by Professor Jacob Papish and Eugene Warner, for the discovery of the element. Dr. Hirsh predicted that the last missing element, number 85 in the periodic table, might be discovered by the powerful instrument used in France. This instrument is so sensitive that it can detect one part of a given element in 10,000,000,000 parts of polluciate or any chemical or mineral. Polluciate is the mineral in which Hulubei discovered element number 87, and which he has named madavium. The only remaining missing element is ekaiodine.—*Science*, 1937, 86, 2239, pp. 10 (Supplement).