

Himalaya¹⁶. Palaeomagnetic studies also support such an interpretation. Recent palaeomagnetic data¹⁷ for the northwestern Himalaya put the time of the India-Asia collision at ~60 Ma or even close to the K/T boundary as supported by palaeontological evidence for some link between India and Asia at that time^{18,19}. Palaeomagnetic data for the eastern Himalaya demonstrate later collision at 45–50 Ma²⁰.

Assuming an early collision of the Indian plate on its northwestern margin close to the K-T boundary, an interesting point emerges from Figure 2. The peak of hornblende ages at 35–45 Ma for the northwestern Himalaya indicates that crustal thickening associated with the collision and subsequent thermal acme of the regional metamorphism were reached shortly after the collision. This interpretation has been given for the Indian plate crystalline stack in the Pakistan Himalaya²¹. The hornblende ages we report here for the HHC rocks in Zaskar agree with such a thermal history and can be explained considering the very fast drift of the Indian plate during the Cretaceous (18–20 cm/yr compared to the present rate of 4–5 cm/yr) and the substantial decrease in the drift rate during early Tertiary^{17,20}.

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Ornithoid eggshells from Deccan intertrappean beds near Anjar (Kachchh), Western India

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We describe here the ornithoid eggshell fragments from the Deccan intertrappean beds (Late Cretaceous) near Anjar, district Kachchh, Gujarat. The find assumes palaeobiogeographic significance as morphologically similar eggshells are known from the Late Cretaceous Nemegt Formation of Mongolia. Taxonomic affinities (dinosaurian/avian) of these eggshells cannot be established at present.

DOCUMENTATION of dinosaur (sauropod) egg clutches from Late Cretaceous Lameta Formation of central and

western India has increased considerably in recent years^{1–5}. However, the record of ornithoid (or avian-like⁶) eggshells was so far restricted to Pleistocene deposits where they have been referred to the ostrich *Struthio* cf. *S. asiaticus*⁷. Here we describe such eggshells from the Deccan intertrappean beds at a locality about 1.5 km SE of the village Viri (23° 4' 50" N: 70° 30' E) near Anjar, district Kachchh, Gujarat (Figure 1). This record, of which a brief mention was recently made⁸, follows the discovery of dinosaur bones in the same general area⁹.

The eggshell-yielding bed comprises dark grey splintery shale containing stringers of chert. In the local flow stratigraphy⁹, it occurs between the third and fourth lava flows, representing the third intertrappean level in the area (Figure 1). Screen-washing of these shales yielded a diverse assemblage of eggshell fragments including those of sauropod dinosaurs and geckonid lizards, besides the most abundant ornithoid