

## DISTRIBUTION OF PLATYSPERMIC GONDWANIC SEEDS

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### ABSTRACT

The paper contains the stratigraphic and chronological distribution of platyspermic gondwanic seeds in the countries and regions, viz., Brasil, South African Republic, Zaire, Mozambique, Madagascar, Argentina, Antarctica, Australia and India. Among the species reported, 33 belong to the genus *Samaropsis*, 12 to the genus *Cordaicarpus*, 4 to the genus *Cornucarpus*, 2 to the genus *Alatocarpus* and 1 to the genera *Nummulospermum* and *Eucerospermum*.

**Key-words** — Platyspermic seeds, Gondwanaland, *Samaropsis*, *Cordaicarpus*, *Cornucarpus*, *Alatocarpus*, *Nummulospermum*, Brasil.

### सारांश

गोंडवाना के चिपिटबीजी बीजों का वितरण — होजे हेनरीक मिलन

इस शोध-पत्र में गोंडवाना देशों एवं क्षेत्रों अर्थात् बाजील, दक्षिणी अफ्रीकी गणराज्य, जायर, मोजाम्बिक, मेडागास्कर, अर्जेन्टाइना, अन्टार्कटिका, आँटेलिया एवं भारत में बीजों का स्तरिक तथा कालानुक्रमी वितरण प्रस्तुत किया गया है। वर्णित जातियों में 33 सैमारोप्सिस वंश की, 12 कौर्डियकॉर्पस वंश की, 4 कॉर्नुकार्पस वंश की, 2 अलिटोकार्पस वंश की तथा एक-एक नमुलोस्पर्मम् एवं यूसेरोस्पर्मम् वंशों की हैं।

### INTRODUCTION

**I**N GONDWANALAND, two general types of seeds or ovules, preserved as casts or impressions, are recognized: the radiospermic and the platyspermic. The former are symmetrical in more than two planes and the latter are symmetrical in two or in only one plane.

Maithy (1965) has proposed a scheme to classify gondwanic seeds. This scheme was later called by Millan (1969) as "Maithy Scheme" and it consists of a rational method of work to compare and to identify species of seeds. Since then, other contributions were made in order to modify such scheme (Millan, 1974a) and to finish it off and to put it up to date (Millan, 1974b).

Millan (1974b) presented thesis "Docência-Livre" in National Museum, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, in which he discussed the distribution of these seeds, specially the platyspermic ones. The discussion, then, was made in a much more

general and extensive way than that other discussions held in the I International Symposium on Gondwana in Argentina, in 1967. But now, under the invitation of the Organising Committee for Dr K. R. Surange Commemoration Volume and considering the most recent studies on the subject and a greater interest on the part of the specialists about it, we decide to present a new source of information about these seeds, up dating the bibliography from 1974 onwards, specially that related to the new Brasilian occurrences.

### DISTRIBUTION

We have distinguished in this paper two different levels of distribution of the gondwanic seeds: the stratigraphical level and the chronological level. Both levels are intrinsically related to the taphoflorulae or paleofloristic associations of restricted limits within the stratigraphical level which define the occurrence of fossils' populations in local tombs (Millan, 1971).

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TABLE 1—GONDWANIC TAPHOFLORLAEE

## TAPHOFLORLAEE

	BRASIL	COUNTRY			Zaire
		South Africa	South African Republic	Madagascar	
				Mozambique	
Bainha	B				
Bairro 20	B-20				
Barro Branco	BaB				
Carvão Irapuá	CI				
Hospital	H				
Joaquim Branco	JB				
" Lauro Müller "*	LM				
Mariana Pimentel	MP				
São Marcos	SaM				
Sítio da Mina	SM				
Sítio Itapema	SI	E		M	C
" Ecca "					K
Mavonono					L
Chipanga					
Kaindamoso					
Luena					
COUNTRY					
Antarctica	Argentina	Australia			India
		New South Wales		Queensland	
Dry Valley	DV				
Elizabeth and Alexandra Ridges	EAR				
Amundsen Ohio and Wisconsin Ridges	A				
Pecora	OWR	BLV			
Bajo de Los Vélez	P	Bet			
Betancourt		PS			
Piedra Shotel			GS		
" Glacial Stage "*			G		
" Greta "*			D		
Dudley Beach Bar			BB		
Minnie Creek				MC	SC
Three-mile Creek				TMC	JM
Barwon Park				BP	DM
Pentland				Pe	CM
Dawson River				DR	GN
Baralaba				Be	KN
Belmont					JR
Srirampur Colliery					GaN
Jubille Mine					Ch
Deep Mine					S
Central Mine					NB
Gaurbotha Nalla					KM
Kamrai Nalla					Dh
Johilla River					
Ganjra Nalla					
Chicharia					
Salaia					
Near Beli					
Karkoti-Malhadu					
Dhamni					

\*Due to the absence of data in original papers, these names are provisory to taphoflorulae.

TABLE 2—STRATIGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF SAMAROPSIS SPECIES IN GONDWANIC TAPHOFLORULAE—(Part I)

Species	STRATIGRAPHY																	
	BRASIL				AFRICA				MOZAMBIQUE	ARGENTINA	ANTARCTICA				AUSTRALIA			
	Tubarão Group		Rio Bonito Formation		South Africa Ecce Series	Zaire		Tete Coal Measures		Nueva ubecka Formation	Beacon Group		?Buckley Coal	Mount Glossopteris Formation	New South Wales	Queensland		Talchir Formation
	Itararé Subgroup	Lower Pack, São Paulo	Upper Pack, São Paulo	Rio Grande do Sul	Lower Lukuga Series	Upper Lukuga Series									Upper New Castle Coal Measures	Lower Bowen Series	Upper Bowen Series	Karharbari Formation
<i>Samaropsis argentina</i> Feruglio, 1951															Bet, PS			
<i>S. bainhensis</i> Millan, 1967									B									
<i>S. barcellosa</i> (White) Seward, 1917									CI						cf. GS			
<i>S. boutakoffi</i> Høeg & Bose, 1960																		
<i>S. cricumensis</i> Millan, 1967									B									
<i>S. dawsonii</i> (Shirley) Walkom, 1922															DR, Ba			
<i>S. dolianitii</i> Millan, 1977	SI																	
<i>S. etheridgei</i> Walkom, 1922																Pe		
<i>S. feistmantelii</i> Maithy, 1965																SC		
<i>S. ganjrensis</i> Saksena, 1955																JM, DM		
<i>S. goraiensis</i> Surange & Lele, 1956																Gan		
<i>S. indica</i> (Zeiller) Seward, 1917																JR	DM, CM	
<i>S. intermedia</i> Høeg & Bose, 1960															DV		Dh	
<i>S. kurtzii</i> Leguizamon, 1971																		
<i>S. leslii</i> Seward, 1917									E									
<i>S. longii</i> Schopf, 1962															BLV			
<i>S. mendesii</i> Rigby, 1972															EAR	A, OWR	P	
<i>S. menisca</i> Lele, 1962																		\$
<i>S. millaniana</i> Oliveira & Pontes, 1977									B, B-20, JB									
<i>S. milleri</i> (Feistmantel) Seward, 1917									B, H, SaM									SC, Dh
<i>S. moravica</i> Helmhacker									B									
<i>S. moreirana</i> (White) Millan, 1965									L									
<i>S. ? ovalis</i> Walkom, 1935																GS		
<i>S. pincombei</i> Walkom, 1928																Be		
<i>S. raniganjensis</i> Seward & Sahni, 1920																		KM
<i>S. rigyi</i> Millan, 1977	SI																	
<i>S. sancti-marci</i> Oliveira & Pontes, 1977									SaM									
<i>S. seixasii</i> (White) Seward, 1917	SM		MP	LM														KN, NB
<i>S. srivastavai</i> Lele, 1955																		S
<i>S. surangei</i> Lele, 1962																		
<i>S. thomasii</i> Schopf, 1962									BaB									
<i>S. yoshidae</i> Rigby, 1972									JB									
<i>S. zambesicus</i> Høeg & Bose, 1960									C						OWR			

The use of taphoflorula is better than that of florula, word commonly analogous but not homologous, because of the implications of its use referring to living populations. The taphoflorulae would stand for taphoflora as it was formerly used by Taytadzan (1961, in: Archangelsky, 1965). So, we were then able to name the palaeofloristic provinces of the Upper Palaeozoic (Gothan & Weyland, 1954) as Gondwanic, Angarian, Euroamerican and Cathaysic taphoflorae.

The denominations of the gondwanic taphoflorulae, only of those whose seeds had been adequately described, are presented in this paper (Table 1). In some cases, they are of current use, but are not so current in other cases. These denominations were extracted from original papers, among which we can refer those by Archangelsky and Arrondo (1969) in Argentina; Høeg and Bose (1960) in Zaire and Mozambique; Besairie (1967) in Madagascar; Rigby and Schopf (1969) in Antarctica; Walkom (1922, 1928, 1935) and Carey (1934) in Australia; Dolianiti (1948), Millan (1972, 1974a, 1974b, 1977), Rigby (1972), Oliveira (1977) and Corrêa da Silva and Arrondo (1977) in Brasil. In India, since there are lots of known taphoflorulae and lots of authors, the denominations were included in the bibliography.

We give emphasis to the fact that all the seeds mentioned in Tables 2-13 were only included as taphoflorulae, those which had already been adequately described and figured. Such kind of procedure allowed us to relate not only the seeds to the taphoflorula but also to relate it to the stratigraphical level, so that we can use it not merely in a descriptive way but in a more utilitarian way as index-fossils. Thus we suggested (Millan, 1980) the stratigraphic use of the following species: *Samaropsis millerii*, *S. barcellosa*, *S. indica*, *S. thomasii*, *S. seixasii*, *S. longii*, *S. goraiensis*, *Cordaicarpus nitens*, *C. zeillerii*, *Cornucarpus furcatus*, *C. patagonicus* and *Numbolospermum bowenense*.

It is possible to notice that there are 13 known taphoflorulae with seeds in India. There are 11 such taphoflorulae in Brasil and in Australia, 5 in Antarctica, 3 in Argentina, 2 in Zaire, 1 in Madagascar, 1 in Mozambique and 1 in South African

Republic. The total number of these taphoflorulae are up to 48 (Table 1).

The nomenclature of their units, considering the stratigraphic distribution of these seeds, is based on authors such as Bigarella and Salamuni (1967), Rocha-Campos (1972) and Soares *et al.* (1977) to Brasil and Argentina; Robinson (1967) and Ghosh and Sastry (1967) to India; Høeg and Bose (1960) to Zaire and Mozambique; Besairie (1967) to Madagascar; McElroy (1969) and Banks *et al.* (1969) to Australia; Harrington (1965) and McElroy (1969) to Antarctica and on Ryan (1969) to South African Republic.

The species of the genus *Samaropsis*, (Table 2) are stratigraphically distributed in Brasil, Tubarão Group, Rio Bonito Formation and in Itararé Subgroup in Rio Grande do Sul and São Paulo states; in the South African Republic, in the Ecca Series; in Zaire, in the Lower and Upper Lukuga Series; in Mozambique, in the Tete Coal Measures; in Argentina, in the Nueva Lubecka Formation; in Antarctic, in the Beacon Group, in Buckley Coal, Measures and in Mount Glossopteris Formation; in Australia, in New South Wales, in Upper Kutung Series and in Upper New Castle Coal Measures, and in Queensland, in the Upper and Lower Bowen Series, and in India, in Talchir, Karharbari-Barakar, Raniganj and Panchet formations.

The species of the genus *Cordaicarpus* (Table 3) are stratigraphically distributed in Brasil, Tubarão Group, Rio Bonito Formation and in Itararé Subgroup in São Paulo State; in Zaire in the Upper Lukuga Series; in Madagascar in Sakoa Series; in Argentina in Nueva Lubecka Formation; in Australia in New South Wales, in Upper Kutung Series and in the Lower Greta Coal Measures and in India in the Karharbari-Barakar and Panchet formations.

The species of the genus *Cornucarpus* (Table 4) are stratigraphically distributed in Brasil Tubarão Group, in Rio Bonito Formation and in Itararé Subgroup in São Paulo and Rio Grande do Sul states; in Argentina, in Nueva Lubecka Formation; in Australia, in New South Wales, in the Lower Greta Coal Measures.

The species of the genus *Alatocarpus* (Table 5) are stratigraphically distributed

TABLE 3—STRATIGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF *CORDAICARPUS* SPECIES IN GONDWANIC TAPHOFLORULAE

SPECIES	STRATIGRAPHY					
	BRASIL		AFRICA		ARGENTINA	
	Tubarão Group	Itararé Subgroup	Zaire Upper Lukuga Series	Madagascar Saloa Series	Nueva Lubecka Formation	AUSTRALIA
1. <i>Cordaicarpus barbosanus</i> Millan, 1979	SM		Upper Kutung Series		Upper Kutung Series	New South Wales
2. <i>C. chichariensis</i> Lele, 1962	Ch		Lower Greta Coal Measures		Lower Greta Coal Measures	
3. <i>C. emarginatus</i> Walkom, 1935	GS		GS		Karhar- bari- Barakar forma- tions	
4. <i>C. irapiensis</i> Oliveira & Pontes, 1977	G		SC		Panchet Formation	
5. <i>C. karharbense</i> Maithy, 1965	L		GS		INDIA	
6. <i>C. mucronatus</i> Høeg & Boe, 1960	Bet		GS		Karhar- bari- Barakar forma- tions	
7. <i>C. nitens</i> (Feruglio) Millan, 1979	SM		GS		Panchet Formation	
8. <i>C. oliveirianus</i> (White) Millan, 1965	JB		GS		INDIA	
9. <i>C. ? ovatus</i> Walkom, 1935	? S		GS		Karhar- bari- Barakar forma- tions	
10. <i>C. prolatus</i> Walkom, 1935	GS		GS		Panchet Formation	
11. <i>C. rocha-camposii</i> Oliveira & Pontes, 1977	B, B-20		SC		INDIA	
12. <i>C. zeillerii</i> Maithy, 1965	M		SC		Karhar- bari- Barakar forma- tions	

TABLE 4—STRATIGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF *CORNUCARPUS* SPECIES IN GONDWANIC TAPHOFLORULAE

SPECIES	STRATIGRAPHY				
	BRASIL	ARGEN-TINA	INDIA	AUS-TRALIA	
	Tubarão Group				
	Itararé Subgroup	Rio Bonito Formation	Nueva Lubecka Formation	Talchir Formation	Karharbari-Barakar formations
	Upper Pack, São Paulo	Rio Grande do Sul			New South Wales
1. <i>Cornucarpus cerquihensis</i> Millan, 1977	SI				
2. <i>C. furcatus</i> (Surange & Lele) Maithy, 1965		B, H, SAM, B-20		JR	SC
3. <i>C. patagonicus</i> (Feruglio) Corrêa da Silva & Arrondo, 1977	MP		Bet, PS		
4. <i>C. striatus</i> Walkom, 1935					G

TABLE 5—STRATIGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF *ALATOCARPUS* SPECIES IN GONDWANIC TAPHOFLORULAE

SPECIES	STRATIGRAPHY	
	INDIA	Karharbari-Barakar formations
1. <i>Alatocarpus indicus</i> Lele, 1968	GN	
2. <i>A. cf. johillensis</i> (Saksena) Lele, 1968	GN, GaN	

TABLE 6—STRATIGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF *NUMMULOSPERMUM BOWENENSE* IN GONDWANIC TAPHOFLORULAE

SPECIES	STRATIGRAPHY		
	AUSTRALIA		INDIA
	QUEENSLAND		
<i>Nummulospermum bowenense</i> Walkom, 1921	Lower Bowen Series TMC, BP, Ba	Upper Bowen Series MC	Karharbari-Barakar formations SC

only in India, in the Karharbari-Barakar formations.

The species *Nummulospermum bowenense* (Table 6) is stratigraphically distributed in Australia, in Queensland, in the Lower and Upper Bowen Series, and in India, in the Karharbari-Barakar formations.

Finally, the species *Eucerospermum opimum* (Table 7) is stratigraphically distributed only in Argentina, in Nueva Lubecka Formation.

Now, taking into account the chronological distribution of the seeds, we notice

TABLE 7—STRATIGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF *EUCEROSPERMUM OPIMUM* IN GONDWANIC TAPHOFLORULA

SPECIES	STRATIGRAPHY	
	ARGENTINA	Nueva Lubecka Formation
<i>Eucerospermum opimum</i> Feruglio, 1951	Bet	

that they are distributed from the Upper Carboniferous to the Triassic (Tables 8-13).

Each geologic period, except for the Triassic, was subdivided into their respective floors containing only stratigraphic units where gondwanic tafoflorulae with seeds, described and figured, occur (Table 14). The limits and extension of such units are approximate and were suggested in this paper based on the bibliography we could find. So, we were obliged to use the European nomenclature for the geological floors because of the lack of a more

TABLE 8

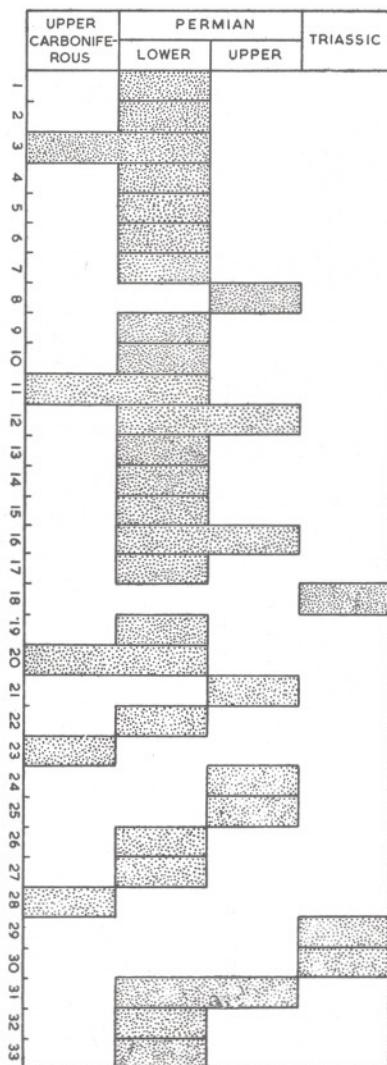


TABLE 9

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	UPPER CARBONIFEROUS	PERMIAN		TRIASSIC
		LOWER	UPPER	
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				

adequate nomenclature for the Gondwana.

In Brasil, these seeds occur in Carboniferous and Permian, from the transition Westphalien-Stephanien to Sakmarien; in the South African Republic, in Lower Permian, from Artinskien to Kungurien; in Mozambique, in Lower Permian, in the Kungurien; in Zaire, in Lower Permian, from Artinskien to Kungurien; in Antarctica, in Carboniferous and Permian; in Argentina, in Lower Permian, from Sakmarien to Kungurien; in Australia, in New South Wales, from Upper Carboniferous to Upper Permian and in Queensland, in Permian, from Artinskien to Tatarien and, finally, in India from Upper Carboniferous to Triassic.

The species of the genus *Samaropsis* (Table 8) are chronologically distributed in Brasil from Upper Carboniferous to Lower Permian; in South African Republic, in Lower Permian; in Zaire, in Lower Permian; in Mozambique, in Lower Permian; in Argentina, in Lower Permian; in Antarctica, in Permian; in Australia, from Upper Carboniferous to Upper Permian and in India, from Upper Carboniferous to Triassic.

The species of the genus *Cordaicarpus* (Table 9) are chronologically distributed in Brasil from Upper Carboniferous to Lower Permian; in Zaire, in Lower Permian; in Madagascar, in Lower Permian; in Argentina, in Lower Permian; in

TABLE 10

UPPER CARBONIFER- ROUS	LOWER PERMIAN
1	
2	
3	
4	

TABLE 11

UPPER CARBONIFER- ROUS	LOWER PERMIAN
1	
2	

TABLE 12

UPPER CARBONIFER- ROUS	LOWER PERMIAN

TABLE 13

UPPER CARBONIFER- ROUS	LOWER PERMIAN

Australia, from Upper Carboniferous to Lower Permian and in India, from Lower Permian to Triassic.

In Brasil, the species of the genus *Cornucarpus* (Table 10) are chronologically distributed in the Lower Permian; in Argentina in the Lower Permian; in Australia in the Lower Permian and in India from Upper Carboniferous to Lower Permian.

The species of the genus *Alatocarpus* (Table 11) are chronologically distributed in India in the Lower Permian.

In Australia and India, the species of *Nummulospermum bowenense* (Table 12) is chronologically distributed in Permian.

The species *Eucerospermum opimum* (Table 13) is chronologically distributed in Argentina in the Lower Permian.

In India these seeds were described and figured from Triassic, although there are references from Santa Maria Formation, Upper Triassic of Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil (Pinto, 1956), but they are poorly preserved and under no conditions for a better characterization.

Nevertheless, most of these structures are distributed in Permian from Sakmarien to Tatarien.

## CONCLUSIONS

The analysis of the distribution of platyspermic gondwanic seeds led us to the following conclusions:

1. Until now 53 species are known from Gondwanaland: 33 of them belong to the genus *Samaropsis*, 12 to the genus *Cordaicarpus*, 4 to the genus *Cornucarpus*, 2 to the genus *Alatocarpus*, 1 to the genus *Nummulospermum* and 1 to the genus *Eucerospermum*.

2. In Brasil, occur 13 *Samaropsis* spp., 6 *Cordaicarpus* spp. and 3 *Cornucarpus* spp.; in South African Republic 1 species of *Samaropsis*; in Zaire 3 *Samaropsis* spp. and 1 species of *Cordaicarpus*; in Mozambique 1 species of *Samaropsis*; in Madagascar 1 species of *Cordaicarpus*; in Argentina 2 *Samaropsis* spp., 1 species of *Cordaicarpus*, 1 species of *Cornucarpus* and 1 species of *Eucerospermum*; in Antarctica 3 species of *Samaropsis*; in Australia 8 *Samaropsis* spp., 3 *Cordaicarpus* spp., 1 *Cornucarpus* species and 1 *Nummulospermum* species and in India 9 *Samaropsis* spp., 4 *Cordaicarpus* spp., 2 *Alatocarpus* spp., 1 *Cornucarpus* species and 1 *Nummulospermum* species.

TABLE 14 - STRATIGRAPHIC UNITS WHERE GONDWANIC TAPHOFLOLORULAE OCCUR WITH SEEDS

GEOLOGY AND STRATIGRAPHY	COUNTRY OR REGION						
	BRASIL	AFRICA		ANTARCTICA	ARGENTINA	AUSTRALIA	INDIA
		South African Republic	Mada-gascar	Mozam-bique	Zaire	New South Wales	Queens-land
TRIASSIC						Panchet Formation	Raniganj Formation
UPPER	{ Tatarien	{ Kazanien				Upper New-castle Coal Measures	Upper Bowen Series
PERMIAN	LOWER	{ Kungurien	Ecca Series	Sakoa Series	Tete Coal Measures	Greta Coal Measures	Lower Bowen Series
		{ Artinskien	Rio Bonito Formation		Victoria Sub-group		Barakar Formation
		{ Sakmarien			Lukecka Formation		Karharbari Formation
UPPER CARBONIFEROUS		{ Stephanien	Itararé Subgroup				Talchir Formation
		{ Westphalien					Upper Kutung Series

3. Until now there are, in Gondwanaland, 48 taphoflorulae where the seeds are conveniently described and figured: 13 of them in India, 11 in Brasil, 11 in Australia, 5 in Antarctica, 3 in Argentina, 2 in Zaire, 1 in Madagascar, 1 in Mozambique and 1 in South African Republic. The denominations of such taphoflorulae, adopted in this paper, are used in some cases but in other cases they differ greatly from those used till now because we made our option according to the more adequate data available in the literature.

4. The seeds are stratigraphically distributed in Tubarão Group in Brasil, in Sakoa Series in Madagascar, in Lukuga Series in Zaire, in Eccá Series in South African Republic, in Tete Coal Measures in Mozambique, in Beacon Group in Antarctica, in Nueva Lubecka Formation in Argentina, in Upper Kutung Series and in Greta Coal Measures and Upper Newcastle Coal Measures in New South Wales, Australia, and in the Lower and Upper Bowen Series in Queensland, Australia, and in the Talchir, Karharbari-Barakar, Raniganj and Panchet formations in India.

5. In the chronological distribution of *Samaropsis* spp., approximately 6% are

exclusive of Upper Carboniferous, 9% of Carboniferous and Permian, 9% of Permian *sensu lato*, 54% of Lower Permian, 12% of Upper Permian and 9% of Triassic.

6. In the chronological distribution of *Cordaicarpus* spp., approximately 25% belong to Upper Carboniferous, 8% to Carboniferous and Permian, 8% dubiously belonging from Upper Carboniferous to Triassic, 50% to Lower Permian and 8% to Triassic.

7. In the chronological distribution of *Cornucarpus* spp., 25% belong to Carboniferous and Permian and 75% to Lower Permian.

8. The chronological distribution of *Alatocarpus* spp., *Eucerospermum opimum* and *Nummulospermum bowenense* is meaningless due to the occurrence of very small number of species and belonging to Permian and mainly to Lower Permian.

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