
Thrust Areas in Palaeobotany

The Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow held a Group Discussion on 30th and 31st October, 1992 in the Institute's premises to outline the futuristic trends in palaeobotanical research and to identify the *Thrust Areas* in order to widen the scope of research work in the field and to make it more relevant in modern context. Scientists of the Institute as well as a number of eminent palaeobotanists of the country actively participated in brain storming sessions held during these two days and proposed a number of *Thrust Areas* taking into consideration the recommendations of the VIII Five Year Plan as the base document. As a consequence of these deliberations the following thrust areas in palaeobotanical research have emerged:

1. Early diversifications of life and attainment of multicellularity
2. Gondwana floristics ecosystem and biostratigraphy
3. Taphonomy and its bearing on diagenesis of organic matter and exploration of fossil fuel
4. Development of new parameters for exploration and correlation of coal deposits
5. Assessment of lignites and coal for utilization in the industry

6. Palaeobotanical inputs on the resolution of time boundaries
7. Floristics of the Upper Cretaceous and diversification of early angiosperms
8. Study of modern environment
9. Phytoplankton biostratigraphy of petroliferous basins
10. Correlation of Tertiary continental and marginal marine facies
11. Introduction of new methodologies for palaeobotanical interpretations
12. Calcareous rock building algae
13. Tertiary floristics, biostratigraphy and environment
14. Coastal ecosystems during the Quaternary time
15. Vegetation dynamics during the Quaternary in the Himalayan region
16. Utilization of modern techniques in radiometric dating, isotopic analysis and geochemistry
17. Antiquity of agricultural crops and domestication of plants.

Suggestions are invited by the Director, Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow 226 007 from scientists/teachers/scholars/well-wishers for innovative Scientific activities related to the above mentioned Thrust Areas.