

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS:

A PARACONFORMITY IN THE CAMBRIAN SEQUENCE OF THE SALT RANGE

Introduction

In the eastern Salt Range, a reference section for the Cambrian sequence is exposed in the Khewra Gorge (Fig. 1). Four Cambrian formations i.e. Khewra Formation (Tanoli, 1988), Kussak Formation, Jutana Formation, and Baghanwala Formation in ascending order are exposed there. Previously Shah (1977) implied that the contact between the Khewra Formation and the overlying Kussak Formation is conformable. No other published work on this particular topic is known to us. The purpose of the present article is to suggest a paraconformity between the Khewra Formation and the Kussak Formation.

Remarks

The contact between the Khewra Formation and the overlying Kussak Formation is marked by a 40 cm thick conglomerate containing zone at Khewra Gorge. Abrupt change from sandstone of the Khewra Formation to conglomerate at the contact is most likely indicative of an erosional surface. Same zone at top of the Khewra Formation is also observed at Warchha Gorge west of the Khewra Gorge (Fig. 1) where it is represented by generally 15-20 cm and rarely up to 50 cm thick conglomerate.

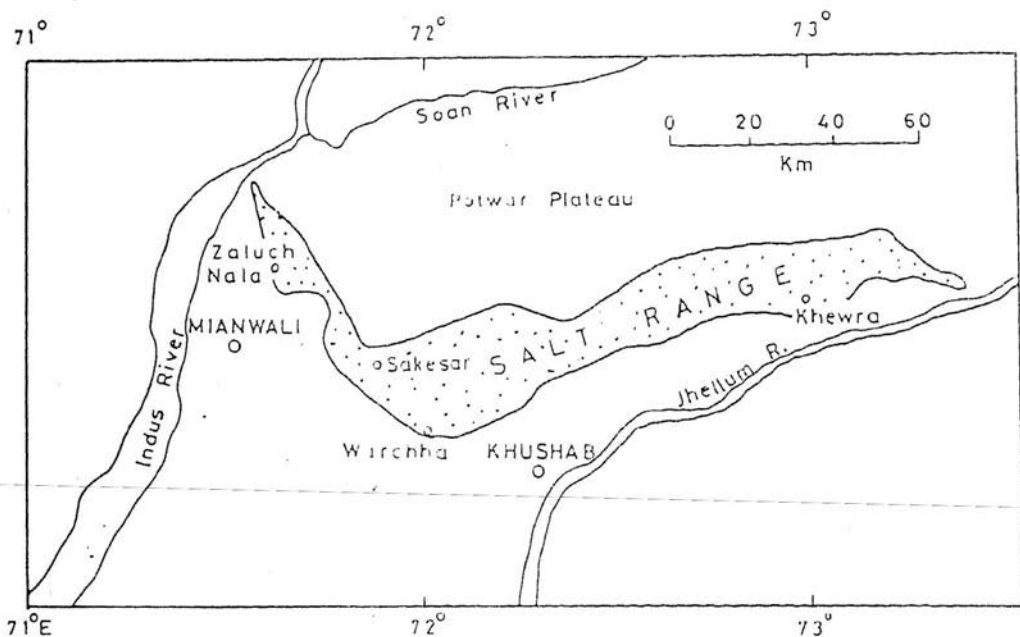


Fig. 1. Map showing location of the Khewra Gorge and Warchha Gorge in the Salt Range (modified after Teichert, 1980).

Paraconformities are difficult to assess within the sedimentary sequences on the lithostratigraphic grounds alone. Nevertheless, detailed paleontological studies can reveal sedimentary gaps and additionally an understanding of the paleoenvironments may also lead to such unconformities. The present paraconformity at top of the Khewra Formation is suggested purely on the lithostratigraphic observations. More detailed sedimentological work on the Cambrian sequence in the Salt Range is in progress.

References

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