THE MIDDLE JURASSIC AMMONITE *KHERAICERAS* SPATH FROM THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

Bardhan, Subhendu, **Sardar**, Subrata, **Jana**, Sudipta
Department of Geological Sciences, Jadavpur University, Calcutta-700032,India
E-mail: subhendu@jugeo.clib0.ernet.in

Kheraiceras Spath has a near circumglobal distribution except for subboreal and is marked by a 'bio-event' (radiatio) especially during the Late Bathonian and Early Callovian time. Such 'bio-events' may blur the distinction of faunal provincialism and cut across geographic boundaries and thus help in establishing regional standard chronostratigraphy and interprovincial correlation. The present study reports six *Kheraiceras* species from the Indian subcontinent (Kutch, India and Baluchistan, Pakistan) including three new species. They are *Kheraiceras cosmopolitum* (Parona and Bonarelli), *K.bullatum* (D'Orbigny), *K.cf. hannoveranum* (Roemer), *K.spathi* n.sp.A and *K.noetlingi* n.sp.

Biostratigraphic potentialities of *Kheraiceras* are also explored. Dimorphism is well understood in the genus; but specific dimorphic pairs are poorly known. At least in three instances, matching of pairs has been firmly established and two new microconchs and one macroconch still lack their partners. Microconchs are of great help in species discrimination, biozonation and understanding evolution.