

of the northeastern part of the basin, and the absence of plant megafossils in the lower part of the formation seem to have influenced this decision. The next two biozones are dated as Middle-Upper Jurassic, and Lower Cretaceous, more on the basis of apparent superposition than on the basis of fossil plants. Some of the conclusions seem to be based more on conjectures and circular reasoning rather than on facts. Thus, 'The Dubrajpur Formation contains upper Gondwana *Ptilophyllum* floral assemblage of early Jurassic age . . .', and then 'The *Ptilophyllum* flora first (emphasis mine) appears in the third intertrappean bed' of the Rajmahal Formation. There is selective acceptance of radiometric dates, those which do not fit in with the assumed plan are either ignored or nullified.

Sengupta's monograph contains a wealth of data that could have been better organized and made more useful through Peer Review and some serious editing. The work is significant both for palaeobiology and biostratigraphy, if not for age determination, of the upper Mesozoic sedimentaries of the Rajmahal Basin.

*Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany
Lucknow*

HARI K. MAHESHWARI

PERSPECTIVES ON DAKSHINA KANNADA AND KODAGU. Editorial Committee, Mangalore University, Mangalagangothri-574 199, Karnataka, India. Published by the Registrar. 349 pp. Rs. 250. \$ 20.

This is a neatly got up volume of articles on diverse but interesting topics collected by an Editorial Committee, all members of the teaching staff of the Mangalore University, to commemorate the completion of ten years of existence of the University. In these days it is common to see such volumes containing numerous advertisements and colour portraits from that of Vice-Chancellor to that of Captains of various sports in the University. But this volume is a very laudable departure in that the articles, very well written, cover many facets of this area—Dakshina Kannada and Kodagu, along the west coast of India, wherein lie all the educational institutions affiliated to this University.

There are articles on Literature and Folk Arts (4), History and Society (6), Agriculture and Trade (4), and Science and Environment (8). It is interesting to note that such a relatively small area of Karnataka contains considerable population belonging to different faiths (Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Jains), all living amicably and contributing richly to the cultural life of the area. Of course due to increase in population, migration, backwardness in certain respects and exploitation, certain problems have cropped up. The natural resources of this area is adequately covered, bringing to light some of the potential hazards lurking due to misuse of the environment.

Most of the articles contain a good number of references for further study. Whereas there is a small scale map (p. 240) of this area, it would have been helpful to have included one on a larger scale giving more locations of interest from many points of view (historical, cultural and commercial). The University is to be congratulated and this book should be of interest to all those who would like to know more about the small area tucked in between the Arabian Sea and the Western Ghats in the Karnataka State.

R. VAIDYANATHAN