

ERLANSONISPORITES POTONIÉ, MEGASPORES FROM THE SRIPERUMBUDUR BEDS OF PALAR BASIN, TAMIL NADU

The present note deals with the occurrence of a megaspore type, *Erlansonisporites* Potonié, 1956 for the first time from the Lower Cretaceous (Neocomian-Aptian) Sriperumbudur beds of Palar basin, Tamil Nadu (Figs. 1 & 2). A rich, varied and excellently preserved spore and pollen assemblage has been recorded earlier from the Sriperumbudur beds (RAMANUJAM & SRI AILAM, 1974; RAMANUJAM & VARMA, 1977, 1981).

The material investigated constitute bore hole CK-3 (between 37.50 to 45.10m depth) from the Kattavakkam (57 p/13, 12° 49' : 70° 53') area near Conjeevaram, Chengleput district of Tamil Nadu.

Infraturma	MURORNATI Potonié & Kremp, 1954
Genus	<i>Erlansonisporites</i> Potonié, 1956
Type species	<i>E. erlansonii</i> (Miner) Potonié, 1956

***Erlansonisporites* sp.**

Figs. 1 & 2.

Trilete megaspores, preserved in off-polar compression, 300-350 μm ; \pm circular in outline; Y-mark not discernible because of heavy sculpture, surface coarsely reticulate, reticulum all over spore body, muri 5-6 μm thick, prominent 18-20 μm high, forming unequal-sized polygonal meshes and membranous lamellar structures at periphery; lumina 20-25 μm broad and conspicuously granular.

The present sporomorph shows similarity with the megaspore designated as *Erlansonisporites sparassis* (Murray) Potonié, 1956, recorded from the Lower Cretaceous of Alberta, Canada (SINGH, 1964), but is distinguishable in its indistinct Y-mark and granular lumina. In spite of the differences of the South Indian megaspore with the Canadian megaspore, the author has refrained from instituting a new species of the former, as only few grains were encountered in this study.

From India the genus *Erlansonisporites* has been recorded earlier in the Jabalpur beds of Madhya Praesh (DEV, 1961) and the Umia beds of Kutch (SINGH, SRIVASTAVA & ROY, 1964). The megaspore type recorded from the Nipania chert of Rajmahal hills, Bihar by VISHNU-MITRE (1954; pl. 2, fig. 34) also appears to be referable to *Erlansonisporites*.

The genus *Erlansonisporites* appears to be characteristic of the Lower Cretaceous (Neocomian-Aptian) deposits. The record of this megaspore type from the Sriperumbudur beds of the Palar basin dated as Neocomian-Aptian on the basis of palynological and micropalaeontological evidences (MURTHY & SASTRI, 1961; RAMANUJAM & VARMA, 1977, 1981), thus is of certain significance.

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EXPLANATION OF PLATE 1

Figs. 1 & 2 *Erlansonisporites* sp. (in different foci, X 200).

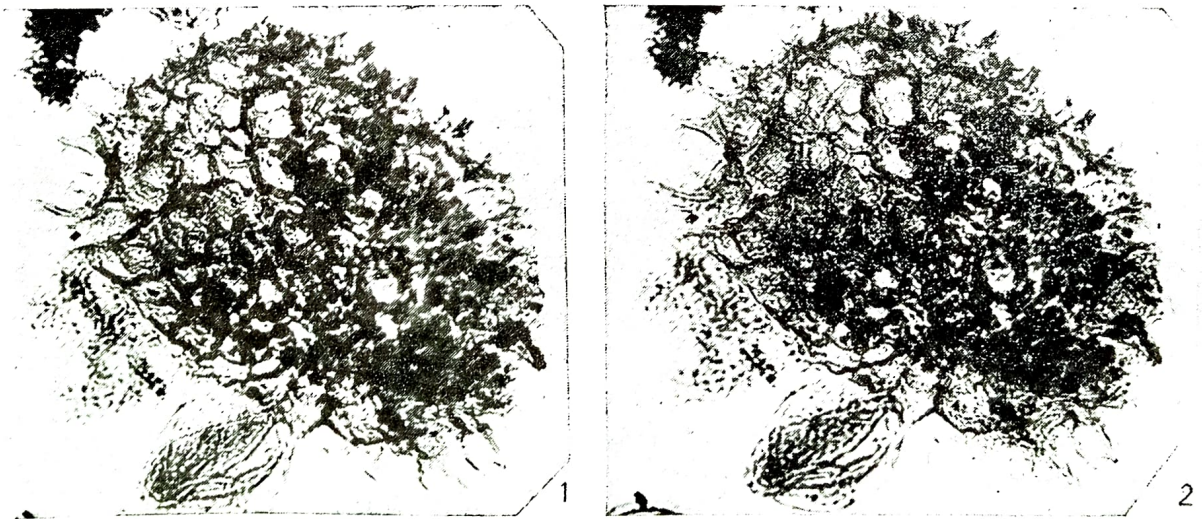


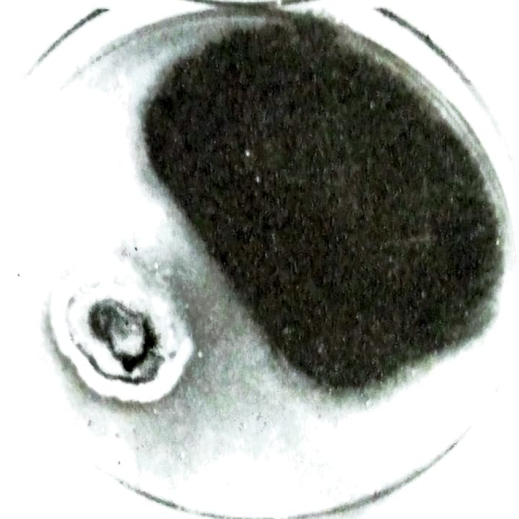
PLATE 1



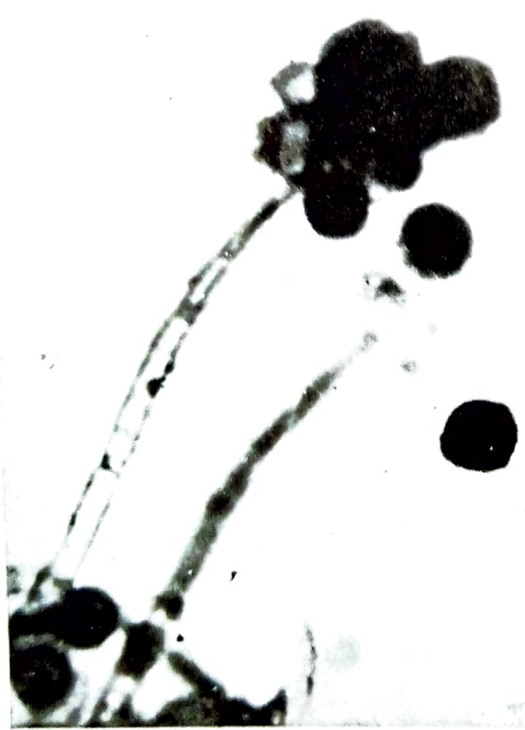
1



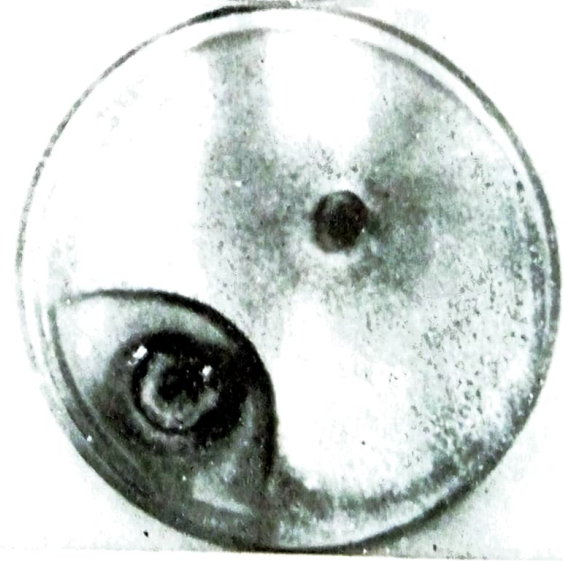
3



4



2



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