

SIGNIFICANCE OF *MONODIEXODINA* (FUSULINACEA) IN THE GEOLOGY OF THE MALAY PENINSULA

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Monodioxodina sensu stricto is a very rare genus of the Fusulinaceae found in Permian deposits. Its distribution is restricted to a narrow sliver extending from the central Afghanistan in the west to Japan and Malaysia in the east. Only three species of the genus have a wide distribution in the south Asia and Southeast Asia. They are *Monodioxodina sutschanica*, *Monodioxodina shiptoni* and *Monodioxodina kattaensis*. Their restricted geographic distribution may reveal their paleobiogeographic province which is very important for establishing paleogeography. *Monodioxodina shiptoni* is a good index fossil which is used as a zonal marker for the Artinskian, late Early Permian. The geographic distribution of the species suggests that they were warm-water species which occupied the tropical or subtropical shallow seas. In the SIBUMASU block, only *Monodioxodina sutschanica* and *Monodioxodina shiptoni* were found in either limestone or calcite cemented sandstone which overlies the pebbly mudstone of glacio-marine origin. In the East Malaya block, two species of *Monodioxodina* were found in the Sumalayang limestone. They are *Monodioxodina kattaensis* and *Monodioxodina shiptonii*. They are associated with many species of Fusulinaceae. Their occurrence may give some clues to the evolution of the paleoclimate and tectonic history of the two blocks during the Late Carboniferous and Permian.