Permian brachiopods from Maran area, Pahang

MOHD SHAFEEA LEMAN
Jabatan Geologi, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

Permian outcrops and fossils including both fauna and flora are very well known from various localities within the vicinity of Maran, Pahang. Among Permian fossils fauna known are fusulinid foraminiferas, corals, brachiopods, bivalves, cephalopods and bryozoans. Brachiopods are abundant in particular horizons in this area. Two Permian brachiopods localities, i.e. Jengka Pass and Sri Jaya were already well established in past literatures. The present paper will incorporate the result of recent revision of the brachiopods from these two localities as well as recording a new brachiopod locality from Timor Oil Palm mill site.

At Jengka Pass, brachiopods are found in both limestone, sandstone and shale, but they are more dominant in the black shale. Several species of brachiopods have been listed in Jones *et al.* (1966), Ichikawa (1966) and Gobbett (1973). The brachiopods from this locality was first described by Nakamura (1973). Recent revision indicates that the fauna was dominated by a single species *Liosotella jaafari* new species (a species which was previously described by Nakamura (1973) as *Spinomarginifera kueichowensis* Huang). Other brachiopods include *Costiferina* sp., *Juresania* sp., *Phricodothyris* sp., *Leptodus* sp. and ?*Dialesma* sp. The brachiopods are associated with some bivalves, cephalopods, bryozoans, crinoids and foraminiferas of late Middle Permian to early Upper Permian age.

The Sri Jaya bed outcropped along the Maran-Kuantan road (the easternmost of the series of Bukit Jaya ridges) yields some rare brachiopods, fusulinid foraminiferas, bivalves and some plant remains. Azhar Husain (1977), Che Aziz Ali (1985) and Lee (1990) have come out with different lists of brachiopods from this locality.

Warta Geologi (Newsletter of the Geological Society of Malaysia), Vol. 21, No. 3, May-June 1995

Among brachiopods identified from the present study are *Reticulatia* sp., *Rhipidomella* sp., *Derbyia* sp. and ?*Permundaria* sp.

The Timor Oil Palm refinery site exposed some black shales with some *Liosotella jaafari* new species and some fusulinid foraminiferas.

The brachiopod assemblage in this study shows closer affinity with Cathaysian fauna from Japan and Northern China than any other fauna from this region. This imply that these fauna might have flourished on the East Malaya-Indochina Block which was still quite a distant away from the Sibumasu Block.