

## **The age of Bukit Keluang Formation and its significance towards tectonic development of the Eastern Belt of Peninsular Malaysia**

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Three hills of conglomerate and associated continental rocks, namely the Bukit Keluang, Bukit Bubus and Bukit Dendong formed rather spectacular monuments on top of the vast coastal plain, south of Kuala Besut in the northernmost part of Terengganu. These island-like hills have created histories themselves as to their age affinity and the implicated tectonic history of the area. This rock unit was named the Bukit Keluang Formation by Kamal Roslan Mohamed & Ibrahim Abdullah (1993, 1994). Though no one have questioned their continental origin, the age of this rock formation has been widely speculated based merely on lithological correlation with other rocks of the same origin, e.g. Carboniferous-Permian (MacDonald, 1968), late Triassic-Jurassic (Koopmans, 1968; Gobbett, 1973), and Jurassic-Cretaceous (Kamal Roslan Mohamed and Ibrahim Abdullah, 1993, 1994). Fontaine and Khoo (1988) noted the presence of a rugose coral (i.e. Paleozoic age) from Bukit Keluang, but without the exact location or lithology of the fossil-bearing bed. Apart from that note, this formation was thought to be a fossil barren formation until our recent discovery of several fossiliferous horizons containing various Permian flora and fauna.

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