

## **Age and regional palynostratigraphic correlation of the Sardhai Formation, Salt Range, Pakistan**

**Irfan U. Jan**

National Centre of Excellence in Geology, University of Peshawar, Pakistan

Palynological assemblages from the Sardhai Formation in the Salt and Khisor ranges of Pakistan have yielded abundant bisaccate pollen and few spores. The well-preserved specimens of *Florinites? balmei* are particularly abundant. The presence of this bilaterally symmetrical monosaccate pollen grain, and the stratigraphic context suggest that the Sardhai Formation correlates with the Khuff transition beds of Oman and the basal Khuff clastics of central Saudi Arabia. Hence, the unit is assigned to the Middle Permian, Wordian. *Florinites ?balmei* was first described by Stephenson and Filatoff in 2000 from the basal Khuff clastics of Saudi Arabia, and it has since been reported from Oman, Kuwait, southeastern Turkey, Iraq, United Arab Emirates and Qatar. This suggests that the plant that produced *Florinites ?balmei* had a narrow palaeogeographic distribution in the Mid-Permian which may be useful in reconstructing the problematic tectonic and paleogeographic history of this complex region.