

Radiolarians from chert clasts in the Hemis Conglomerate distributed along the Indus suture zone, Ladakh Himalayas, northern India

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Oceanic basalt and the overlying deep-sea pelagic chert accreted along the southern margin of Eurasia are sporadically distributed in the Indus suture zone of Ladakh Himalayas, northern India, where the oceanic plate of Neo-Tethys was subducted. Most of them, however, were deformed and metamorphosed during the collision between India and Eurasia, and it is difficult to reconstruct the history and environment of the Neo-Tethys ocean by using the accretionary complexes. Instead we have analyzed the radiolarian ages of chert clast preserved in the molasse sediments along the Indus suture zone, and have tried to reconstruct development of Neo-Tethys. We will present the radiolarian assemblages and their ages in the chert clasts.

We surveyed late Eocene/early Oligocene Hemis Conglomerate, though no diagnostic fossils have been discovered, distributed near Leh, Ladakh, and collected more than 200 chert clasts from four localities. After the analyses of one thirds of the clasts one Late Triassic, one Middle Jurassic, two Late Jurassic, three Late Jurassic/Early Cretaceous and nine Early Cretaceous chert clasts were recovered. In the presentation we are planning to show the total age population of the two hundred chert clasts.