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Marine algae from the Prang Formation (Middle Eocene) and their significance in depositional environment of Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya, India

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The present paper records eight species of calcareous algae observed in the samples collected from the Prang Formation of middle Eocene age outcropping in the areas of the Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya. The study indicates that the algae are associated with the assemblage of larger foraminifera comprising populations of *Nummulites*, *Alveolina* and discocyclinids throughout the succession. They disappear at some intervals in the lower and the upper parts of the successions but reappear in good number near the top before finally disappearing at the contact with the Kopili Formation.

The sequence of the algal assemblage is divisible into two associations: (i) the lower association dominated by *Lithophyllum* and (ii) the upper association dominated by *Lithothamnion*. Using algal and larger foraminiferal data, the environment of deposition is briefly discussed. The lower association was deposited in a shallow lagoonal environment (shallow subtidal ramp), whereas the upper one accumulated in a relatively deeper mid ramp environment.

Key word: Marine algae, Eocene, Meghalaya, India, Ssystematics and Palaeoenvironment.