

A silicified wood from the Early Cretaceous sediments in the Kaligandaki Valley, west central Nepal

Khum N. Paudyal^{1*}, Lalu P. Paudel¹, Dieter Uhl²

¹ Tribuvan University, Central Department of Geology, Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal

² Senckenberg Forschungsinstitut und Naturmuseum, Senckenberganlage 25, 60325 Frankfurt am Main, Germany

* khum99@gmail.com

A silicified wood has been discovered from the Tethyan Cretaceous (Berriasian) deposits belonging to the Kagbeni Formation of north Central Nepal. The wood exhibits anatomical features which are well in accordance with *Araucarioxylon nepalense* described by Barale *et al.* (1976) from another locality in the Kagbeni Formation near Kagbeni in the Thakkhola Valley in Central Nepal. It is a pycnoxylic wood with mostly uniseriate and rarely biseriate bordered pits on radial tracheid walls. According to recent taxonomic opinions this type of wood should not be treated as *Araucarioxylon*, but as *Agathoxylon* Hartig. Thus we propose the name

Agathoxylon nepalense comb. nov. for this type of wood. The sandstones of the Kagbeni Formation have been interpreted as delta-deposits, with a major flow direction from the south. This suggests that the wood originated from the northern margin of Indian sub-continent.

References

Barale G., Bassoulet J.P. & Bose M.N., 1976. On a collection of Mesozoic plants from Kagbeni–Muktinah, Thakkhola Valley, Nepal. *The Palaeobotanist*, 25(1–3): 32–38. <https://doi.org/10.54991/jop.1976.994>.