BOOK REVIEW

PRECAMBRIAN ROCKS OF NORTHEAST INDIA by Bipul Chandra Barooah. North East Geo-Resource Consultancy Service, 2011, Pages: 108. Price: Rs.250.

The monograph 'Precambrian Rocks of Northeast India' is a good attempt by the author Bipul Chandra Barooah to present a concise account of the Precambrian rocks occurring mainly in Meghalaya, Western Assam, Nagaon and Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao (N.C. Hills) districts of Central Assam and Arunachal Pradesh as inselbergs. The monograph by Barooah draws on his experiences in Precambrian geological work during his doctoral thesis on the Northwest Scottish Highland at the University of Glasgow and subsequently as a field geologist in the Department of Geology and Mines, Government of Assam.

The monograph covers the distribution of Precambrian rocks of the region and describes in detail mineral composition of different rock types, their texture, fabrics and metamorphic grade. Based on the above observation, the author has drawn the tentative stratigraphy of the Precambrian rocks exposed in Assam and Meghalaya. The present stratigraphy of the Precambrian rocks of Assam and Meghalaya is based on the contribution of different workers as well as the author's own observations. The author has also identified the occurrence of three phases of basic igneous activity in the region. First phase, which he has termed as basite, is highly metamorphosed. The second phase is represented by partially metamorphosed basic rock described as metadolerite – earlier named as Khasi greenstone. The above basic activities are followed by

profused acid igneous activity as represented by different partially metamorphosed and fresh granite bodies exposed in the region. After prolonged period of quiescence, the third phase of basic igneous activity followed represented by the occurrence of extensive bodies of basaltic rock of much later period.

While describing the Precambrian rocks of Arunachal Pradesh, the author has relied on different data available. The monograph has presented clearly the petrography, structure, metamorphic history, geochronology and mineral resources. However, the addition of geochemical data would have enhanced the value of the publication.

The monograph includes several geological maps that have not been published previously. The geological maps are a useful resource, however, they could have been illustrated with better drafting and reproduction. There is also scope for proper editing. The monograph will be a good handbook of the Precambrian rocks for the geologists who are interested in the Precambrian rocks of northeastern India and the students of geology.

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