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Subject: Botany  
Class: Deg.-II (Hons.)  
Paper: III, Group-‘A’  
Topic: Process of Fossilization, Types of fossils and Importance of Fossil.  
Lecture no. 12

**Fossil:**

The organic remains of living beings including plants and animals existed in the remote past are called fossils.

**Process of Fossilization:**

The process of fossil formation is called fossilization. Burial is the best method.

The best place for fossilization is the ocean, because the saline water prevents the decay of dead organisms. When the animals die, their hard parts settle to the bottom and are covered by sediments. The process of settlement of more sediments and sands goes on continuously in such a way that the older fossils are preserved deeper and the recent bones in the upper strata. When erosion of the upper strata

occurs, the fossils are exposed. Similarly the land plants and animals are brought to the ocean with the aid of water stream, and are preserved there as fossils.

Sometimes, insects are entrapped in 'amber' – a yellowish fossil resin. As the amber dries and solidifies, the insects remain embedded in the resin as remarkably well preserved fossils which exhibit histological details much like the freshly preserved specimens.

In case of mould formation, the impressions left in mud or sand by the soft or hard parts of animals or plants, are solidified into stone, a permanent fossil record of impression.

(Continued in next lecture.....)

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