

**STRUCTURAL, LITHOLOGICAL AND METAMORPHIC DISCONTINUITIES
IN THE GNEISSES AROUND KANDY AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE**

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All the gneisses in the area around Kandy are currently regarded as part of the "Highland Series" subdivision of the Sri Lankan Precambrian metamorphic complex. On the other hand, the rocks comprising the Eastern and Western Vijayan are thought sufficiently different in character, as well as in age, to justify quite separate status, while the gneisses of the South-Western Group, though in many ways closely related to the rocks of the Highland Series, are generally separated from it. Nevertheless, important variations in lithology have already been recognized in the gneisses of the Kandy area, especially between the rocks enclosed within the so-called "arenas" and those outside these synformal infolds. In this paper the contrasts between "Kandy gneisses" and "Arena gneisses" are reviewed, and extended to include structural and metamorphic characteristics. Possible causes of these differences are discussed, and it is concluded that a history involving pre-D₃ unconformity between a volcanic cover succession and a high-grade metamorphic basement offers one possible explanation. Structural juxtaposition of two contrasting terrains prior to D₃ might also answer the case. Post-D₃ strike-slip faulting at high temperature has produced other discontinuities.

It is concluded that the Arena gneisses should be given a lithostratigraphic designation separate from that of the Highland Series. This preliminary survey also points up the need for more comprehensive mapping and structural analysis of the Sri Lankan Precambrian Complex.