

Cenozoic Non-marine Ostracods of Mongolia

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Mongolian nonmarine Cenozoic ostracods were studied weakly. However, study of Lower Paleogene ostracods have started since 1970 by Joint Mongolian-Polish, Mongolian-Russian paleontological expeditions. In 2004 the investigation of the ostracods assemblages in Uvs Nuur and Darkhad Basins were undertaken (Khand, 2004). In the last two years as part of the international joint project the investigation of modern nonmarine ostracods in saline lakes of Western Mongolia has begun. Within this project about 50 saline lakes were included and the results of modern nonmarine ostracods have not been analysed yet.

At the beginning of Paleogene, a big changes in the composition of ostracod's species took place, partly in the composition of genera as well. This fact attested a substantial boundary in the evolution of ostracods, coinciding with a boundary K/T of high stratigraphical level.

The Upper Paleocene-Lower Eocene deposits were distributed only in the South-Western part of Mongolia. Among Upper Paleocene ostracod assemblages substantial role were played by representatives of genera *Limnocythere*, *Timiriasevia*, *Caganella*, *Eucypris*, *Bogdocypris*. Paleocene lakes were comparatively shallow watered, saturated with carbonates, alkali medium, which attested a big number of *Limnocythere* to prefer such conditions. However, only two species such as *Cypris dashzevegi* and *Mediocypris plumbea* belong to the Lower Eocene. This could indicate that degradation

of lake took place as a result of the general elevation of territory during the Lower Eocene. In addition, during Upper Paleocene time semi-arid climate had dominated, but Lower Eocene was characterized by the gradual increase of aridization.

From the Uvs Nuur Basin (Western Mongolia) ostracod genera were investigated, such as *Cyprideis*, *Ilyocypris* which indicates Miocene and Pliocene ages.

Ostracod assemblages of Pliocene-Pleistocene represented by the species of genera *Cyprinotus*, *Caganella*, *Candona*, *Eucypris*, *Ilyocypris* and *Fabaeformiscandona*. Similar ostracod assemblages were described from the Zaisan depression, Nijni Povoljje of Russia and North-Western part of China. In the meantime, Pleistocene and Holocene were characterized by *Cytherissa*, *Limnocythere*, *Cyprideis*, *Candona*, *Cypridopsis* and *Heterocypris*. These species of genera are well known from the paleolakes deposits of Pleistocene and Holocene of Central and North Europe, North Africa and many parts of Asia.

In Mongolia an initial studies of stratigraphic sequences had been undertaken on Uvs Nuur Basin which are containing Pliocene and Quaternary ostracod assemblages.

A detailed studies of ostracods distribution and conditions of modern Mongolian lakes is taken place to better understand evolution and environments of Central Asia.