

STRATIGRAPHY, PALEOECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION OF LOESSIC PALAEOLITHIC INDUSTRIES IN SOUTHERN TADJIKISTAN

V.A. Ranov, P.M. Sosin, J. Schafer

In this year the quarter of century have passed since beginning of loessic palaeolithic studies. We can dividing this period to two parts. The first one when loess-palesoils stratigraphy was based on the series termoluminescentes dates obtained by V.I. Shelkopljas (Dodonov, 1986). The second one begin in 1994 when group of western scholars proposed the correlation of loess-palesoils formation with OXY climatical stages. Now there are in the region mentioned above two stratigraphical schemes which are quite different for the chronology : the dates for palaeolithic sites in last one are in two or three times bigger as Schelkopljjas' chronology.

From 1994 a new studies of paleecology was beginning and in the place of main division on the loess, "baby soil", soil of climatical optimum and illuvial horizon-loess, the more detrailed division of paleosoils is coming. This take the possibility for new paleecological reconstructions. The palaeolithic finds in loess-palesoils formation in South Tadjikistan is unique in the World. Now with exception of 9 and 10 palesoils there are the uninterrupted palaeolithic finds from 1 to 12 palesoils i.e. during 800 th. years. The loessic palaeolithic industries in Southern Tadjikistan yielded the local evolution techno-typological assemblages – the Lower Palaeolithic pebble-tools karatau culture in 12-4 palesoils and Middle Palaeolithic in palesoils 3-1. It is possible that appearance of Middle Palaeolithic industries was tied with the western migration.