

NOTE ON SOME PLIOCENE MAMMALIAN FOSSILS FROM LUSHIH, WESTERN HONAN

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ABSTRACT

The collection of mammalian fossils described in the paper is part of the materials collected from Lushih, western Honan, by a field party sent by the Institute of Vertebrate Palaeontology, Academia Sinica in May—June, 1957.

The Lushih basin is one of the many basins located in the Eastern Tsinling Range. The basin deposits include Cenozoic strata of Eocene, Pliocene and Pleistocene age reaching a total thickness of about 500 meters. The younger Tertiary beds consist dominantly of red clay sediments laying unconformably on upper Eocene Lushih series and overlain by Pleistocene reddish clay. All the specimens described in the present paper were collected from the red clays of supposed Pliocene age.

The mammalian fauna consists of the following species:

Carnivora

Ictitherium sp.

Perissodactyla

Hipparion richthofeni Koken

Chilotherium sp.

Artiodactyla

Gazella cf. *gaudryi* Schlosser

Chleuasstochoerus sp.

Palaeotragus sp.

Cervocerus novonosiae Khomenko

Muntiacus cf. *lacustris* Teilhard et

Trassaert

Based on the characters of the mammalian fauna as a whole we can conclude as follows:

(1) As can be seen from the above list, the mammalian fauna is definitely one of Pliocene epoch, more probably of Pontian stage. This is the first record of the occurrence of the Pliocene mammal bearing beds in the Tsinling region.

(2) The discovery of horizon with Pontian mammalian fossils in Lushih basin pushes the southern limit of the distribution of *Hipparion* red clay in North China to latitude 32° North. The diversification of the fossils of the genus *Hipparion* indicates that probably more than one stratigraphical horizons with mammalian remains are present in the Lushih Pliocene.

(3) According to the fact that the red clays with Pliocene fossils occurring on the top of the mountains, it indicates that the region had elevated greatly since Pliocene.