

# 关于陈家窝动物群的若干问题

——兼论北京猿人首次出现的地质时代

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**摘要** 陈家窝动物群的层位是 L5—S9。在 L5 的上部或 S4/L5 的交界处, 东亚曾发生过一次十分重要的生物进化事件 (“变异仓鼠最低层位” 事件), 它相当于北京猿人及其动物群的首次出现, 它也相当于欧美的 Event 9。在北欧, 它发生在 Saale 冰期的晚期, 距今约 50 万年。陈家窝动物群的地质时代为距今 50—100 万年。考虑到固体地球、气圈、水圈、生物圈之间复杂的耦合关系, 建议将离石黄土上下部的界限上移至 S4/L5 的交界处。

**关键词** 陈家窝动物群, 北京猿人, 离石黄土, 天文气候学

## 一、关于陈家窝动物群的层位问题

陈家窝的蓝田猿人下颌骨化石标本只有一件, 它产于 S6 (An 和 Ho, 1989; 安芷生等, 1990; 孙建中等, 1991)。该层位仅代表相当短的一段地质历史时期。陈家窝动物群则包括两批化石, 4 个层位, 14 种哺乳动物化石。所以陈家窝动物群的层位代表了相当长的一段地质历史时期。

陈家窝动物群的第一批化石是与陈家窝的蓝田猿人下颌骨同时 (1963 年) 出土于同一层位的。据周明镇 (1964) 研究, 它包括 6 个种类:

食肉目 Carnivora Bowdich, 1821

北豺 *Cuon alpinus* Pallas, 1811

虎 *Felis tigris* Linnaeus, 1758

长鼻目 Proboscidea Illiger, 1811

象 (属种未定) “*Elephas*” sp.

偶蹄目 Artiodactyla Owen, 1848

葛氏斑鹿 *Pseudaxis grayi* Zdansky, 1925

李氏野猪 *Sus* cf. *lydekkeri* Zdansky, 1928

啮齿目 Rodentia Bowdich, 1821

方氏鼯鼠 *Myospalax fontanieri* Milne—Edwards, 1867

贾兰坡等 (1966) 在 “陕西蓝田新生界” 一文中, 已将上述情况作了正确的记述。

在该文的插图上也作了相应的标记。根据安芷生、孙建中等的观点,蓝田猿人下颌骨与周明镇(1964)所记述的6个种类均产于S6(安芷生等,1990;孙建中等,1991)。

陈家窝动物群的第二批化石是在1964年由赵资奎、潘悦蓉、陆庆五、柴凤歧等在陈家窝化石点进行系统发掘时采得的。

据周明镇和李传夔(1965)研究,第二批化石共包括9个种类:

兔形目 Lagomorpha Brandt, 1885

鼠兔科 Ochotonidae Thomas, 1897

复齿鼠兔 *Ochotonoides complicidens* (Boule et Teilhard, 1928)

兔科 Leporidae Gray, 1821

翁氏兔 *Lepus wongi* Young, 1927

啮齿目 Rodentia Bowdich, 1821

仓鼠科 Cricetidae Rochebrune, 1883

丁氏鼯科 *Myospalax tingi* Young, 1927

方氏鼯鹿 *M. cf. fontanieri* Milne-Edwards, 1867

高冠瀚河鼠 *Bahomys hypsodonta* Chow et Li, 1965

鼠科 Muridae Gray, 1821

小林姬鼠 *Apodenmus cf. sylvaticus* Linnaeus, 1758

豪猪科 Hystricidae Burnett, 1830

? 豪猪? *Hystrix* sp.

肉食目 Carnivora Bowdich, 1821

鼬科 Mustelidae Swainson, 1835

獾 *Meles cf. leucurus* Hodgson, 1847

偶蹄目 Artiodactyla Owen, 1848

鹿科 Cervidae Gray, 1821

大角鹿 *Megaloceros* sp.

关于这批化石的层位问题,周明镇和李传夔(1965)已经作过明确的记述:“全部化石除一件 *Ochotonoides* 的上颌骨层位较低外,其余标本都产于该地点的三条相距甚近的棕红色古土壤上下。可视为采自同一层中”。在这里,周明镇和李传夔(1965)所讲的“三条相距甚近的棕红色古土壤”便是贾兰坡等(1966)所描述的第4层的上部,即“红三条”,也就是刘东生等所记述的S5。显然S5的上方乃是L5;而S5的下方则是L6。所以第二批化石至少包括3个层位:

1. L5

2. L6

3. 仅“一件 *Ochotonoides* 的上颌骨”。周明镇和李传夔(1965)称它的“层位较低”,看来应低于蓝田猿人下颌骨的层位S6。关于这件标本的层位尚未见科学家对它提出具体的意见。我们参考了潘悦蓉的1964年的野外发掘记录后推测它可能在L8—S9之间。希望这一意见能起到抛砖引玉的作用。

故陈家窝动物群的层位是 L5-S9。

## 二、陈家窝蓝田猿人及陈家窝动物群的生活环境

如上所述, 陈家窝动物群的层位是 L5-S9。据刘东生等 (1985) 研究, 它包括 5 个完整的气候变迁旋回, 从老到新分别为 A9 (S9, L9)、A8 (S8, L8)、A7 (S7, L7)、A6 (S6, L6) 和 A5 (S5, L5)。换句话说, 它包括 5 次温暖期 (间冰期) 和 5 次寒冷期 (冰期)。不过, 陈家窝动物群的 14 个种类分布在 L5-S9 中的 4 个层位: L8-S9、S6、L6、L5。

1. 在 L8-S9 中, 可能仅发现 *Ochotonoides* 的一件上颌骨, 因此对这两个旋回 (A9, A8) 的生态环境我们很难提出具体的意见。

2. 在 S6 中, 除了蓝田猿人外, 还发现了哺乳动物的 6 个种类。关于其生态环境, 周明镇 (1964) 曾发表过很好的见解。该动物群“基本上都是森林型的动物, 其中只有鼯鼠是栖息于草原和旷野上的, 但也常在林间的空地上生活”。所以陈家窝的蓝田猿人应当是生活在一个比较温暖湿润的森林环境之内, 当时的气候可能与现代蓝田陈家窝村一带的气候环境相类似。

3. 在 L6 与 L5 中共发现了哺乳动物的 9 个种类 (周明镇、李传夔, 1965)。据 Kukla 和 An Zhisheng (1989) 研究, L6 相当于北欧的 Elster 冰期; 而 L5 则相当于 Saale 冰期。这两次冰期是第四纪大冰期中最冷的两次冰期, 因为它们的冰碛范围最广 (Kukla, 1977)。这一现象在青藏高原上也十分明显。由于这两次冰期的冰碛在青藏高原上不易区分, 故这两次冰期被笼统地称之为“倒数第三次冰期”, 但其冰碛范围在青藏高原上仍是最大的 (李吉均、郑本兴等, 1986; 李吉均、李炳元、张青松等, 1991)。天气气候学的研究结果是与以上列举的事实相吻合的, 因为在那两个时期 (氧同位素的第 16 和第 14 阶段), 全球获得的太阳辐射量 (Di or Wi) 特别少 (徐钦琦, 1993)。

在 L6 与 L5 内所发现 9 个哺乳动物种类 (即陈家窝动物群的第二批化石) 为我们认识第四纪大冰期中最冷的两次冰期的生态环境提供了珍贵的资料。

据周明镇、李传夔 (1965) 研究, 在第二批化石中, 啮齿目和兔形目的种类约占 77.77%。在现代, 这些种类几乎都生活在草原或荒漠等地。事实上, 在现今的黄土高原, 其中相当大的一部分便属于荒漠或半荒漠。所以产于 L6 与 L5 的第二批化石很可能代表草原-荒漠动物群。

不过在第二批化石中, 有 *Megaloceros* sp. 的 5 个颊齿化石。古生物学家常常把它作为森林型动物的代表之一。事实上它未必生活在茂密的森林之内, 因为巨大的角枝对密林中的活动是不方便的。故它们很可能生活在山地的林缘地区。第二批化石还包括 *Meles* cf. *leucurus* 的 7 件标本。古生物学家常把獾当作森林型动物。但是据夏武平、高耀亭等 (1988) 研究, 在现代, 獾类的生态分布是相当广阔的, 也可生活在山麓、灌丛、荒野等地区。最后来讨论豪猪的问题。虽然在第二批化石中未见豪猪的化石, 但是在一件獾的“破碎的左下颌骨上, 保存了明显的啮齿类啮咬的牙痕, 每一啮痕宽达 3.5mm, 不可能为上述啮齿目, 如 *Myospalax*, *Bahomys* 或兔形目动物的啮痕, 估计可

能为常见到的豪猪 (*Hystrix*) 的啮迹” (周明镇、李传夔, 1965)。古生物学家不但常把它视为森林型动物, 而且还把它看作南方型动物。可是, 在东北末次冰期的地层中也曾出现过豪猪的化石 (张镇洪、魏海波等, 1986)。所以豪猪的生态适应范围也是相当大的。鉴于大角鹿、獾、豪猪的存在, 在那两次冰期, 在陈家窝的邻近地区尚存在着某些树林。

综上所述, 陈家窝动物群的第二批化石代表了一种比较干冷的气候环境。那时候陈家窝一带呈现为草原—荒漠的景观, 不过附近尚有一些树林。所以在第四纪大冰期的最冷的两次冰期, 陈家窝一带的生态环境并不是十分恶劣的。

小结: 陈家窝动物群的第一批、第二批化石的地质时代是大体上相同的。按照 Bonifay (1990) 的观点, 它们同属于古老型的第四纪动物群。它代表中更新世早期比较干冷的生态环境, 从而与中更新世晚期的大间冰期的气候是有所不同的。

但是陈家窝动物群的这两批化石的具体层位是不同的; 不同层位所反映的生态环境也是不同的。

第一批化石与陈家窝蓝田猿人属于同一层位, 相当于 S6, 即相当于第 17 阶段 (温暖期)。根据这批化石的性质, 陈家窝的蓝田猿人生活在一个比较温暖湿润的森林环境之内。

第二批化石中的大多数种类的标本均产于 L6 与 L5。它们相当于第四纪大冰期中最冷的两次冰期, 相当于北欧的 Elster 和 Saale 冰期。这批动物代表草原—荒漠动物群, 不过, 由于獾、大角鹿、豪猪的存在, 陈家窝一带尚有树林的存在, 故其生态环境并不是非常恶劣的。

### 三、中更新世中期的生物进化事件

在中更新世中期, 在欧洲与北美等地曾发生过一次非常重要的生物进化事件。Bonifay 认为, 通过这一事件, 欧洲的古老型的第四纪动物群 (如意大利的 Ponte Galeria and Isernia local faunas) 消失了, 它们被进步型的第四纪的动物群 (如意大利的 Ranuccio local fauna 或 Late Galerian fauna) 所替代了。

1984 年, Repenning 把这一事件命名为“第三次更新世田鼠类动物的扩散事件” (the third Pleistocene microtine dispersal event)。1987 年, Repenning 把它简称为“事件 9” (Event 9)。它的标志是一批田鼠类动物的首次出现, 例如北美的 *Microtus pennsylvanicus*、*M. montanus*、*M. mexicanus* 等。

陈家窝动物群的顶界相当于欧美的 Event 9。其根据包括以下 3 点:

1. 在刘东生等 (1985) 所著的《黄土与环境》一书中, 郑绍华对黄土地区的小哺乳动物化石的地层分布做了一次很好的小结。他指出, 许多新的种类, 如变异仓鼠 (*Cricetinus varians*)、黑线姬鼠 (*Apodemus agrarius*) 和麝鼯 (*Scaptochirus cf. moschatus*) 等都是从 S4 才开始出现的。上述事实表明, 一批新的种类在 S4 的出现乃是与古老的陈家窝动物群在 L5 上部的消失相耦合的。根据以上事实, 这一事件可以命名为“变异仓鼠最低层位”事件 (*Cricetinus varians* LSD), 它位于 L5 的上部或

S4/L5 的交界处。

2. 上述事件标志着周口店的北京猿人及其动物群的首次出现。因为从 S4 开始出现的那些种类在北京猿人动物群都存在(吴汝康等, 1985; 1989; 刘东生等, 1985; 徐钦琦、欧阳涟, 1982)。而且伴随着这一事件出现的新的种类还不止这 3 种, 如还有上头田鼠 (*Microtus epiratticeps*), 翁氏鼯鼠 (*Myospalax wongi*)、柯氏鼠兔 (*Ochotona koslowi*), 黑熊 (*Ursus thibetanus*), 肿骨鹿 (*Megaloceros pachyosteus*) 等等。所以我们认为, L5 上部或 S4/L5 的分界相当于欧美的 Event 9。

3. 从理论上讲, 生物的进化事件应是全球性的事件, 应在各大洲同时发生。据欧美的古生物学家研究, 生物进化(或扩散)事件的出现总是与气候的全球变化有关。Repenning (1984) 认为, 它们总是发生在草地的最大的扩展期的末尾。Vrba (1985) 在研究了非洲晚新生代的哺乳动物的进化与气候变迁的关系后, 得到了与 Repenning 相似的见解。Vrba 认为, 这种草地的扩展“是以森林和林地面积的缩小为代价的。它很可能是由全球性的温度下降及与此相伴随的降水带的移动所引起的”。显然, Vrba 所讲的“全球性温度下降”相当于古气候学家所谓的“冰期”。于是按照 Repenning、Vrba 等的观点, 在生物进化事件与全球性气候变迁之间存在着耦合关系, 因为事件通常发生在冰期的晚期或末尾(徐钦琦, 1989; 1990; 1992)。基于上述原理, 在 1987 年 Repenning 明确地提出, 在欧洲 Event 9 发生在 Saale (或 Elster II) 冰期; 而在北美, 它则发生在 Kansan 冰期。

东亚的情况也恰好如此。据 Kukla 和 An Zhisheng (1989) 对中国黄土的研究, L5 相当于北欧的 Saale 冰期。所以发生在 L5 上部或 S4/L5 交界处的“变异仓鼠最低层位”事件与欧美发生在 Saale 冰期的 Event 9 正好是同时发生的。

由此可见, 生物的进化事件是全球性的, 它是气圈与生物圈的耦合关系的一种表现。

#### 四、离石黄土上下部的交界

在 50 年代末 60 年代初, 刘东生提出了“离石黄土”及其分为上、下两部分的新概念。其上下部的分界位于 L5/S5 的交界处(刘东生, 1958; 刘东生、张宗祜, 1962; 刘东生, 1964)。这一概念在我国学术界已被普遍地接受了(刘东生等, 1985; 孙建中、赵景波等, 1991)。

然而根据我们上述的研究结果, 陈家窝动物群的层位相当于 L5-S9。若按照上述的流行的观点, 那么陈家窝动物群的主体部分(S5-S9)当位于离石黄土下部; 而其另一部分(L5)则位于离石黄土上部。这样的划分方法似乎是不妥的。因为陈家窝动物群代表中更新世早期的古老型第四纪动物群, 代表比较干冷的生态环境; 而之后的北京猿人动物群则代表中更新世晚期的进步型的第四纪动物群, 代表比较温湿的生态环境。其界限在 S4/L5 的交界处。

在刘东生等(1985)所著的《黄土与环境》一书中, 我们发现, 此书的部分作者对上述流行的界限(即 L5/S5)有不同的意见。例如在第 4 章第 3 节(孢粉化石与古植

被),周昆叔等将陕西洛川黑木沟的黄土剖面的孢粉 V 带与孢粉 VI 带的分界限不是放在传统的 L5/S5 的界限处,而与我们一样,也放在 S4/L5 的交界处。其理由也与我们相似,因为 L5 的生态环境是与其下伏各层位(离石黄土与下部)相似的,即“V 带植被不茂盛,环境较恶劣,可能代表着草原型植被”。而 L5 与 S4 及其以上各层位(离石黄土与上部)的环境则是不同的,即“VI 带植被较茂盛,环境较好,可能代表着森林草原植被,气候较温和湿润”。于是周昆叔等将 L5 划归 V 带,即把 L5 从离石黄土上部拉下来,划归离石黄土下部了。由此可见,孢粉学与哺乳动物学的研究结果是一致的,是互相耦合的。又如在第 5 章第 7 节(古土壤与微形态),安芷生等正确地指出,“从冷期到暖期的气候的变化,比较从暖期到冷期的要剧烈得多。因此在确立以古土壤—黄土为代表的古气候组合时,应将古土壤与其上覆黄土划为一个古气候组合,它反映了一个从温暖期开始到寒冷期结束的气候变迁旋回,它也是比较古土壤或黄土层本身更高一级气候地层或土壤地层单位”。基于上述认识,安芷生等把 L5 与 S5 结合为一个完整的,不宜分割的组合或旋回 A5 (S5, L5)。其它组合或旋回亦然,如 A0、A1、A2……A11。所以当前流行的划分离石黄土上下间的界限(L5/S5)是把同一组合或同一旋回的 A5 (S5, L5) 分割为上下两个部分。因此这样的划分方案不是一个好的办法。

如上所述,欧美各国学者总是把生物进化事件放在冰期的晚期或末尾(Azzaroli, 1983; Bonifay, 1990; Repenning, 1984; 1987; Vrba, 1985)。换言之,一次重要的冰期的结束,或一次新的间冰期的开始,往往会触发一次生物的进化事件,从而带来生物圈面貌的重大变革。在过去的 600 多万年内,这样的事件曾发生过 10 次,而且每次事件都是这样的(Repenning, 1987)。

综上所述,我们建议将离石黄土上下部的分界上移至 S4/L5 的分界处。如果这样做的话,那么分别反映固体地球、气圈、生物圈变革的三条界线就全部耦合在一起了。它深刻地反映了地球表层各圈层之间的复杂的耦合关系,以至地球与天体的耦合(天文气候学)。

## 五、“变异仓鼠最低层位”事件的地质时代

如上所述,“变异仓鼠最低层位”事件是与欧美的 Event 9 同时发生的。据 Repenning (1984; 1987) 估计,Event 9 距今约 40 万年;但据 Bonifay (1990) 估计,Event 9 距今约 50 万年。

我们赞成 Bonifay (1990) 的观点,其根据有以下 3 点:

1. 据 Azzaroli (1983) 研究,在意大利的 Late Galerian 动物群中,出现了许多新迁徙来的田鼠类的属种,所以该动物群应出现在 Event 9 之后。幸运的是这一动物群又被夹在两层熔岩之间,所以该动物群的同位素年龄就可以通过测量熔岩的年龄而获得。据 Azzaroli (1983) 报道,这两层熔岩的年龄为距今 36.5—48.7 万年。由此推断,Event 9 至少距今 48.7 万年。故 Repenning 的 40 万年的数据与上述事实是不相容的。

2. 在黄土塬地区,黄土堆积和深海沉积物相似,基本上是连续的。但是,少数时段

的沉积物的缺失现象仍是难以完全避免的。以 S2 为例, 据刘东生等 (1985) 研究, S2 通常包括两层古土壤和夹于它们之间的黄土层。按照 Kukla 和 An Zhisheng (1989) 的命名法则, 从下到上其编号分别为 S2SS2、S2LL1 和 S2SS1。在黄土高原的许多地方, 如洛川、西峰、宝鸡、西安、渭南、兰州等地, S2LL1 都是很薄的。然而在陇西的白草塬剖面上, S2LL1 的厚度却很大, 厚达 2.9m (丁仲礼等, 1990)。在我们看来, 这么厚的黄土层理应代表一次完整的寒冷期。因为 L1 和 L2 分别相当于深海氧同位素的第 2—4 阶段和第 6 阶段, 所以厚达 2.9m 的 S2LL1 应相当于第 8 个阶段。如果按照这样的对比方案, 那么 S2SS1 便相当于第 7 阶段, 而 S2SS2 则相当于第 9 阶段。根据地质学与天文气候学的研究结果, 第 7 阶段仍是一个相当突出的温暖期 (Kukla, 1977; 徐钦琦, 1991)。这是与 S2SS1 所表现的特征相吻合的。据刘东生等 (1985), Kukla 和 An Zhisheng (1989), 孙建中、赵景波等 (1991) 研究, S2SS1 是发育得相当好的古土壤, 正好反映了第 7 阶段的相当暖和的气候。而 S2SS2 是发育得较弱的古土壤, 恰好反映第 9 阶段只是一个并不突出的温暖期。这也是与天文气候学的研究结果相一致的 (徐钦琦, 1991)。

以上列举的事实表明, 在黄土高原的许多地区, 第 8 阶段的黄土沉积普遍地存在着缺失现象, 第 8 阶段的黄土所遗留下来的黄土堆积物 (S2LL1) 普遍较薄。不过, 与深海沉积物相似, 第 8 阶段的黄土沉积物仍然有保存得比较完整的地方, 那就是陇西的白草塬剖面。在那里, 第 8 阶段的黄土堆积厚达 2.9m。所以我们认为, 在今日的黄土地区, 真正能代表第 8 阶段黄土沉积的地方, 应该是白草塬剖面, 而不是其它剖面。故白草塬的黄土剖面可以与深海的氧同位素阶段作如下对比 (徐钦琦, 1992)。

白草塬剖面 Baicaoyuan loess section	氧同位素阶段 $\delta^{18}O$ Stages
So	1
L1	2—4
S1	5
L2	6
S2SS1	7
S2LL1, i.e. L K (Xu Qinqi, 1992)	8
S2SS2	9
L3	10
S3	11
L4	12
S4	13
-----Event 9	
L5 the Saale glaciation	14
S5	15
L6 the Elster glaciation	16
S6	17

L7	18
B S7	B 19
-----	
M L8	M 20
S8	21
L9	22
S9	23

由此可见, S4/L5 的交界相当于深海氧同位素第 13 阶段与第 14 阶段的分界, 距今约 50.5 万年 (徐钦琦, 1991)。故 Bonifay (1990) 的 50 万年的界限是与事实相符的。

3. 根据天文气候学理论, 我们曾把北欧的 4 次经典冰期与深海的氧同位素阶段进行了对比, 其中 Saale 冰期相当于氧同位素的第 14 阶段 (Xu Qinqi 和 Huang Yuzhen, 1991, 1993)。因此, Event 9 应发生在 Saale 冰期的晚期, 即距今 50.5 万年, 与 Bonifay (1990) 的观点相一致。

## 六、结 束 语

在 80—90 年代, 许多科学家提倡从事多学科交叉的、高层次的综合研究。他们提出了许多新的概念, 如天地生综合研究、天地生人综合研究、全球变化 (Global Change)、地球系统 (Earth System)、日地系统 (Sun-Earth System) 等。在 1992 年 4 月 10 日的中国科学报上, 全文刊载了“经国务院第 94 次常务会议审议通过”的《国家中长期科学技术发展纲要》。这份纲要的目的是“阐明我国中长期自然科学技术发展的战略、方针、政策和发展重点, 指导我国到 2000 年以至 2020 年科学技术与经济、社会的协调发展”。在关于地球科学方面, 纲要明确提出“地球科学要把固体地球、气圈、水圈、生物圈组成的复杂耦合系统作为整体开展研究, 为解决国家资源、能源、环境、自然灾害等重大问题提供基础资料和理论依据”。这样的研究方向是值得提倡的。本文正是以它为指导思想而展开讨论的。归纳起来, 本文共提出如下 4 点认识:

1. 陈家窝动物群的层位是 L5—S9, 相当于氧同位素的第 14—23 阶段, 距今约 50—100 万年。

2. 离石黄土上下部的分界应上移至 S4/L5 的交界处。它相当于北京猿人动物群与陈家窝动物群的分界。

3. 在相当于北欧 Saale 冰期的晚期, 距今约 50 万年前, 世界各地曾发生过一次十分重要的生物进化事件。在东亚, 我们称它为“变异仓鼠最低层位”事件。它相当于欧美的第三次更新世田鼠类动物的扩散事件或事件 9。通过这一事件, 各大洲的古老型的第四纪动物群消失了, 它们被进步型的第四纪动物群所取代了。

4. 当代的地球科学要着重研究固体地球、气圈、水圈、生物圈之间的耦合关系, 以至于地球与天体的耦合关系, 我们称它为天地生人综合研究。

**致谢** 在本文的写作过程中曾得到我所邱占祥教授、李传夔教授、潘悦容教授、同号文



博士, 中国地质科学院王乃文教授, 美国密歇根大学 Lynne A. Schepartz 博士, 加州大学 Sarri Miller-Antonio 博士及依达荷大学 Donald E. Tyler 教授的帮助, 作者谨致谢意。

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## SOME REMARKS ON CHENJIAWO FAUNA

— On the First Appearance of Peking Man Fauna

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**Key words** Chenjiawo fauna, Peking Man, Lishi Formation, Astroclimatology

### Summary

The Chenjiawo fauna includes two stratigraphically distinct groups of mammalian fossils, 14 species of mammals and 4 stratigraphic horizons. They are L5, L6, S6 and L8—S9, representing a wide temporal distribution. The first appearance of Peking Man fauna can be correlated with Event 9 in America and Europe (Repenning, 1987) and is marked by the lowest stratigraphic occurrence of *Cricetinus varians* (LSD). In northern Europe, Event 9 is believed to have taken place near the end of the Saale glaciation about 500 000 years ago (Bonifay, 1990). Therefore the geological age of the Chenjiawo fauna is between 500 000-1 000 000 years B. P., corresponding to oxygen isotope Stages 14-23. Through the correlation between the solid earth, atmosphere, hydrosphere, and biosphere, the boundary between the Upper and Lower Lishi Formation should be moved to the S4/L5 boundary.

## I. CORRELATION BETWEEN LOESS SECTION AND OXYGEN ISOTOPE STAGES

In the Yuan loess area, many scientists think that the sediments are continuous and the climatic records are perfect. This does not appear to be accurate. Sedimentation was discontinuous in many sections. For example, many scientists argue that S2 corresponds to oxygen isotope Stage 7 (Liu, 1985; Kukla and An, 1989; Ding *et al.*, 1990). In fact, S2 includes three layers: S2SS1, S2LL1 and S2SS2. Ding *et al.* (1990) reported that there is a thick unit of loess between S2SS1 and S2SS2 in the Baicaoyuan section in North China. Its thickness is about 2.9 m. It was named S2LL1 or Lk (Xu, 1992). It is reasonable that S2LL1 or Lk represents a complete cold stage. Because L1 and L2 are correlated with Stages 2-4 and Stage 6 separately, S1 and S2SS1 correspond to Stage 5 and Stage 7 respectively. Thus S2LL1 should be correlated with Stage 8. Kukla and An (1989) pointed out that although China is far from Northern Europe and Alps, the apparent agreement of the numbers of thick loess units in China with the four classical European glacial stages deserves attention. According to their opinion, L1, L2, L5 and L6 of Chinese loess are correlative with the Weichsel, Warthe, Saale and Elster glaciations in Northern Europe, respectively. Therefore the correlation between the Baicaoyuan sequence and oxygen isotope stages are shown in Table 1:

**Table 1.**

Baicaoyuan sequence	oxygen isotope stages	
S0	1	
L1 the Weichsel glaciation	2—4	
S1	5	
L2 the Warthe glaciation	6	
S2SS1	7	
S2LL1 or Lk by Xu (1992)	8	
S2SS2	9	
L3	10	
S3	11	
L4	12	
S4	13	<i>Cricetinus varians</i> LSD
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>		
L5 the Saale glaciation	14	or Event 9
S5	15	
L6 the Elster glaciation	16	
S6	17	
L7	18	

S7 B (Brunhes)	19
L8 M (Matuyama)	20
S8	21
L9	22
S9	23

During Stage 8 the loess was completely deposited in the Baicaoyuan section because the thickness of S2LL1 is about 2.9 m. While in Chenjiawo, Luochuan, Xifeng, Lanzhou, Xi'an, etc., the loess was not deposited completely, because the thickness of S2LL1 in those sections is much thinner than 2.9 m.

## II. THE GEOLOGICAL PERIOD OF THE CHENJIAWO FAUNA

In the monograph "THE CENOZOIC FORMATION IN LANTIAN AREA OF SHAANXI" (Zhang *et al.*, 1978), it was reported that the Lantian Man's mandible and all the 14 mammalian species were unearthed from one layer, but in fact the Chenjiawo fauna includes two groups of fossils.

The first group of fossils were described by Chou (1964). the species are as follows:

- Carnivora Bowdich, 1821
  - Cuon alpinus* Pallas, 1811
  - Felis tigris* Linnaeus, 1758
- Proboscidea Illiger, 1811
  - "*Elephas*" sp.
- Artiodactyla Owen, 1848
  - Pseudaxis grayi* Zdansky, 1925
  - Sus* cf. *lydekkeri* Zdansky, 1928
- Rodentia Bowdich, 1821
  - Myospalax fontanieri* Milne-Edwards, 1867

These species and the Lantian mandible were unearthed in the same layer, i.e. S6, at Chenjiawo (An, *et al.*, 1989, 1990; Sun and Zhao, 1991).

The second group of fossils were described by Chou and Li (1965). They are as follows:

- Lagomorpha Brandt, 1885
  - Ochotonidae Thomas, 1897
    - Ochotonoides complicidens* Boule et Teilhard, 1928
  - Leporidae Gray, 1821
    - Lepus wongi* Young, 1927
- Rodentia Bowdich, 1821

Cricetidae Rochebrune, 1883

*Myospalax tingi* Young, 1927

*M. cf. fontanieri* Milne-Edwards, 1867

*Bahomys hypsodonta* Chou et Li, 1965

Muridae Gray, 1821

*Apodemus cf. sylvaticus* Linnaeus, 1758

Hystricidae Burnett, 1830

? *Hystrix* sp.

Carnivora Bowdich, 1821

Mustelidae Swainson, 1835

*Meles cf. leucurus* Hodgson, 1847

Artiodactyla Owen, 1848

Cervidae Gray, 1821

*Megaceros* sp.

These species were not found in S6. Chou and Li (1965) said that most of the fossils were unearthed in L5 (the layer overlying S5, i. e. the three-fold polygenetic paleosol) and L6 (the layer underlying S5), except one specimen of *Ochotonoides complicidens*. The latter was found in lower horizons and may be in L8-S9 at Chenjiawo (Chou and Li, 1965). Therefore the Chenjiawo fauna includes 4 horizons:

1. L5.
2. L6.
3. S6.
4. L8-S9.

In short, the geological period of the entire Chenjiawo fauna is that of L5-S9, or Stages 14-23 (Table 1), at about 500 000-1 000 000 years B.P.

### III. THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE LANTIAN MAN AND THE CHENJIAWO FAUNA

The Chenjiawo fauna includes 4 horizons: L5, L6, S6, L8-S9.

1. In L8-S9, there is only one specimen of *Ochotonoides complicidens*. So there is not enough information to discuss the environment of the mammals.

2. In S6, there are 6 species of mammals, such as *Cuon alpinus*, *Felis tigris*, "*Elephas*" sp., *Pseudaxis grayi*, *Sus cf. lydekkeri* and *Myospalax fontanieri*. It is clear that most of them are forest animals (Chou, 1964). Although *Myospalax fontanieri* is not a typical forest species, it usually lives in grasslands, hillsides, and river valleys (Zhang, 1979; Xia and Gao, 1988). Therefore the mammalian fossils in S6 indicate that the climate was quite warm and humid during that time.

3. In L6 and L5, nine mammalian species were found (Chou and Li, 1965).

On the basis of the work of Kukla and An (1989), L6 and L5 correspond to the Elster and Saale glaciation in northern Europe respectively. The moraines and tills of the northern European plain were laid down by the Scandinavian ice sheet. In general, the Elster ice advanced farthest followed by the Saale; and then the Warthe and Weichsel. So the two older ice ages are related to the two colder climate in the four classical ice ages (Kukla, 1977). The situation in the Qinghai-Xizang (Tibetan) Plateau is similar to the northern Europe. The extent of the Nienixiongla glaciation, corresponding to the Elster and Saale glaciation together, marks the maximum advance of ice as well (Li and Zheng, 1986; Shi, Li and Li, 1991; Xu, 1993) (Table 1).

Chou and Li argued that most of the species in L6 and L5 are steppe forms. In North China during Pleistocene, the forest animals represented the warm climate; while the steppe forms indicated the cold climate. Therefore the mammalian fossils in L6 and L5 reflect a cold climate. However the climate at that time was not so extremely cold, because some forest animals, such as *Meles*, *Megaceros*, *Hystrix* did live there (Zhang, 1979; Museum of Liaoning Province and Museum of Benxi City, 1986; Xia and Gao, 1988).

In short, the two groups of Chenjiawo fauna represented a temperate Quaternary fauna of the archaic type or transitional fauna, such as *Ochotonoides complicidens*, *Myospalax tingi*, *Bahomys hypsodonta* etc. So the Chenjiawo fauna indicates a cool climate as a whole. The geological period of the Chenjiawo fauna may be between 1 and 0.5 Ma B.P. (Bonifay, 1990).

#### IV. AN EVOLUTIONARY EVENT AND ITS AGE

During the middle of the Middle Pleistocene, there was a very important evolutionary event affecting faunas in both Europe and America. Bonifay (1990) argued that after the event, the temperate Quaternary faunas of the archaic type (or the Ponte Galeria and Isernia local faunas in Italy) disappeared. They were replaced by the temperate Quaternary faunas of the evolved type (or the late Galeria and Ranuccio local fauna). It was named the third Pleistocene microtine dispersal event or Event 9 by Repenning (1984, 1987). In America, it was characterized by the introduction of several new species of the genus *Microtus*, such as *M. pennsylvanicus*, *M. montanus* and *M. mexioanus*.

The upper limit of the Chenjiawo fauna (i. e. the S4/L5 boundary) in North China corresponds to Event 9 in America and Europe. The reasons are as follows:

1. Liu (1985) reported that the first appearance of many mammalian species, such as *Cricetinus varians*, *Scaptochirus* cf. *moschatus* and *Apodemus agrarinus*, was at the beginning of S4. These new species replaced some old species, for example *Ochotonoides complicidens*, *Myospalax tingi* and *Bahomys hypsodonta*. Hence the event is named the *Cricetinus varians* LSD (the lowest stratigraphic occurrence).

2. The *Cricetinus varians* LSD marks the beginning of the Peking Man fauna in Zhoukoudian, because all these new species in S4 were found in Zhoukoudian Loc. 1 as well (Liu, 1985; Wu *et al.*, 1985, 1989; Xu and Ouyang, 1982; Xu, 1989). In addition, there are many new species in the Peking Man fauna, such as *Microtus epiratticeps*, *Apodemus sylvasticus*, *Myospalax wongi*, *Ochotona koslowi*, *Ursus thibetanus*, *Megaceros pachyosteus* etc.

3. Many paleontologists hold that the evolutionary or dispersal events were global and occurred in different continents at about the same time (Azzaroli, 1983; Repenning, 1984, 1987; Vrba, 1985; Bonifay, 1980, 1990; Xu, 1989, 1990, 1992). According to Repenning (1984), the events apparently occurred near the ends of episodes of grasslands expansion. Vrba (1985) argued that the spread of open grasslands at the expense of shrinking forests and woodlands was probably caused by a global reduction in temperature and associated alternations in rainfall. The interval of global reduction in temperature unquestionably represents a cold stage in the late Cenozoic. From the view of Repenning and Vrba, the evolutionary events must have occurred near the ends of the marked cold stages or glaciations. Therefore they hold that the third Pleistocene microtine dispersal event or Event 9 is believed to have taken place near the end of the Kansan glaciation in America, and the Elster II (or Saale) glaciation in Europe (Repenning, 1984, p.114). According to Kukla and An (1989), L5 corresponds to the Saale glaciation. Therefore the S4/L5 boundary represents the *Cricetinus varians* LSD and is correlated with Event 9 in America and Europe.

Repenning (1984, 1987) held that Event 9 took place at about 400 000 years ago, while Bonifay (1990) argued that it was about 500 000 years ago. According to Azzaroli (1983), the Ranuccio fauna of Italy, a late Galerian fauna, contains new microtine immigrants and is bracketed by lava flows that are 365 000 and 487 000 years old. Therefore Event 9 must be older than the Ranuccio fauna, i.e. older than 487 000 years old. It is now evident that the view of Bonifay (1990) is reasonable.

The Chenjiawo fauna corresponds to Ponte Galeria in Europe and to Irvingtonian II (Event 8 to Event 9) in North America. Bonifay (1990) called it the temperate Quaternary fauna of archaic type.

To sum up, the correlation between the layers of the Chenjiawo section and the oxygen isotope stages is as follows:

**Table 2.**

Chenjiawo section	Oxygen isotope stages
S0	1
L1 the Last glaciation	2—4
S1	5
L2 the Penultimate glaciation	6
S2SS1	7

S2LL1 or Lk (Xu, 1992)	8	
S2SS2	9	
L3	10	
S3	11	
L4	12	
S4	13	<i>Cricetinus varians</i> LSD
-----		
L5 the Saale glaciation	14	or Event 9
S5	15	
L6 the Elster glaciation	16	
S6 Lantian mandible	17	
L7	18	
S7 B (Brunhes)	19	
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L8 M (Matuyama)	20	
S8	21	
L9	22	
S9	23	

According to the SPACMAP time scale, the end of Stage 14 was at 524 000 years B. P. (Imbrie *et al.*, 1984); while according to the DISR (deviations of the incoming solar radiation) time scale, it was 505 000 years B. P. (Xu, 1991; Xu and Huang, 1991, 1993). Therefore the geological age of Event 9 is about 500 000 years old.

#### V. THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE UPPER AND LOWER LISHI FORMATION

The boundary between the Upper and Lower Lishi Formation was placed at the upper limit of S5 (i.e. the L5/S5 boundary), because S5 was so clearly marked in the Chinese loess sequence. It was described in detail by Liu *et al.* (1958, 1962, 1964, 1985). It is a three-fold polygenetic paleosol subdivided by two layers of carbonate concretions or strongly weathered carbonate incrustated loess (S5LL1 and S5LL2). The concept of the Upper and Lower Lishi Formation and the boundary between them has commonly been accepted (Kukla and An, 1989; Sun and Zhao, 1991).

However the Chenjiawo fauna covers L5–S9. It means that the fauna did not change greatly during the period of L5–S9. If the boundary proposed by Liu is accepted, L5–S9 would be divided into both the Upper Lishi Formation (L5) and the Lower Lishi Formation (S5–S9). Therefore Liu's old formation boundary (L5/S5) is not a good one.

Just as mentioned above, the evolutionary events occurred always near the ends of important cold stages or glacial ages, such as the end of the Saale glaciation (i.e. the S4/L5 boundary).



On the basis of the work of paleobotanists, the boundary between the Upper and Lower Lishi Formation was placed at the S4/L5 boundary, because the pollen diagram of L5 is similar to those in S5–L8; but different to those in L2–S4 (Liu, 1985). This supports the argument presented here.

In short, the fauna, flora and their environment did not change greatly during the period of L5–S9. The evident change of the fauna and flora was at the upper limit of L5, not at that of S5.

According to paleosol scientists, there are many cycles in the Chinese loess area, for example there are 8 complete climatic cycles during the last 730 000 years: A1 (L1, S1), A2 (L2, S2SS1), A3 (S2LL1, S2SS2), A4 (L3, S3), A5 (L4, S4), A6 (L5, S5), A7 (L6, S6), and A8 (L7, S7) (Table 1, 2). All these 8 cycles are complete entities and should not be divided by formation boundaries.

Considering the complex and coupling correlation among the solid earth, atmosphere, hydrosphere and biosphere, the boundary between the Upper and Lower Lishi Formation should be moved to the S4/L5 boundary.

## VI. CONCLUSION

1. The loess of Stage 8 was completely deposited in the Baicaoyuan section and the thickness of S2LL1 is 2.9 m. While in Chenjiawo, Luochuan, Xifeng, Lanzhou, Xi'an etc., the loess was not deposited completely in Stage 8, because the thickness of S2LL1 in those sections is much less than 2.9 m.

2. The geological period of the Chenjiawo fauna is that of L5–S9 and is correlated with Stage 14–23, ranging from 500 000 to 1 000 000 years ago.

3. The general climate was cool during the Chenjiawo faunal period.

4. *Cricetinus varianus* LSD is correlated with Event 9 in America and Europe and marks the first appearance of the Peking Man fauna in Zhoukoudian.

5. Considering the complex and coupling correlation among the solid earth, atmosphere, hydrosphere and biosphere, the boundary between the Upper and Lower Lishi Formation should be moved to the S4/L5 boundary.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS** I am indebted to Prof. Qiu Zhanxiang, Prof. Li Chuankui, Prof. Pan Yuerong, Dr. Tong Haowen of IVPP, Prof. Wang Naiwen of Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences, Dr. Lynne A. Schepartz of Department of Anthropology in University of Michigan, Dr. Sarri Miller-Antonio of Department of Anthropology in California State University, and Prof. Donald E. Tyler of Department of Anthropology in University of Idaho for helpful discussions.