

HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO — HELSINGFORS UNIVERSITET

Tiedekunta — Fakultet Matemaattis-luonnontieteellinen		Laitos — Institution Ekologian ja systematiikan laitos, populaatiobiologian osasto	
Tekijä — Författare Diana Pushkina			
Työn nimi — Arbetets titel Faunal change in the Neogene of Central Asia			
Oppiaine — Läroämne Morfologis-ekologinen eläintiede			
Työn laji — Arbetets art Pro gradu -tutkielma		Aika — Datum 1.10.97	Sivumäärä — Sidoantal 34
Tiivistelmä — Referat <p>The Neogene (23.8 - 1.76 Ma) is known to have been a period of intensified tectonic, climatic, floral and faunal alterations. During its first part, the Miocene, mammalian communities were greatly modernised. Severe changes took place in Western Europe. Its faunal diversity was reduced by half along with the environmental change of forested areas into more open ones. Eastern European faunas had smoother changes due to their originally more open environments. It has been suggested that faunal alteration was triggered in Central Asia first and then spread into Europe.</p> <p>This survey on the Neogene faunal change in Central Asia was based on Russian paleontological publications concerning Mongolia, Kazakhstan, neighbouring Southern Russia and Central Asian former Soviet republics.</p> <p>The study area was divided into three regions according to seemingly similar faunal composition. The three regions were: Northern Kazakhstan and adjacent southern Russia, Southern Kazakhstan, Tadzhikistan, Kirgizija and Uzbekistan, and Mongolia and Russian Transbaikalia.</p> <p>All mammalian taxa were used in the analyses. Regional and total diversity, turnover, faunal similarity between the regions and among time units of each region, the height of molar teeth in herbivores, indicators of forested and open territories were estimated.</p> <p>Asian data supported the hypothesis that faunal change occurred in Central Asia prior to Europe. During the middle - late Miocene with climate getting more continental, cooler and arid more open woodlands and steppes evolved with more fibrous vegetation. Consequently, new open-land mammalian communities appeared. Herbivores became adapted to the consumption of high-fibrous plant food by increasing the molar crown heights.</p>			
Avainsanat — Nyckelord Mammalian communities, faunal turnover, molar crown height, Neogene, Central Asia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Russian Transbaikalia.			
Säilytyspaikka — Förvaringställe Populaatiobiologian osaston kirjasto			
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