

Доклады Академии Наук СССР 1927
Comptes Rendus de l'Académie des Sciences de l'URSS

A. BORISIAK (A. Borissiak). On the *Paraceratherium*.
[А. А. БОРИСЯК. О *Paraceratherium*. ГМ 26 X 1926].

(Présenté par P. Suškin, membre de l'Académie des Sciences, le 17 novembre 1926).

Two years ago, after receiving a cast of the skull of *Baluchitherium grangeri*, I published some remarks on the relationship of the teeth of this form to those of my *Indricotherium asiaticum* (CRAS, A 1924, p. 148). — This summer, during my stay in London, I had the occasion of examining in the British Museum (Natural History) the remains of *Paraceratherium bugtiense* from Baluchistan, the third of the forms belonging to the subfam. *Indricotheriinae* (*Baluchitheriinae*). These remains have been very well described by Dr C. Forster Cooper.¹ Concerning the teeth of this form the author says they appear to be identical with those described by me in *I. asiaticum*.² Fully agreeing in this point with the opinion of my friend, Dr Forster Cooper, I should but wish to note some details in the structure of the teeth of *P. bugtiense* which would throw some light on the history of these singular forms.

In the first place I should wish attention to be paid to the structure of the premolars of *P. bugtiense*. Besides the worn ones, there are two absolutely unworn specimens of P^4 (fig. 13 and 14, p. 383, by F. Cooper). The most striking feature of one of these teeth (№ 12661, fig. 14 by Cooper) is its protoloph, fully elaborated and equal in height with the ectoloph, so that its upper crest joins that of the ectoloph without interruption. The same tooth of the form from Turgai (*I. asiaticum*) has the protoloph much less elaborated: the cusps are more modelled and its outer end is not so high, as the crest of the ectoloph, — it is sunk in the inner side of the latter to a level considerably below its upper crest. The second tooth of *P. bugtiense* mentioned (fig. 13 by Cooper) presents a form intermediate between № 12661 and the turgaiian tooth. Moreover the tooth of *P. bugtiense* is higher than that of *I. asiaticum*, its measurements being as follows: the length of the crown (№ 12661) is 57 mm, the breadth — 65 and the height (unworn) — 70 mm (in *Indr. asiaticum* resp.: 61,78 and 60 mm).

These two points, the more elaborated protoloph on the one hand and the higher crown on the other, are features of a more differentiated tooth. Besides that we may note that in *P. bugtiense* the molarisation is more advanced, the subdivision of the tetartocone and protoloph being oftener met with in the latter form than in the *I. asiaticum*. The outer side of the ectoloph of the premolars of *P. bugtiense* shows a more regular exterior ridge etc.

¹ Philos. Trans. R. Soc. London, Ser. B, v. 212, pp. 35—66 and 369—394.

² L. c., p. 386.

If we now turn to the molars of the Baluchistanian form, we shall find a more developed antecrochet on its metaloph, equally confirming the differentiation of this form.

We can moreover mention as a peculiar property of the cheek teeth of the latter form their more developed cingulum (on the molars also) in comparison with our form.

As to the lower dentition, the chief interest rests in the lower incisors: the *I. asiaticum* exhibits two pairs of incisors,¹ while *P. bugtiense* has only one pair; these teeth differ in their more conical crown (as compared with *I. asiaticum*) and in the presence of a pressure mark where their bases touch one another, thus proving the entire absence of the second pair of incisors.

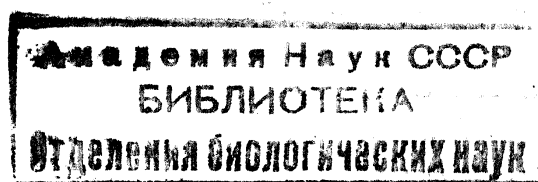
The two last features can be likewise regarded as the results of a higher differentiation.

For the present I do not mention my observations on the bones of the skeleton of *P. bugtiense*, as this brief paper is confined to the description of the teeth only.

As a result of this description and recalling the above mentioned data concerning the teeth of *B. grangeri* (CRAS, A 1924, p. 148) we may recognise that the teeth of all the three forms of Indricotheriinae present successive stages in the differentiation of the teeth of one and the same type. The most primitive stage is represented by the dentition of *B. grangeri*; than follows that of *I. asiaticum*, while the dentition of *P. bugtiense* according to the description just given proves to be the most advanced in this series.

This conclusion far from resolving the problem as to the taxonomical or the phylogenetical relations of these forms, is but in full agreement with the correlation of these three representatives of the Indricotheriinae, as proved by the evidence hitherto available: the *B. grangeri* seems to be the most ancient form (Middle Oligocene), *I. asiaticum* belongs to the Upper Oligocene and *P. bugtiense* to the Miocene.

26 October 1926.



¹ M. Pavlow, Bull. Soc. N. Moscou, № 8, XXXI.