

Rodents from the upper Miocene to the lower Pleistocene of central Myanmar

NISHIOKA, Yuichiro^{1*}, TAKAI, Masanaru¹, Thaung-Htike², Zin-Maung-Maung-Thein³, Maung-Maung⁴

¹Primate Research Institute, Kyoto Univ., ²Shwebo Univ., ³Mandalay Univ., ⁴Magwey Univ.

Here we report some rodent fossils (Hystricidae, Spalacidae, and Muridae) were newly discovered from the upper Miocene to the lower Pleistocene Irrawaddy sediments of central Myanmar.

All fossils of Hystricidae was identified as *Hystrix*, including two species, *Hystrix paukensis* and *Hy. cf. brachyura*. The former was continuously occurred from the upper Miocene to lower Pleistocene, while the latter was found only from the upper Pliocene to the lower Pleistocene. The comparisons of cheek teeth indicates *Hy. paukensis* has much larger and lower teeth than *Hy. cf. brachyura*. The occurrence of *Hy. cf. brachyura* from the Irrawaddy sediments indicates the lineage of *Hy. brachyura* likely appeared in Inland Southeast Asia as early as the late Pliocene.

The fossils of Spalacidae includes an indeterminate species, but it is surely assigned to Rhizomyinae represented by *Rhizomys* and *Cannomys*, both presently exist in central Myanmar. Rhizomyinae is known from the lower Miocene of Asia. Here, we compare the fossils from the Irrawaddy with ancestral genera such as *Kanisamys* and *Brachyrhizomys* from the middle Miocene Siwaliks in Indo-Pakistan and *Rhizomys* from the Plio/Pleistocene of China.

The fossils of Muridae include at least four species, a large-, two medium-, and a small-sized forms. The large one is referred to *Hapalomys* that is a common arboreal rat presently exist in Southeast Asia. The specimens from the Irrawaddy sediments are similar to *Ha. longicaudatus* presently lives in a southern part of Myanmar, but there are slight differences between them in the occlusal pattern of the first lower molar. One of the medium species is referred to cf. *Ratchaburimys* that is an extinct genus occurred from the upper Pliocene to the lower Pleistocene of Thailand. Thus, the rodent assemblage during Plio/Pleistocene from Myanmar is correlated with that from Thailand. Another medium-sized and small-sized murids are now in identification.

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