

Mammalian biostratigraphy of the Late Cenozoic Thailand

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The joint Japan-Thailand expedition surveyed the Miocene basin in Northern Thailand from 1996 to 2000. The Late Cenozoic sediments in the Thailand yield many vertebrate fossils. Mammalian assemblage from the Northern Thailand bore a close resemblance to those from the Middle Miocene of the Siwaliks by previous works. We examined the stratigraphy geochronology and vertebrate fauna of many Miocene sites, Mae Soi, Li Basin, Pong Basin, Mae Moh, Chiang Muan, Had Pu Dai and Sop Mae Tham of the Northern Thailand and Nakhon Ratchasima of the Middle Thailand. We found new Late Miocene Fauna including Hipparionini teeth from Sop Mae Tham 45km southwest of Lampang. This is the first Hipparionini record from the Neogene Southeast Asia. The first gomphothere fossil of Amebelodon from Southeast Asia was found from Mae Soi 50km south west of Chiang Mai. We found the first hominoid teeth and three individuals of the primitive tetralophodont gomphothere from the Chiang Muan Lignite Mine 150km east of Chiang Mai. Mammalian fauna from the Chiang Muan Formation suggests that this fauna is the end of Middle Miocene in age. Mammalian fauna from Sop Mae Tham consists of tetralophodont gomphotheres, rhinocerotid, hipparionin equids, two taxa of suids i.e. Listriodon and Propotamochoerus, tragulids, Boselaphini and primitive bovids by our preliminary research. This mammalian assemblage suggests that the Sop Mae Tham Fauna is the early Late Miocene in age. We found the Middle Miocene to Early Pleistocene mammalian faunas from sand pits near Nakhon Ratchasima Town. It has been made clear that mammalian faunas of the Thailand is mostly the Early to Middle Miocene, but the some faunas is equivalent to the Late Miocene and Pliocene-Pleistocene.