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Development of "Pikermian mammalian fauna" in the late Miocene of western area of Eurasia

Evgeny Maschenko¹, Mahito Watabe^{2*}, Mikael Fortelius³

¹PIN, Academy of Sciences of Russia, ²Center of Paleobiological Research, ³University of Helsinki

Mammalian taxa adapted to arid environments characterize the mammalian fauna of Late Miocene in Eurasia. Those taxa are typically distributed in western part of the Eurasia (from Central Europe to Greco-Iranian regions). We present our research results on detailed study on hipparionine horses discovered from the localities in northern shore of the Black Sea, Transcaucasia and Central Asia that had been less studied and poorly compared with other area's fauna. The results revealed that the hipparionines and other associated mammalian taxa are closely related to those from Greco-Iranian area. The hipparionines widely distributed through wide area of Eurasia make possible chronological correlation among the localities in this wide continent. The similar environments were distributed in those areas. The hipparionines of Central Asia are also similar to those from Northern China. These distribution patterns reflect the mammalian dispersal and biogeographic provincialism in late Miocene period of Eurasia.

Keywords: Miocene, Mammal, Equidae, Climate change, Hipparion