
Excavation at the Upper Paleolithic Site of Tarvagataiin Am, Khudel Sum, Selenge Aimag (Mongolia): A preliminary results

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Résumé

Here I present preliminary result of our fieldworks at Tarvagataiin Am site in northeastern Mongolia (the Rashaanii Am South Site in previous publications). The Tarvagataiin Am site discovered in 2015 by our field survey is situated in a middle of the stable alluvial terrace at along the Tarvagatai Creek, a tributary of the Khudel river which conjoin to the Tsukh River (Chikoi River, in Russian) of the Selenge River valley system (N49. 48' 44", E107. 26' 19").

At fieldwork in 2017, we made five 2x1m test units, labeled GT01- 05 at the site. A total of 87 specimens was recovered from the test units, consist of chipped-stone artifacts (n=14) and faunal remains (n=70). The stone tools include several sidescraper on blades which has diagnostic characteristics those of the Initial Upper Paleolithic or Early Upper Paleolithic. Among the test units, a fragment of large herbivore rib bone and bone flakes (taxa miscellaneous yet) associated with tiny lithic flakes detached with side scraper edge retouch were found from the bedded fine sand and silt at 145 cm below the surface at a test units of GT01. The low energy deposition of site matrix at alluvial context and high preservation condition for the fossil specimens at the site provide us better geochronological control and reconstruction of human behavior for the earlier Upper Paleolithic in northeast Asia.

Mots-Clés: Tarvagataiin Am site, IUP, EUP, northeastern Mongolia

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