

August 25, 2006

Departure by bus from the hotel at 8.00 am. Return by bus to the hotel around 8.00 pm. Lunch provided.

Dniester Region

Stop 2/1. Bol'shaya Akkarzha

Guide: Olena Smytyna (Odessa National University, Odessa, Ukraine)

This late Palaeolithic settlement was a base camp for bison hunters. It is located on the right bank of the small Akkarzha River (or Akkarzhanskaya ravine), 6 km from the shore and 1.5 km to the southwest of Velikodolinskoye village (Ovidiopol district of Odessa region). The settlement was discovered by Kraskovsky in 1955 and excavated later by Boriskovsky (1963), Kraskovsky (1978), and Sapozhnikov (2003). Palynological, stratigraphic, and paleontological analysis of the settlement supplemented by radiocarbon dating enabled researchers to attribute it to the Last Glacial Maximum [19- 18 ky BP] (Sapozhnikov, 2003). Four household complexes (each 15-23 m²) have been uncovered consisting of hearths and, concentrated around them, flint artifacts (about 57,000 pieces in total) and faunal remains (represented exclusively by *Bison priscus* with only some horse teeth). Peculiarities of the flint industry and lifeways of this site have become the background for delineating a special Akkarzhanskaya Culture of the LGM related to the circle of Gravettian cultures of Europe.

Around the base settlement of Bol'shaya Akkarzha, a series of small probably synchronous sites of the same cultural attribution were detected by Sapozhnikov and Dvoryaninov. None of them was the subject of special study apart from surface survey collection.

Moraceae, *Acer*, *Ulmus*, and spores - Polypodiaceae, Filicales, and *Microlepia*. Herbs are represented by Asteraceae, Chenopodiaceae, Cyperaceae, and Polygonaceae. Forest-steppe and steppe paleolandscapes were predominant during the formation of this red-brown soil. The composition of palynospectra from the red-brown soil in Roksolany and a comparison with pollen data from Ukrainian and Moldavian sections (Grichuk, 1989; Bolikhovskaya, 1995) suggest its tentative correlation with the lower Middle Pleistocene paleosol unit like the Vorona pedocomplex.

From alluvial deposits at the Roksolany section, the large mammal fauna is known:

Archidiskodon meridionalis tamanensis and *Dicerorhinus etruscus*. New paleomagnetic data on the basal part of the Roksolany/Nikoni section show that this fauna is situated below the paleomagnetic Jaramillo Subchron (Dodonov et al., 2006). In alluvial deposits, the freshwater mollusk fauna of *Potomida sublitoralis* Tchep., *Pseudosturia cauda* (Bog.), *Ps. brusinaiformis* (Mod.), *Crassiana crassoides* (Tchep.), *Viviparus achatinoides* Desh., *Sphaerium rivicola* Leach, *Fagotia acicularis* Fer., *Lithoglyphus* sp., and *Valvata* sp. is represented. This fauna, described as the Kosnitsa assemblage (Tchepalyga, 1967; 1982), is usually accompanied by mammal remains of the Tamanian complex.