

Jurassic Insects (Insecta) from the Sai-Sagul Locality (Kyrgyzstan, Southern Fergana)

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Abstract—A caddisfly *Dolophilodes (Sortosella) shurabica* subgen. et sp. nov. (Philopotamidae) is described from the Jurassic of Kyrgyzstan, from the Sai-Sagul locality. The ecology and taphonomy of this locality are analyzed, and the insects described from the Sai-Sagul locality are listed.

Key words: Insects, new taxa, Trichoptera, Jurassic, taphonomy, Central Asia.

INTRODUCTION

The Jurassic insect Sai-Sagul locality (sometimes designated as Shurab 3 or Svodovoe Ruslo) is situated in southern Fergana in the Batkenskii District of the Osh Region, Kyrgyzstan, at the boundary with the Isfarinskii District of the Leninabad (Khodzhen) Region, Tajikistan. Several sites with common geology and taphonomy are gathered under this name. The first insect fossils were found in this region by staff members of the institution *Sredazuglegeologiya*, N.I. Plakhuta in 1935 and, later, by L.S. Chastikova in 1957. During subsequent years (1958 to 1971), collecting was continued mainly by staff members of the Paleontological Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, currently, the Russian Academy of Sciences (PIN). The material housed at the PIN is registered as eleven collections, nos. 459, 1332, 1526, 1546, 1547, 1724, 2032, 2061, 2345, 2389, and 3073. The total number of collected insects is 3356; the composition of the majority of these collections is shown in the table.

Within the region under consideration, Early–Middle Jurassic localities form a narrow belt stretching from the southwest to the northeast for about 50 km. We consider the westernmost south Fergana assemblage of this system, which was discovered south of the town of Shurab. In the Jurassic, the area surrounding Lake Sagul (Shurab), where the insects were buried, was apparently characterized by a humid climate and rich vegetation, but without the features of coal accumulation, which were typical for that time. It was a territory of the northern coast of the tropical Tethys Ocean covered with wet and warm ginkgoaceous and cycadaeous forests.

Among autochthonous insects, only corixoid water bugs of the family Shurabellidae (Popov, 1971) have been found in these shallow waters; they were

described exactly from these localities (Becker-Migdisova, 1949) and are characteristic of the Early and Middle Jurassic of Central Asia, including the Mongolian localities of Bahar, Bayan-Teg, and Tushilga. More than 670 specimens of adults and nymphs of all instars are known from Sagul Lake. Similar to all corixoids, shurabellids were apparently debris-feeding and algophagous insects typical for shallow and well warmed water bodies (Popov, 1971). Remains of hemipterans other than shurabellids have not been recorded in Sagul.

The proportion of *Shurabella* in different collections varies considerably (table); it is abundant in collections nos. 459, 2032, 2061, and especially in collection no. 1724, while in collections nos. 2345, 2389, and 3073, it is scarce. The last three collections display the most diverse taxonomic composition. They were collected during the last expeditions to Sai-Sagul in 1964 to 1971, when mass remains of *Shurabella* had already been treated and might be consciously ignored. It may be hypothesized that an actual proportion of shurabellids is observed in collections nos. 459, 2032, and 2061, whereas collections nos. 2345, 2389, and 3073 are representative of other insect orders.

It should be noted that the last three collections are not uniform with reference to taxonomic composition. In particular, dipterans, miomopterans, and, to a lesser extent, dragonflies and scorpionflies are disproportionately abundant in collection no. 3073. The increased proportion of dipteran wings is probably associated with a more careful collecting of small remains. Acceptable explanation of other mentioned differences cannot be currently found.

Among remains of the Coleoptera, isolated sclerites dominate (more than 350 specimens); remains of other insects are also represented by either wings or isolated

The order composition of the main insect collections from the Sai-Sagul locality housed at the PIN: coll. no. 459, Shurab 3, collected by Plakhuta in 1935; coll. nos. 1526 and 1546, Svodovoe Ruslo, collected by Novojilov in 1958; coll. no. 1724, Shurab 3 (southwestern Shurab), Bed 1, collected by Novojilov in 1959; coll. no. 2032 Shurab 3 (southwestern Shurab), almost all insects from Bed 1, collected by Becker-Migdisova in 1961; coll. nos. 2061 and 2389, Sogul Formation, collected by Sharov in 1962 and 1964; coll. no. 2345, Sogul Formation, collected by Novojilov in 1964; coll. no. 3073, Sai-Sagul, Sogul Formation, collected by Pritykina in 1969 and 1971

	459	1526	1546	1724	2032	2061	2345	2389	3073	Total number	%
Odonata	3	4		3	8	1	11	16	44	90	2.7
Homoptera	28	37	5	46	157	33	153	237	232	928	27.7
Heteroptera	47	28		222	245	46	44	13	26	671	20.1
Miomoptera				4			9	2	81	96	2.9
Coleoptera	30	5	2	41	84	10	37	78	67	354	10.6
Neuroptera	3	6		5	14	11	55	84	101	279	8.3
Glosselytrodea		2							5	7	0.2
Mecoptera	5	12		9	25	8	24	50	94	227	6.8
Trichoptera					1					1	<0.1
Diptera					5		2	9	34	50	1.5
Hymenoptera							3	2	11	16	0.5
Blattodea	46	14		20	29	10	35	96	68	318	9.5
Grylloblattida	1			5	4	2	13	10	20	55	1.6
Plecoptera		1	2		2	1	4	12	18	40	1.2
Orthoptera	11	9		12	7	3	21	22	34	119	3.6
Incertae sedis	4		3	11	22			1	53	94	2.8
Total	178	118	12	378	603	125	411	632	888	3345	100

body parts. However, a suggested conclusion about long transportation of insect remains by water flows is hardly probable, because such allochthonous taphocenoses are usually enriched with rigid elytra of beetles, cockroaches, and cicadas (Zherikhin, 2002). In this locality, delicate and often large wings of neuropterans, which are not capable of long transportation, are plentiful, being just a little less abundant than elytra of beetles and cockroaches.

Another notable feature of the Sagul insect assemblage is the absence of dragonflies of the suborder Anisoptera and the family Heterophlebiidae, which are characteristic of the Lias of Western Europe (Pritykina, 1980).

Thus, characteristic features of the oryctocenosis of Sai-Sagul, related to the taphonomy of the locality and distinguishing it from many other limnogenic deposits of the Mesozoic, are, first, the almost monospecific composition of the autochthonous aquatic entomofauna, and, second, the fragmentariness of remains combined with the absence of clear signs of long transportation. This concerns not only insects, but also crustaceans, which are represented in Sai-Sagul by abundant unidentifiable fragments. Important for the interpretation of these features of the oryctocenosis is its presumable thermophily, which is attested by the abun-

dance of myrmeleontoid-like neuropterans (Ponomarenko, personal communication) and the absence of hymenopterans of the family Xyelidae, which are good indicators of a cool climate in the post-Early Lias (Rasnitsyn, 1980). Essential is the presence of coal in the underlying and overlying deposits, which testifies to a relatively humid climate during the formation of the locality.

Similar monodominant oryctocenoses are often formed by bugs of the family Corixidae, which is close to shurabellids (Ponomarenko and Popov, 1980). Corixids are famous for their tolerance of high salinity and other aberrations of the hydrochemical regime of a water body. However, so-called corixid lakes are more typical for an arid climate (Sinitshenkova, 2002), which is hardly characteristic of the Sagul oryctocenosis. In this case, other analogies are suggested. The impoverished autochthonous Jurassic Central Asian and Chinese assemblages dominated by water bugs are substituted in the north by limnic assemblages dominated by stoneflies, dragonflies, and mayflies (Sinitshenkova, 2002). This suggests the influence of temperature, in particular, on the amount of dissolved oxygen, the deficiency of which mayfly and, especially, stonefly larvae are known to be sensitive to. A deficiency of dissolved oxygen has already been noted for the Sagul oryctocenosis (Lukashevich, 2000).

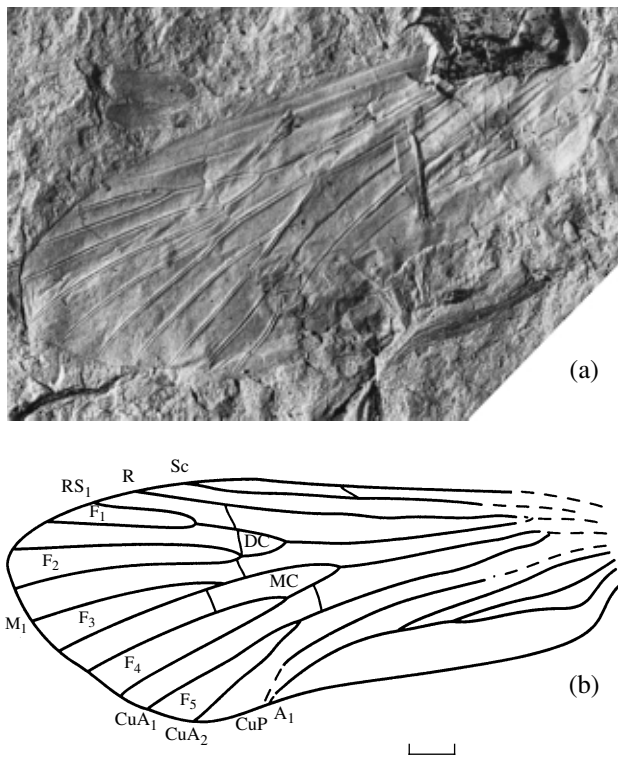


Fig. 1. *Dolophilodes (Sortosella) shurabica* Sukatcheva, sp. nov., holotype PIN, no. 2032/553, forewing: (a) general appearance, $\times 6.5$; and (b) venation pattern (veins of nonpreserved base of the wing are shown by dashed lines). Vein abbreviations standard. Scale bar, 1 mm.

The temperature conditions of the lake combined with intense organic influx should provide high bacterial activity. In particular, the activity of chitin-decomposing bacteria rapidly utilizing thin articular membranes may be responsible for the fragmentariness of the insect and crustacean remains.

To date, the age of the Sai-Sagul locality has not been established precisely. According to paleobotanical data, it is believed to be the Middle–Upper Lias (Kuzichkina *et al.*, 1958). A total of 70 fossil insect species have been described from Sai-Sagul and certain closely located sites designated as Shurab 3 (Martynov, 1937; Becker-Migdisova, 1949, 1985; Rasnitsyn, 1968, 1975, 1977, 1982, 1983, 1993; Sharov, 1968; Pritykina, 1970, 1980; Ponomarenko, 1977; Popov, 1982, 1985; Sinitchenkova, 1987; Storozhenko, 1990; Novokshonov, 1993, 1997; Lukashevich, 2000; see list below). However, nearly all these species are endemic. An exception is *Shurabia angustata*, Martynov, 1937 which was also recorded in the Ust'-Balei locality (Baikal Region) and aged as Upper Lias (Pliensbachian–Early Toarcian) (Kirichkova and Travkina, 2000). The genera described from Sai-Sagul are either endemic or, on the contrary, distributed too widely to make clear the age of the insect-bearing beds within the upper Lower Jurassic to the lower Middle Jurassic.

SYSTEMATIC PALEONTOLOGY

Order Trichoptera

Family Philopotamidae Stephens, 1829

Subfamily Philopotaminae Stephens, 1829

Genus *Dolophilodes* Ulmer, 1909

Subgenus *Sortosella* Sukatcheva, subgen. nov.

E t y m o l o g y. From the closely related subgenus of *Sortosa*.

T y p e s p e c i e s. *S. shurabica* sp. nov.

D i a g n o s i s. Forewing wide, only 2.8 times as long as broad. Wing apex situated between RS_3 and RS_4 . R straight. RS branching noticeably distal to wing midlength. RS stem 4.6 times as long as closed cell DC. Five apical forks present; all of them, except for F_1 , sessile and long. CuP and A_1 terminating at the same point on posterior margin of wing.

S p e c i f i c c o m p o s i t i o n. Type species.

C o m p a r i s o n. This new subgenus is similar to the majority of genera of the subfamily Philopotaminae in the number of apical forks. It is especially similar to the subgenera *Sortosa* Navas, 1918 and *Dolophilodes* Ulmer, 1909 of the Recent genus *Dolophilodes*, differing in the unusually short cell DC compared to the RS stem, long forks F_3 and F_4 , and in the entirely straight R.

Dolophilodes (Sortosella) shurabica Sukatcheva, sp. nov.

E t y m o l o g y. From the Shurab locality.

H o l o t y p e. PIN, no. 2032/553, fairly well-preserved forewing; Kyrgyzstan, Osh Region, Batkenskii District, Sai-Sagul (Shurab 3), 12 km southwest of the town of Shurab; upper part of the Lower Jurassic–lower part of the Middle Jurassic, Sogul Formation.

D e s c r i p t i o n (Fig. 1). Forewing. The veins are heavily sclerotized and strong. The anterior margin of the wing is straight; the apical margin, apex, and torus are rounded. Sc has a slight apical curvature and one oblique supplementary branch proximal to the wing midlength. The costal area is narrow. The subcostal area is evenly wide. R lacks apical curvature. The DC cell is very short, as short as the F_1 stem. All other apical forks are sessile. F_2 is 4.3 times as long as RS_{3+4} . F_3 is 1.6 times as long as M_{1+2} . F_4 is 3.2 times as long as M_{3+4} . The MC cell is closed and long. The M fork starts a little proximal to the wing midlength. The TC cell is closed by the transverse vein $m_{3+4}-cua$, which is located a little distal to the wing midlength. Transverse veins $r-rs_{1+2}$ and rs_4-m_{1+2} are present. The F_5 fork is rather short and wide, its base is located noticeably distal to the wing midlength. CuA and A_1 meet in one point, which is also located distal to the wing midlength. CuP is long and gently curving before its tip toward the posterior margin of the wing. A_2 and A_3 are long, A_1 is only 1.7 times as long as A_2 .

M e a s u r e m e n t s, mm: wing length, 12.5; wing width, 4.

Remarks. The new species is only formally assigned to the genus *Dolophilodes*, an extant dweller of mountain streams, since this is performed on the basis of wing characters alone, which are subordinate in the systematics of this group. There is no ground for extending ecological characteristics of Recent representatives to this new species.

Material. Holotype.

List of Insects Recorded in the Sai-Sagul Locality (Shurab 3)

Order Odonata Fabricius, 1792

Family Liassophlebiidae Tillyard, 1925

- Ferganophlebia insignis* Pritykina, 1970
Hypsophlebia scalaris Pritykina, 1970
Oreophlebia lata Pritykina, 1970
Sagulia ansinervis Pritykina, 1970
Sarytashia gracilis Pritykina, 1970
Xanthohypsa praeclara Pritykina, 1970
X. tillyardi Pritykina, 1970

Family Oreopteridae Pritykina, 1980

- Adelophlebia obsoleta* Pritykina, 1980
Amblyopteron breve Pritykina, 1980
Sordopteron elongatum Pritykina, 1980
S. legebile Pritykina, 1980
S. lere Pritykina, 1980

Pauropteron exile Pritykina, 1980

P. miserum Pritykina, 1980

Family Karatawiidae Martynov, 1925

Gampophlebia modica Pritykina, 1980

Family Archithemistidae Tillyard, 1917

- Cyclothemis sagulica* Pritykina, 1980
Shurabiola nana Pritykina, 1980
Sogdothemis modesta Martynov, 1937

Family Paralogidae Handlirsch, 1906

Oligotypus relictus Martynov, 1937

Order Hemiptera Linnaeus, 1758

Family Protosyllidiidae Carpenter, 1931

Cicadellopsis shurabensis Becker-Migdisova, 1985

Family Dymorphoptilidae Handlirsch, 1906

Mesoatraxis reducta Becker-Migdisova, 1949

Family Palaeontinidae Handlirsch, 1906

- Palaeocossus giganteus* Becker-Migdisova, 1949
Palaeontinodes shabarovi Martynov, 1937
Phragmatoecicossus shurabensis Becker-Migdisova, 1949
Plachutella rotundata Becker-Migdisova, 1949
P. derupta Becker-Migdisova, 1949
P. (?) vitripennis Becker-Migdisova, 1949
Plachutella sp.: Becker-Migdisova, 1949
Shurabocossus gigas Becker-Migdisova, 1949
Palaeontinidae gen. sp. 1: Becker-Migdisova, 1949
Palaeontinidae gen. sp. 2: Becker-Migdisova, 1949

Family Hylcellidae Evans, 1956

- Mesocixiella extensa* Martynov, 1937
M. furcata Martynov, 1937
M. major Martynov, 1937
M. parvula Martynov, 1937

Family Procercopidae Handlirsch, 1906

- Cycloscytina plachutai* Becker-Migdisova, 1949
Cycloscytina sp.: Becker-Migdisova, 1949

Family Tettigarctidae Distant, 1905

Shuraboprobole plachutai Becker-Migdisova, 1949

Family Progonocimicidae Handlirsch, 1906

- Cicadocoris affinis* (Yu. Popov, 1982)
Mesoscytina abdita (Yu. Popov, 1982)
M. ambigua (Yu. Popov, 1985)
M. cognata (Yu. Popov, 1982)
M. fida (Yu. Popov, 1982)
M. modesta (Yu. Popov, 1985)
M. paulina (Yu. Popov, 1982)

Family Shurabellidae Yu. Popov, 1971

Shurabella lepyroniopsis Becker-Migdisova, 1949

Order Palaeomanteida Handlirsch, 1906

Family Permosialididae Martynov, 1928

- Permonka jurassica* A. Rasnitsyn, 1977
P. sagulica A. Rasnitsyn, 1977

Order Coleoptera Linnaeus, 1758

Family Coptoclauidae Ponomarenko, 1961

Necronectes latus Ponomarenko, 1977

Order Panorpida Latreille, 1802

Family Bittacidae Enderlein, 1910

- Asiobittacus sajsagulis* Novokshonov, 1993
Plesiobittacus martynovi Novokshonov, 1997
P. primigenius Novokshonov, 1997

Order Trichoptera Kirby, 1815

Family Philopotamidae Stephens, 1829

Dolophilodes (Sortosella) shurabica Sukatcheva, sp. nov.

Order Diptera Linnaeus, 1758

Family Eoptychopteridae Handlirsch, 1906

Eoptychoptera shurabica Lukashevich, 2000

Order Hymenoptera Linnaeus, 1758

Family Xyelydidae A. Rasnitsyn, 1968

- Ferganolyda cubitalis* A. Rasnitsyn, 1983
F. radialis A. Rasnitsyn, 1983
F. sogdiana A. Rasnitsyn, 1983
Sagulyda arcuata A. Rasnitsyn, 1983
S. ferganica A. Rasnitsyn, 1983
S. magna A. Rasnitsyn, 1983

Family Karatavitidae A. Rasnitsyn, 1963

Proapocritus praecursor A. Rasnitsyn, 1975

Family Sepulcidae A. Rasnitsyn, 1968

- Onokhoius sogdianus* A. Rasnitsyn, 1993
Sepulenia syriacta A. Rasnitsyn, 1968
Shurabisca liassica A. Rasnitsyn, 1968

Family Gigasiricidae Bilbergh, 1920

Liasirex sogdianus A. Rasnitsyn, 1968

Order Grylloblattida Warker, 1914

Family Blattogryllidae A. Rasnitsyn, 1976

Mesoblattogryllus longipennis Storozhenko, 1990

Family Geinitziidae Handlirsch, 1906

- Shurabia angustata* Martynov, 1937
Sh. magna A. Rasnitsyn, 1982
Sh. parvula A. Rasnitsyn, 1982

Order Perlida Latreille, 1802

Family Perlariopseidae Sinitchenkova, 1985

- Karanemoura brevis* Sinitchenkova, 1987
Perlariopsis gravis Sinitchenkova, 1987
Fritaniopsis inflata Sinitchenkova, 1987

Order Orthoptera Oliver, 1789

- Family Haglidae Handlirsch, 1906
Tschorkuphlebia shurabica Sharov, 1968
- Family Elcanidae Handlirsch, 1906
Archelcana shurabica Sharov, 1968
- Family Locustopseidae Handlirsch, 1908
Locustopsis shurabica Sharov, 1968

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