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**BROWN BEAR *URSUS ARCTOS* (CARNIVORA, URSIDAE),
FROM PLEISTOCENE OF THE YAKUTIA (RUSSIA)**

G.F. Baryshnikov, G.G. Boeskorov

Summary

Fossil bone remains of *Ursus arctos* are rare in Yakutia and belong to the two forms. The most large remains are preliminary attributed to *U. a. kamiensis*, which is known from Middle Pleistocene (Mindel-Riss) of Eastern Europe. The smaller Late Pleistocene bear did not distinguished by size from recent *U. a. jenissensis*. Decreasing of the size of brown bear had begun from the end of Middle Pleistocene on the north of Siberia. It can be explained by worsening of climatic conditions, in connection with animals were needed to become the active predators.

**NEW SPECIES OF GALL-MIDGES (*DIPTERA*, *CECIDOMYIIDAE*)
FROM KAZAKHSTAN**

Z.A. Fedotova

Summary

Five new species of gall-midges are described in this paper, namely: *Jaapiella dracoo-cephalicola* sp. n. and *Labitomyia markakolica* sp. n. from *Dracocephalum nutans*, *Contarinia ziziphorae* sp. n. from *Ziziphora clinopodioides*, *Stefaniola chiwensicola* sp. n. from *Salsola chiwensis*, *Careopalpis kenderlensis* sp. n. from *Suaeda microphylla*. Biology and distribution of these species are given.

***CHTHAMALUS MONTAGUI* SOUTHWARD
AND *CHTHAMALUS STELLATUS* (POLI)
(*CIRRIPIEDIA*, *CHTHAMALIDAE*) ON BLACK SEA LITTORAL**

O.P. Poltarucha, E.A. Shalaeva

Summary

Chthamalus montagui Southward had been known only from South — Western part of the Black Sea and the region of Sukhumi. In 1996 *C. montagui* Southward was found by the authors on Crimea littoral. A detailed morphological description of the species from all the regions investigated was given. Morphology of *C. montagui* from Crimea was compared with that of species from other parts of its area as well as that of the similar species — *C. stellatus* (Poli).

**DYNAMICS OF ECOLOGICAL SPECIES GROUPS
AND FOREST TYPES DURING NATURAL SUCCESSIONS
IN CENTRAL RUSSIA PRESERVED FORESTS**

Maslov A.A.

Summary

A study of natural successions in different types of pine and spruce forests was carried out on permanent plots in forest reserves of the Moscow region during 10—15 years. The earlier found successional trend of "eutrofication" is strengthened essentially in the middle of moisture and soil richness gradients (fig. 2) — in *Vaccinium-type* pine forest, in *Myrtillus-type* spruce forest and in *Oxalis-type* spruce forest. It was shown that ecological (diagnostic) species groups (Fedorchuk, Burnevsky, 1986) is a useful tool for analysis of successions and fluctuations. The species of one and the same ecological group during dynamic changes show rather identical trends. Especially high integrity shows the group of *Vaccinium myrtillus* — *V. vitis-idaea*.

Even fast dynamics of species of main diagnostic groups does not mean that in a certain community a succession takes place. The real change from one forest type (syntaxon) to another usually could be proved when one of main diagnostic groups reduces

participation, and other — increases, or in a case of new group extension. In many respects the recognition or non-recognition of successional change is determined by the authors approach to a problem of vegetation units classification. The results obtained confirm a right direction of some transitions between forest types in the theoretical pathway diagram of S.M. Razumovsky (1981), but as a whole work against monoclimate hypothesis in Moscow region.

MATERIALS FOR THE FLORA OF SMOLENSK REGION

A.K. Skvortsov

Summary

Smolensk region is one of the least investigated floristically among the regions of European Russia. The observations on some rare and interesting (ca 100) species recorded in the region from 1949 to 1988 are presented by the author. Most of the specimens are kept in MHA.

THE GENUS *ASPERULA* L. (RUBIACEAE) IN THE CAUCASUS (SYSTEMATIC REVIEW)

A.G. Jelenevsky, S.K. Pjatunina

Summary

Aggregates in the genus *Asperula* were discussed. On the contrary to Micheev's stand point (1982), the taxonomy of Caucasian asperulas was based on the traditional approach. Morphological variations of Caucasian asperulas were studied. As a result, many names were considered as synonyms. The taxonomy, nomenclature and geographical distribution of the Caucasian species of the genus *Asperula* were presented.