

## CHANGE WITHIN AMMONITE ASSEMBLAGES FROM MANGYSHLAK MOUNTAINS (WESTERN KAZAKHSTAN) DURING THE MID-CRETACEOUS TRANSGRESSION

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During the Late Albian through Turonian the territory of Mangyshlak was a part of the European Zoogeographic Realm or North European Province, the limits of which coincided during the Albian and Cenomanian with the Hoplitinid Faunal Province. Along the progress of the mid-Cretaceous transgression the ammonite faunas of the Mangyshlak lose gradually, on the species level, their endemic character.

In the earliest Late Albian (Michalskii Zone) the ammonite assemblage is dominated by representatives of the genus *Semenovicerias* Wright, characteristic for the Central Asia, as well as the less abundant endemic species of the genera *Anahoplites* Hyatt and *Callihoplites* Spath. The species *S. michalskii* (Semenov) and *S. pseudocoleonodus* (Semenov) are known in the identical stratigraphic position in England and northern France, and the species *S. baisunensis* (Luppov) and *S. cf. michalskii* (Semenov) were reported from the Upper Albian of Central Iran. These data indicate clearly the biogeographic contacts of the mentioned regions and the Boreal character of the ammonite fauna within the Hoplitinid Faunal Province.

Following the Late Albian transgression (Inflatum Zone) the west immigrants representing the species *Mortoniceras inflatum* (Sowerby) and *Hysterocheras* sp. of the family Brancoceratidae appear in the record (co-occur with *Semenovicerias*), lowering markedly the endemic character of the ammonite fauna of Central Asia.

In the latest Albian (Dispar Zone = Cantabrigensis Zone) there appears an evolutionary descendant of the genus *Semenovicerias* Wright, namely the genus *Karamaites* Sokolov. It is the typical form for Central Asia and it represents the early evolutionary stages of the placenticeratids (latest Albian - earliest Turonian). In Mangyshlak the representatives of the genus *Karamaites* co-occur with the pandemic hoplitids of the genera *Anahoplites* Hyatt, *Callihoplites* Spath, *P. (Pleurohoplites)* Spath, and *P. (Arrhaphoceras)* Whitehouse.

The Cenomanian through Turonian ammonite fauna is almost identical to that of Central and Western Europe, leaving no doubt that it represents the same province, the North European Province.