

The Early Cretaceous plant communities and palaeoenvironments of Transbaikalia

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On the territory of Transbaikalia during the Early Cretaceous Epoch the West Transbaikalian Rift Region (WTRR) and East Mongolian Volcanic Belt (EMVB) developed. A bimodal trachybasalt-trachyrhyolite volcanism occurred in the WTRR. The EMVB includes several subparallel rift basins, initially covered by the Upper Mesozoic volcanic rocks, primarily trachybasalts and basaltic trachyandesites. Among the volcanic rocks, three series are distinguished: bimodal trachybasalt-trachyrhyolite, shoshonite-latite, and alkali-basalt (basanite). The Northern Biota Jehol existed in these regions WTRR and EMVB.

The Lower Cretaceous section of the Gusinozersk Depression and its fossil flora are the most representative among those of the WTRR, while the section of the Turga-Kharanor depression and its flora are those of the EMVB. The sedimentary sequences of the Gusinozersk and Turga-Kharanor depressions in Transbaikalia provide a representative record of the Early Cretaceous floristic events. The sections of these basins commence with volcanogenic-sedimentary deposits, are overlain by sedimentary rocks, and terminate in coal-bearing beds. The sedimentary cover of the Gusinozersk Depression includes the Gusinozersk Group, which is further subdivided into the following formations: Murtoi (containing dinosaur remains), Ubukun (of lacustrine genesis with ostracod remains), Selenga (lacustrine-fluvial sediments with coal seams), and Kholboldzhin (swamp-lacustrine with thick coal seams). The absolute dating showed that the formation of the Gusinozersk