



Paleobotanical remains from the Late Sarmatian and Maeotian age of the northern Scythian Platform

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Abstract

The Maeotian and Chersonian palaeofloristic assemblage is the first to be described for the Scythian Platform. The Chersonian palynological assemblage belongs to the Balta-Păun Formation and is dominated by the *Pseudoschizaea* genus, indicating a lacustrine/deltaic environment. The same biotope is revealed by the *Hydrosporites*, *Sparganium* and *Nymphaea* genera. In addition to these taxa, pollen of *Tilia*, *Ilex*, *Castanea*, *Eucommia*, vegetation occupying the middle altitude hilly areas around the sedimentation basin, has also been identified. Gymnosperms are poorly represented in the palynological assemblage, only rare specimens of the *Pinus* and *Picea* having been identified.

The fossil leaves described in the present paper originate from the Mînzați locality and are Maeotian in age. Seven taxa were determined, the largest belonging to the *Ulmus* and the *Carpinus* genera, which have formed a mixed mesophytic forest.

The palaeoclimate was deduced based on the palaeoflora identified using the "Coexistence Approach" method.

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