

FIRST DISCOVERY OF COLOBINE FOSSILS FROM THE LATE MIOCENE/EALRY PLIOCENE OF CENTRAL MYANMAR

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Here we report the first discovery of fossil colobine from the late Miocene/early Pliocene Irrawaddy sediments of Myanmar. The oldest cercopithecoid fossil record in Eastern Eurasia is *Mesopithecus pentelicus*, a primitive colobine monkey, from the late Miocene of Maraghe (Iran) and Molayan (Afganistan). The second oldest one is "*Presbytis*" *sivalensis* from the late Miocene/early Pliocene of Siwaliks, or the isolated teeth of *Macaca?* and colobines from the early Pliocene Yushe locality, northern China. The new specimens reported here were collected at the Myokyintha locality, Chaingzauk area, central Myanmar in February 2009. The fossil materials consist of left mandibular fragment preserving M₁₋₃ and isolated upper and lower molars, probably belonging to the same species. They apparently differ from *Mesopithecus* in molar morphology, differ from "*P.*" *sivalensis* in much large size and small hypoconulid of M₃, and also differ from the Yushe colobines in much smaller M₃ size. Although extant colobine monkeys are highly diversified in Southeast Asia, the Pliocene fossil record of cercopithecoids is very few. The Myokhintha colobine is the oldest fossil record not only of colobines but also of cercopithecoids in Southeast Asia. It is likely that the diversification of Asian colobine monkeys had occurred by the latest Miocene in Southeast Asia.

Keywords: Colobinae, fossil, late Miocene, Myanmar