

ABSTRACT

A detailed systematics of the Lower Siwalik giraffids has been worked out. Seventy two specimens are selected for this research project comprising mandible and maxilla fragments, and isolated upper and lower dentitions. Three species *Progiraffa exigua*, *Giraffokeryx punjabiensis* and *Giraffa priscilla* of the early Siwalik giraffids are identified and discussed here.

The material was collected from thirteen localities of the Lower Siwalik outcrops nearby Jaba, Chinji Rest House, Rakh Wasnal, Dhok Bun Amir Khatoon, Dhulian, Ghungrilla, Dial, Chabbar Sayadan, Lava, Phadial, Bhelomar, Parrhewala and Ratial of northern Pakistan. These localities represent the Kamliyal Formation and three levels of the Chinji Formation: Jaba (Kamliyal Formation), the Lower Chinji (Chinji Rest House, Rakh Wasnal, Dhok Bun Amir Khatoon, Dhulian, Ghungrilla, Dial), the Middle Chinji (Chabbar Sayadan, Lava, Phadial) and the Upper Chinji (Bhelomar, Parrhewala and Ratial). The outcrops range in age between 18.3-11.2 Ma.

The *Progiraffa exigua* remains are recovered first time from the Chinji Formation of the Lower Siwaliks, northern Pakistan, extending the range of the species from the Kamliyal Formation to the Chinji Formation of the Pakistani Siwaliks. *Giraffokeryx punjabiensis* and *Giraffa priscilla* are common faunal elements in the Middle Miocene of the Siwaliks. They could not survive with large giraffids *Bramatherium* and disappeared before the onset of the Dhok Pathan Formation (ca 10.2 Ma). The faunal correlation of the Lower Siwalik giraffids is discussed. The Lower Siwalik fauna shows similarities to African and Eurasian faunas. The paleoenvironment of the Lower Siwaliks (18.3-11.2 Ma) was wet and humid having extensive forest component and developed grassy lands.