FOSSIL FRUIT-AND-SEED FLORAS FROM THE NEOGENE OF POLAND

by

Maria ŁAŃCUCKA-ŚRODONIOWA

The author is carrying out research on fossil fruits and seeds from various localities of the Neogene sediments in Poland.

Wieliczka (Southern Poland) – the Miocene flora from the salt deposits (2). The original materials of the late Professor Jan Zabłocki, stored in the Museum of the Kraków Salt Works at Wieliczka were reinvestigated, several previous conclusions were revised and taxa new for the Polish Tertiary were described. They belong, among others, to the genera *Trema* (*Ulmaceae*), *Meliosma* (*Sabiaceae*), *Zanthoxylum* (*Rutaceae*), *Pyracantha* (*Rosaceae*), *Symplocos* (*Symplocaceae*), *Svida* (*Cornaceae*).

Bełchatów (Central Poland) – the Neogene floras from the brown coal mine (4). Carpological analysis is carried out successively from newly exposed horizons of different ages in the mine. The finding of shoots of the genus *Taiwania* (*Taxodiaceae*), for the first time in the Tertiary of Poland, is of special interest as well as identification of *Pistia sibirica* (*Araceae*), *Microdiptera sibirica* (*Lythraceae*) or *Spondiaecarpum turbinatum* (family unknown).

Gozdnica (Western Poland) – Upper Miocene flora (1, 5). It is one of the most interesting sites of fossil fruit and seed floras from Poland with extremely well preserved plant remains. It should be stressed that macroscopic remains (male and female specimens, fruits) of the dwarf mistletoe Arceuthobium (Loranthaceae) discovered in this locality represent the first finding of this genus in macrofossil floras of the Tertiary.

Kłodzko III (Western Poland) – Upper Pliocene flora (3). Macrossils of this site illustrate a very rich community of mixed forest with a great predominance of deciduous trees and shrubs. The most important components of these forest stands were fir and beech, hornbeam, maple, horse-chestnut and Zelkova.

References

1. Łańcucka-Środoniowa, M. 1980. Macroscopic remains of the dwarf mistletoe *Arceuthobium* Bieb. (*Loranthaceae*) in the Neogene of Poland. Preliminary report. Acta Palaeobot. 21(1): 61-66.
2. Łańcucka-Środoniowa, M. 1984. The results obtained hitherto in studies on the Miocene macroflora from the salt mine at Wieliczka (S. Poland). Acta Palaeobot. 24(1-2): 3-26.
3. Jahn, A., Łańcucka-Środoniowa, M, Sadowska, A. 1984. The site of Pliocene deposits in the Kłodzko Basin, Central Sudetes. Geologia Sudetica 18(2): 7-43.
4. Stuchlik, L., Szynkiewicz, A., Łańcucka-Środoniowa, M., Zastawniak, E. (in press). Palaeobotanical investigations of the Neogene brown coal at Bełchatów (Central Poland). Preliminary results. Acta Palaeobot.
5. Łańcucka-Środoniowa, M., Kvaček, Z., Zastawniak, E. (in press). Neogene flora from Gozdnica in the light of investigations of macroscopic remains. Acta Palaeobot.