

First findings of the redeposited Silurian ichthyofauna in the Quaternary deposits of Belarus

¹Plax D.P. & ²Zaika Yu.V

¹Belarusian National Technical University

²Unitary Enterprise “Geoservice” Belarus, Minsk

Until recently nothing reliable has been known about findings of the redeposited skeletal elements of the Silurian ichthyofauna found in the Quaternary deposits on the territory of Belarus. These findings are the first. Before that there were known only the findings of redeposited skeletal remains of the Devonian vertebrates found mainly in fluvio-glacial deposits of the Quaternary system on the territory of Minsk region. Detailed description of this ichthyofaunistic material was presented in the paper published by Plax D.P. (Plax, 2014), which provided information on the taxonomic composition of ichthyofauna, the diversity of its skeletal remains and the relative age of the rocks enclosing these remains and the types of their redeposition.

In this report we present information about the location of the quarry where the redeposited rock containing skeletal elements of the Silurian fish fauna was discovered; we cite the systematic composition of the vertebrates as well as give a brief description of the rock in which these were found, and its relative age.

The rock containing the remains of the Silurian ichthyofauna is light grey, cryptocrystalline, dense, massive, quite hard, rounded, basically small detrital, weakly clayey organogenic limestone which was found in the sandy quarry «Mazury» located near the town of Fanipol (Dzerzhinsk district, Minsk region). In this sample of organogenic limestone, after its dissolution, there were found rather abundant valves of ostracodes, calcareous tubes of worms, segments of crinoids, separate fragments of shells of brachiopods, single conodonts, about a dozen of discrete thelodont scales of *Thelodus parvidens* Agassiz, *T. cf. sculptilis* Gross, *T. admirabilis* Märss, large number of isolated acanthodian scales of *Nostolepis* sp., *N. striata* Pander, *Gomphonchus* sp., *G. sandelensis* Pander, *G. volborthi* ? (Rohon), *Gomphonchoporus hoppei* (Gross), *Acanthodii* gen. et sp. indet. and four *Nostolepid* stellate tesserae, as well as two scales of *Chondrichthyes* indet. According to the ichthyofauna contained in the organogenic limestone, one can draw the conclusion that this rock belongs to the Late Silurian, namely, Late Ludfordian age. The similar vertebrate assemblage is known from the Kuressaare Regional Stage of the Ludfordian Stage of the Ludlowian Series of the Upper Silurian of Estonia (Märss, 2013).