

Summer 2009 Investigation and Results

In August 2009, we undertook the fourth excavation and survey of Bol'shoj Naryn site. During the month-long excavation, eight Japanese and one Chinese researcher visited the site from August 20 to 26, and we also worked together with other teachers, graduate students and students of Irkutsk university.

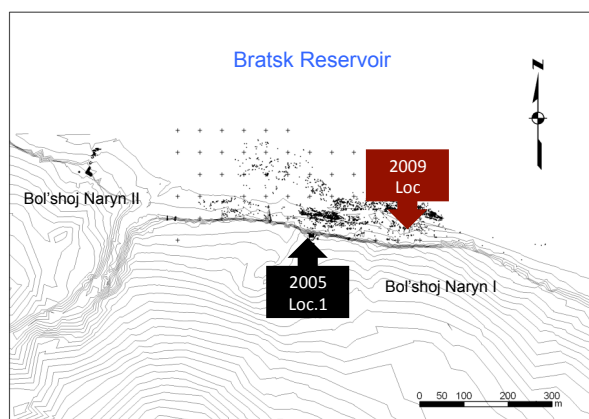
In this year, we excavated the land (Bol'shoj Naryn I site) on the east side of a stream flowing into the Bratsk reservoir (Osa bay). We excavated an area of about 30 square meters in a location about 200 meters distant from the east side of the 2005 excavation site. And we thoroughly investigated a paleosol layer about 2 meters below the ground surface, which is considered to be of the Karginian interglacial. As a result, we could find concentration of charcoal which seem to have originated from the remains of a hearth. We also found some stone and bone implements as well as mammal fossils mainly from horses around.

For convenience, we set up three additional test excavation areas along the stream. As we reached about 10 meters below the surface at one of test excavation areas, we could observe the sedimentations of the paleosol layers of the Kazantsevo interglacial could be observed at the base of the hill. On August 25, we chartered a ship and took a field trip to visit some Pleistocene sites including the Igitei site and Krasni Yar site on the coast of Osa bay.

At the Institute of Archeology and Ethnography in Irkutsk city, we had opportunities to investigate specimens unearthed from Gerasimov site and Sedova site. These are examples of human sites of the Upper Pleistocene that were excavated during the course of city redevelopment. We conducted radiocarbon dating at the University of Tokyo on charcoal and mammal fossils unearthed this year from Bol'shoj Naryn site. Radiocarbon dating was also used to date parts of the excavated mammal fossils from these two sites.



The location of Bol'shoj Naryn site



Excavation locations



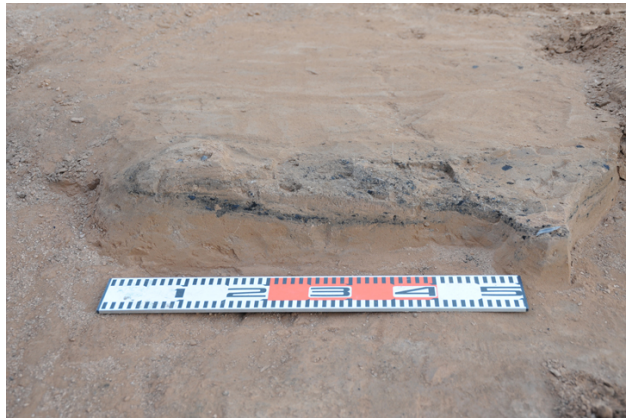
Excavation locations in 2009



The excavation scene of the paleosol layer



The state of unearthed artifacts and mammal fossils of the paleosol layer



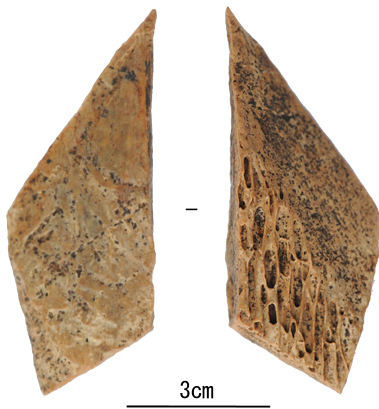
Concentrated charcoal that seemingly originated from the remains of a hearth



Stone tool unearthed from the paleosol layer



Cheek tooth row of a horse unearthed from the paleosol layer



Bone implements unearthed from the paleosol layer



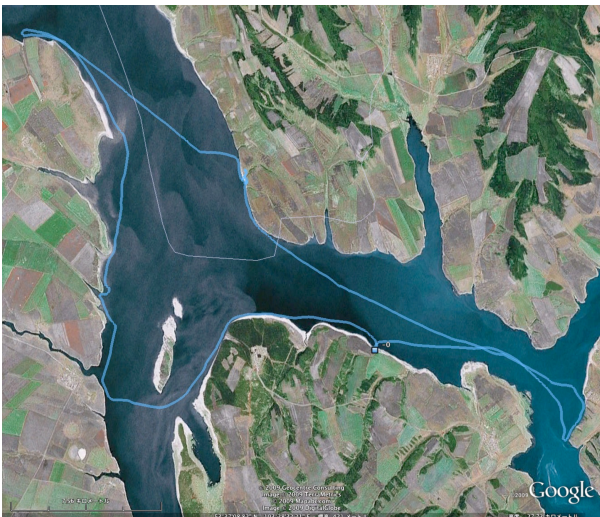
The survey team consisting of researchers, graduate students and students from three countries (Russia, China and Japan)



The excavation scene of the palosol layer



The picture of soil layers at a test excavation site



The ship route for the field trip of sites



Survey of Krasni Yar site