

Ephippia of the Daphniidae (Branchiopoda: Cladocera) in Late Caenozoic deposits: untapped source of information for palaeoenvironment reconstructions in the Northern Holarctic

A.A. Kotov^{1,2*}, S.A. Kuzmina³, L.A. Frolova², A.A. Zharov^{3,4},
A.N. Neretina¹, N.N. Smirnov¹

¹ Laboratory for Ecology of Aquatic Communities and Invasions, A.N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Leninsky Prospect 33, Moscow 119071, Russia.

² Laboratory of Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology, Palaeomagnetism, Kazan Federal University, Kremlevskaya Street 18, Kazan 420008, Russia.

³ Laboratory of Arthropods, Borissiak Palaeontological Institute, Profsoyuznaya Str. 123, Moscow, 117997, Russia.

⁴ Laboratory of Genome Evolution and Speciation Mechanisms, N.K. Koltzov Institute of Developmental Biology, Vavilova 26, Moscow, 119334, Russia.

*Corresponding author: alexey-a-kotov@yandex.ru

ABSTRACT: Cladoceran remains, mostly ephippia of the Daphniidae (Crustacea: Branchiopoda), are widespread in the permafrost deposits of Northern Eurasia. We may expect their presence in all types of Quaternary deposits from all regions of the permafrost zone. Cladoceran remains could be used for reconstruction of the past environment, climate and condition of the sediment accumulation, and cladoceran analysis could potentially be widely applied in Quaternary ecology. Moreover, resting eggs of *Daphnia* and other cladocerans could be good material for DNA studies and even hatching of specimens. Therefore, the ephippia could potentially be an important source of quantitative information for palaeoecological reconstructions. But for such efforts they need to be studied specially instead of as a byproduct of palaeoentomological or palaeobotanical studies. Moreover, special studies of recent taxa aiming to elucidate their identification based on ephippia are needed urgently. The impetus for this paper is to attract the attention of the Quaternary science community to ephippia as a new source of information about the past of inland waters.

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KEY WORDS: *Daphnia*, Cladocera, Anomopoda, palaeoenvironment, palaeoecology, Holocene, Pleistocene, Pliocene.

Эфиппиумы Daphniidae (Branchiopoda: Cladocera) в позднекайнозойских отложениях: неиспользуемый источник информации о палеообстановках Северной Голарктики

**А.А. Котов^{1,2*}, С.А. Кузьмина³, Л.А. Фролова², А.А. Жаров^{3,4},
А.Н. Неретина¹, Н.Н. Смирнов¹**

¹ Лаборатория экологии водных сообществ и инвазий, Институт проблем экологии и эволюции им. А.Н. Северцова РАН, Ленинский проспект 33, Москва 119071, Россия.

² Лаборатория палеоклиматологии, палеоэкологии и палеомагнетизма, Казанский (Приволжский) федеральный университет, ул. Кремлевская 18, Казань 420008, Республика Татарстан, Россия.

³ Лаборатория артропод Палеонтологический институт им. А.А. Борисяка, ул. Профсоюзная 123, Москва, 117997, Россия.

⁴ Лаборатория эволюции генома и механизмов видообразования, Институт биологии развития им. Н.К. Кольцова, ул. Вавилова 26, Москва, 119334, Россия.

*Автор для переписки: alexey-a-kotov@yandex.ru

РЕЗЮМЕ: Остатки ветвистоусых ракообразных (Crustacea: Branchiopoda), в первую очередь, эфиппиумы Daphniidae, широко представлены в многолетнемерзлых отложениях Северной Голарктики. Можно ожидать, что они могут быть найдены во всех типах четвертичных отложений и во всех регионах зоны вечной мерзлоты. Остатки Cladocera могут быть использованы как источник информации об окружающей среде прошлого, климатических условиях и особенностях осадконакопления, кладоцерный анализ может широко использоваться в исследованиях по четвертичной экологии. Кроме того, покоящиеся яйца *Daphnia* и других ветвистоусых ракообразных могут быть хорошим источником материала для исследований ДНК и даже для выведения особей из покоящихся яиц. Эфиппиумы потенциально могут быть надежным источником количественной информации для палеоэкологических реконструкций. Однако для подобных исследований они должны изучаться специально, а не как побочный продукт палеоэнтомологических или палеоботанических работ. Мало того, необходимо приложить специальные усилия для выработки ключей для идентификации современных видов по эфиппиумам. Основная идея публикации данного сообщения — привлечь внимание сообщества ученых, изучающих четвертичный период, к эфиппиумам как новому источнику информации о прошлом водоемов. Как цитировать эту статью: Kotov A.A., Kuzmina S.A., Frolova L.A., Zharov A.A., Neretina A.N., Smirnov N.N. 2019. Ephippia of the Daphniidae (Branchiopoda: Cladocera) in Late Caenozoic deposits: untapped source of information for palaeoenvironment reconstructions in the Northern Holarctic // Invert. Zool. Vol.16. No.2. P.183–199. doi: 10.15298/invertzool.16.2.06

КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: *Daphnia*, Cladocera, Anomopoda, палеообстановка, палеоэкология, голоцен, плейстоцен, плиоцен.

Introduction

Since the pioneering works of the beginning of 20th century (Voronkov, Troitsky, 1907; Rossolimo, 1927), subfossil remains of Cladocera (Crustacea: Branchiopoda) have been found in Quaternary lake deposits by many investigators (Deevey, 1942; Frey, 1958, 1964, 1986; Kadota, 1973; Smirnov, 1984; Duigan, Birks, 2000; Cromer *et al.*, 2006; Rautio, 2007; Frolova *et al.*, 2017). Cladoceran analysis of lake sediment cores is used for reconstruction of changes in some lake features such as depth, water transparency, and for revealing water body acidification and eutrophication (Alhonen, 1970; Hann, Karrow, 1984, 1993; Sarmaja-Korjonen, 2001, 2003, 2004; Rautio, 2007; Frolova, 2009; Smirnov, 2010; Frolova *et al.*, 2014; Ohtsuki *et al.*, 2015; Frolova *et al.*, 2017; Ulrich *et al.*, 2017).

A very important component of cladoceran remains in Quaternary sediments is so-called ‘ephippia’, moulted exuviae of gamogenetic females, modified in a special manner, enclosing resting eggs, protecting them from a harmful influence of the environment and being the main dispersal phase of ontogenesis (Pietrzak, Slusarczyk, 2006; Kotov, 2013). Ephippium presence is a diagnostic trait of the cladoceran order Anomopoda Sars, 1865, while representatives of all other recent cladoceran orders deposit their resting eggs without ephippia (Frey, 1995; Kotov, 2013). Ephippia are the most common remains of the family Daphniidae Straus, 1820 while other body parts are only rarely preserved in Holocene (Frey, 1991; Szeroczyńska, Zawisza, 2005) or Pleistocene (Cromer *et al.*, 2006) sediments.

Cladocera is a group of Palaeozoic origin (Fryer, 1991, 1995; Sacherová, Hebert, 2003; Kotov, 2013; Van Damme, Kotov, 2016). However, the oldest anomopod ephippia known to date are from the exact Jurassic-Cretaceous boundary (145 Mya), and they could be already attributed to daphniid genera from two recent subgenera, *Simocephalus* Schödler, 1858 (family Daphniidae) and *Moina* Baird, 1850 (family Moinidae Goulden, 1968), existing at present

(Smirnov, 1992; Kotov, Taylor, 2011). Daphniid ephippia were also found in several Cretaceous localities (Fryer, 1991; Kotov, 2009; Yan-Bin, Di-Ying, 2008; Hegna, Kotov, 2016).

Caenozoic ephippia are known since the pioneering work of Heydon (1862), but in general, records of Palaeogene and early Neogene cladocerans are relatively rare in the palaeontological literature (Dickinson, Swain, 1967; Goulsen, 1968; Xing-rong, Li Ying-pei, 1987; Lea *et al.*, 1991; Lutz, 1991; Wappler *et al.*, 2014; Kotov, Wappler, 2015) as compared with a great number of the Late Holocene records. Some localities are found to be especially remarkable, for example, Richter & Wedman (2005) described the ephippia of presumably “recent” species *Moina macrocopa* (Straus, 1820), *Daphnia pulex* De Geer, 1778 and *Daphnia magna* Straus, 1820 from Eocene Lake Messel, although their identifications seem to be not well-justified.

Ephippia and other cladoceran remains in Pliocene – Pleistocene – Earlier Holocene strata have been reported in papers written mainly by entomologists or botanists (Bennike, Böcher, 1990, 1992; Matthews, Telka, 1997; Lemdahl, 2000; Zimmermann, Lavoie, 2001; Kienast *et al.*, 2001, 2011; Oksanen *et al.*, 2003; Woodward, Shulmeister, 2007; Moldovan *et al.*, 2011; Cañellas-Boltà *et al.*, 2015; Gracheva *et al.*, 2015). But even through such investigations are relatively numerous, these records occur remarkably rarely when compared with those for upper Holocene deposits. Quaternary ephippia were almost never described in detail. Resting eggs and ephippia, mainly of daphniid Cladocera, have been studied mostly from Holocene deposits (see reviews by Brendonck, De Meester, 2003; Amsinck *et. al.*, 2007) but not extensively and they rarely are used for any palaeoenvironmental reconstructions (Ulrich *et al.*, 2017).

The aim of this communication is to attract the attention of palaeoecologists to a possible significance of Daphniidae ephippia for Pleistocene palaeoenvironmental reconstructions following the analogous works on the Late Holocene.

Results and Discussion

Notes on the taxon identification based on ephippia

Ephippia of *Daphnia* are common in the Quaternary deposits (Table). They have a char-

acteristic external appearance, and mostly bear two eggs (with exception of few species with a single egg, which are absent in the Northern Holarctic and not discussed here) (Glagolev, 1983; Benzie, 2005; Mergeay *et al.*, 2005; Kotov, 2013). *Daphnia* ephippia characters are usable for the determination of two main sub-

Table. Original material studied here.
Таблица. Оригинальный материал, изученный авторами.

No	Section name and description	Taxa revealed (ephippia)
1	Section Sabler-1. Cape Sabler Peninsula ($74^{\circ}33'N$, $100^{\circ}32'E$) of Lake Taimyr, Taimyr Peninsula, Russia (described by Dereviagin <i>et al.</i> , 1997 and Kienast <i>et al.</i> , 2001). The samples from different depth (0.7–0.8, 13.2, 20, 25.2 m) were studies by F. Kienast. The oldest ephippia photographed here (Fig. 1A) were found at depth of 25.2 m, they are about 30.000 years old (the sample from 25 m was dated as 29.960 ± 790 yr BP).	<i>Daphnia</i> (<i>Daphnia</i>) cf. <i>pulex</i>
2	Samoylov Island. Samoylov Island, the Lena River delta, North Yakutia ($72^{\circ}22'10''N$ $126^{\circ}29'58''E$) The samples SAM-1-B1, SAM-1-B2, SAM-1-B1, were taken by S.K. from Holocene river terrace (less than 5000 yr BP).	<i>Daphnia</i> (<i>Daphnia</i>) cf. <i>longispina</i>
3	Cape Letyatkin. Borehole ($69^{\circ}42'N$ $163^{\circ}18'E$), Cape Letyatkin, East Siberian Sea 50 km E of the Kolyma River mouth. Sample 111/2 (Pliocene?) was studied by S. Kiselev.	<i>Daphnia</i> (<i>Daphnia</i>) cf. <i>pulex</i>
4	Titaluk. River Titaluk ($69^{\circ}25'N$, $155^{\circ}9'W$), North Slope, Alaska, U.S.A. The sample T03-B12 has been taken from a boggy-lake deposit Early Holocene (about 9.000 yr BP) “Populus beds”. The sample comes from a sandy peat unit with abundant remains of leaves and a well preserved water beetle fauna. Section has been studied by P. Matheus, A. Sher and S.K. (Kuzmina <i>et al.</i> , 2019).	<i>Daphnia</i> (<i>Daphnia</i>) cf. <i>pulex</i> ; <i>Daphnia</i> (<i>Daphnia</i>) sp. from <i>longispina</i> -group; <i>Simocephalus</i> sp.
5	Palisades. Yukon River, 55 km downstream from Tanana village ($65^{\circ}06'N$, $153^{\circ}15'W$), Alaska, U.S.A. Ephippia are numerous in samples AL-4-05 B15, AL-4-05 B16, AL-4-05 B20A and AL-4-05 B25. This section has been described by Matheus <i>et al.</i> (2003) and studied in 2005 by D. Froese, A. Reyes and S. Kuzmina (inpublished). The samples come from two units: AL-4-05 B15 and B16 from the lower, Middle Pleistocene peat bed; B20A and B25 from the Late Pleistocene (last interglaciation).	<i>Daphnia</i> (<i>Daphnia</i>) cf. <i>pulex</i>
6	Chester Bluff. The right Yukon River bank ($64^{\circ}28'N$, $142^{\circ}43'W$) about 40 km downstream from Eagle, in east-central Alaska, U.S.A. Ephippia are very numerous in the samples AL-5-05 B27, AL-5-05 B27A and AL-5-05 B37 (an interglacial bed of the Middle Pleistocene) The section has been described by Froese <i>et al.</i> (2003); the samples were collected by S.K in 2005.	<i>Daphnia</i> (<i>Daphnia</i>) sp. (<i>pulex</i> -group)

Table (continued).
Таблица (продолжение).

No	Section name and description	Taxa revealed (ephippia)
7	Old Crow. Several sites at the Old Crow River, Yukon, Canada (Kuzmina <i>et al.</i> , 2014): CRH-11 (67°49'24"N, 139°50'40"W); CRH-12 (67°50'00"N, 139°51'45"W); HH-68-10 (67°52'00"N, 139°47'45"W); REM-78 (67°55'00"N, 139°40'45"W); CRH-44 (68°12'40"N, 140°00'40"W). Samples OC-B5a, OC-B6, OC-B33 (Mid Pleistocene, or older); OC-B8, OC-B12 (Upper Pleistocene); OC-B20, OC-B28, OC-B38 (last Interglacial, Upper Pleistocene) with few to tens ephippia in each. The sample OC-B45 (Mid Pleistocene or older) from CRH-44 contained thousands of ephippia.	<i>Daphnia (Daphnia)</i> sp. (<i>longispina</i> -group); <i>Simocephalus</i> sp. 1 & sp. 2.
8	Allan Creek. (60°30'N, 129°44'W) Liard Lowland of Yukon, Canada, probably Mio-Pliocene gravels, sample BJ-17 LR-21 was taken by B. Jensen in 2017.	<i>Daphnia (Daphnia)</i> sp. (<i>pulex</i> -group)
9	Tom Creek. (60°12'N, 129°2'W) Liard Lowland of Yukon, Canada. Organic-rich silts underlying LGM till, Late Pleistocene, sample AVR-17TC-9a was taken by A. Reyes in 2017.	<i>Daphnia (Daphnia)</i> sp. (<i>pulex</i> -group)
10	Alberta, pit No 48. (53°38'30"N, 113°17'0"W) Inland Aggregates Pit 48, Villeneuve, approximately 10 kilometres northwest of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, Late Pleistocene. Sample was taken by J. Seal.	<i>Daphnia (Ctenodaphnia)</i> <i>magna</i> ; <i>Daphnia (Daphnia)</i> sp. from <i>longispina</i> -group

genera, because the egg axes are perpendicular (or sub-perpendicular) to the dorsal ephippium margin in the subgenus *Daphnia* s.str., while in the subgenus *D. (Ctenodaphnia)* Dybowski et Grochowski, 1895 these axes are aslant or even parallel to the dorsal margin (Benzie, 2005; Kotov, Taylor, 2011).

Glagolev (1983) concluded that the shape and sculpture of *Daphnia* ephippia have a limited value for inter-subgeneric taxonomy, although sometimes are helpful for discrimination of some close species, i.e. *D. galeata* and *D. cucullata*. Subsequent investigators were more successful in findings of diagnostic traits of the ephippia. For example, Mergeay *et al.* (2005) proposed a key for determination of the ephippia of African *Daphnia* species based on their general shape. It is accepted now, that presence of relatively large spinules on the dorsal plate is a character of *D. pulex* species group (Fig. 1) in contrast to *D. longispina* group with almost

smooth dorsal margin (Fig. 2) (Benzie, 2005). But species discrimination within the latter two large groups using ephippia is very difficult, especially keeping in mind that recent taxonomy of these groups is confusing and several cryptic species co-exist in the Palaearctic and Nearctic within both the *pulex* and *longispina* groups (Benzie, 2005; Petrusek *et al.*, 2008; Crease *et al.*, 2012; Kotov, 2015). Only some very preliminary ideas on the species differences within the *pulex*-group are formulated (i.e., by Vanderkerkhove *et al.*, 2004; Mergeay *et al.*, 2005), for example, it is known that a posterior ephippium tapering is characteristic for *D. pulex* in contrast to *D. obtusa* (Glagolev, 1983; Mergeay *et al.*, 2005).

More promising are efforts to elaborate a key for identification of *Daphnia (Ctenodaphnia)* ephippia, although the authors take into consideration predominantly a general shape of the ephippium, ignoring its sculpture (Mergeay

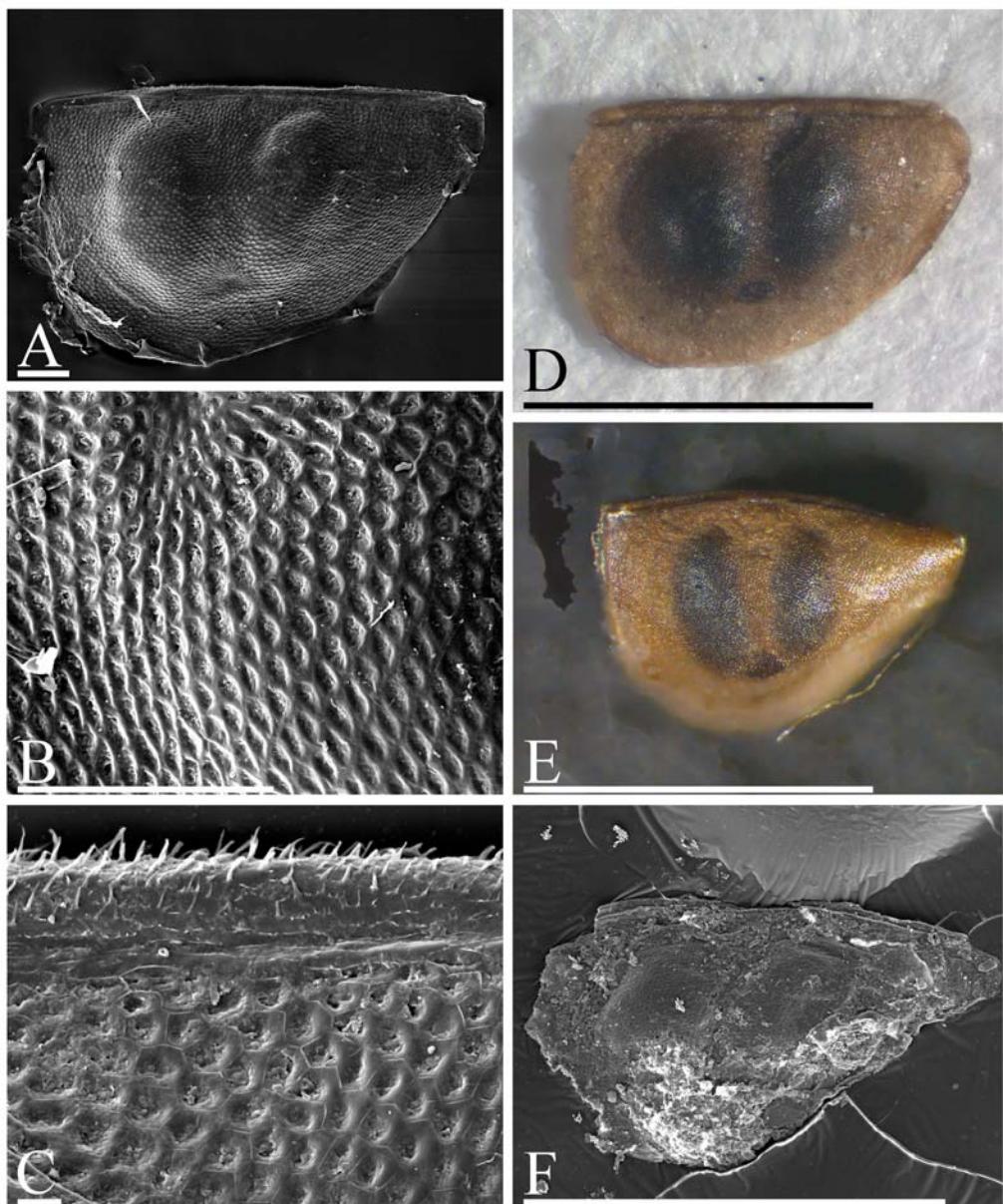


Fig. 1. Fossil ephippia of *Daphnia (Daphnia) pulex* group.

A–C — Cape Sabler, Taimyr, Russian Federation, sample from depth of 25.2 m, general view under scanning electron microscope, sculpture in central portion and dorsal side; D — Letyatkin Cape, Yakutia, Russian Federation, general view; E–F — Tom Creek, Canada, sample AVR-17TC 9a, general view. Scale bars: 1 mm for D–F; 0.1 mm for A–B; 0.01 mm for C.

Рис. 1. Ископаемые эфиппиумы, принадлежащие таксонам групп видов *Daphnia (Daphnia) pulex*. А–С — Мыс Саблера, Таймыр, Российская Федерация, образец 25,2 м, общий вид под сканирующим электронным микроскопом, скульптура в центральной части эфиппиума и спинной край; D — Мыс Летяткина, Якутия, Российская Федерация, общий вид; Е–F — Том Крик, Канада, образец AVR-17TC 9a, общий вид. Масштабные линейки: 1 мм для D–F; 0,1 мм для А–В; 0,01 мм для С.

et al., 2005; Popova *et al.*, 2016). Recently we demonstrated that representatives of this subgenus were common in the Beringian region in the Pleistocene, although they are absent there now (Kirillova *et al.*, 2016; Kotov *et al.*, 2018b). It is even possible, at least in some cases, to identify the exact species, e.g. Kotov *et al.* (2018) revealed ephippia of *D. (Ctenodaphnia) magna* in the fur of the mammoth found in MIS3 deposits in the Allaikha River basin (Sakha Republic, Russian Federation). Ephippium of this taxon could be identified based on well-developed scales on its surface (see Fig. 3). But still we do not have a key for determination of species based on ephippia, even for the Northern Palaearctic.

Orlova-Bienkowskaja (2001) concluded that ephippia of *Simocephalus* do not carry specific diagnostic characters, but our studies of Pleistocene fossils have revealed discrete types of ephippia, even in the same locality (Fig. 3). Few cases of successful discrimination of *Ceriodaphnia* species using ephippia were made previously (Bottrell, Newsome, 1976; Berner, 1985), but our recent investigation confirmed that at least main species groups of *Ceriodaphnia* could be identified based on ephippial morphology under both optical and scanning electron microscope (Kotov *et al.*, 2018).

To date, only some recent daphniids like *Daphnia* (*Ctenodaphnia*) or *Ceriodaphnia* could be identified adequately up to species level using ephippium morphology, but studies of recent ephippia need to be continued, so that some differences between the ephippia of other daphniid species could be found in the future. At the same time, there is no existing evidence that Pleistocene ephippia belong to some extinct species. In contrast, they are apparently closest relatives, or exactly conspecific, to recently existing species. This conclusion agrees with aforementioned molecular-clock calculations (Colbourne, Hebert, 1996; Taylor *et al.*, 1996): even “the youngest” species groups of the genus *Daphnia*, such as *D. cucullata/ hyalina/ galeata/ rosea/ thorata*-clade, exist at least 4–6 Mya, and significantly more ancient lineages also are found (Colbourne, Hebert, 1996; Smirnov, Kotov, 2018).

Quantitative methods for analysis of the ephippia

We are sure that in reality ephippia were (and are) seen by different palaeoinvestigators often in the Pleistocene or even in older sites, but the authors were (and are) not able to identify such remains. For example, *Daphnia* remains from Alaska, Yukon and Northwest Territories mentioned by Matthews & Telka (1997) apparently belonged to ephippia. Daphniid ephippia were found in many recently studied Pleistocene cores and outcrops of different age (Kienest *et al.*, 2011; Kuzmina *et al.*, 2014; Kuzmina, 2015). They are very common component of these deposits and usually absence of their records in Pleistocene–Pliocene localities means that the authors did not look for them. In addition, ephippia are reported from the feces (Kirillova *et al.*, 2012a), gut contents (Kosintsev *et al.*, 2012a, b) and fur (Kirillova *et al.*, 2015, 2016b) of large Pleistocene mammals.

Cladocerans are a powerful tool for paleolimnological interpretations and hence for detection of changes in past environmental conditions (Korhola, Rautio, 2001; Rautio, 2007). Many previous articles describe quantitative methods in the studies of chydorid cladoceran remains (Sarmaja-Korjonen, 2003; Bennike *et al.*, 2004; Smirnov, 2010; Frolova *et al.*, 2013). In the future, if Pleistocene ephippia are collected properly from lake sediment cores or natural outcrops and then properly identified, they can be a promising material that can be used for attempts to find correlations between the number of animal remains and the changes of environmental parameters such as temperature, pH, nutrients (Rautio, 2007). Recently a similar technique has been developed for chydorid ephippia (Sarmaja-Korjonen, 2003; Bennike *et al.*, 2004).

It is important to take into consideration the attempts to interpret cladoceran response to a single environmental variable and the possibility of misinterpretation of such a relationship (Jeppesen *et al.*, 2001; Rautio, 2007). Of course, a maximum effect has palaeoreconstructions that use several independent palae-

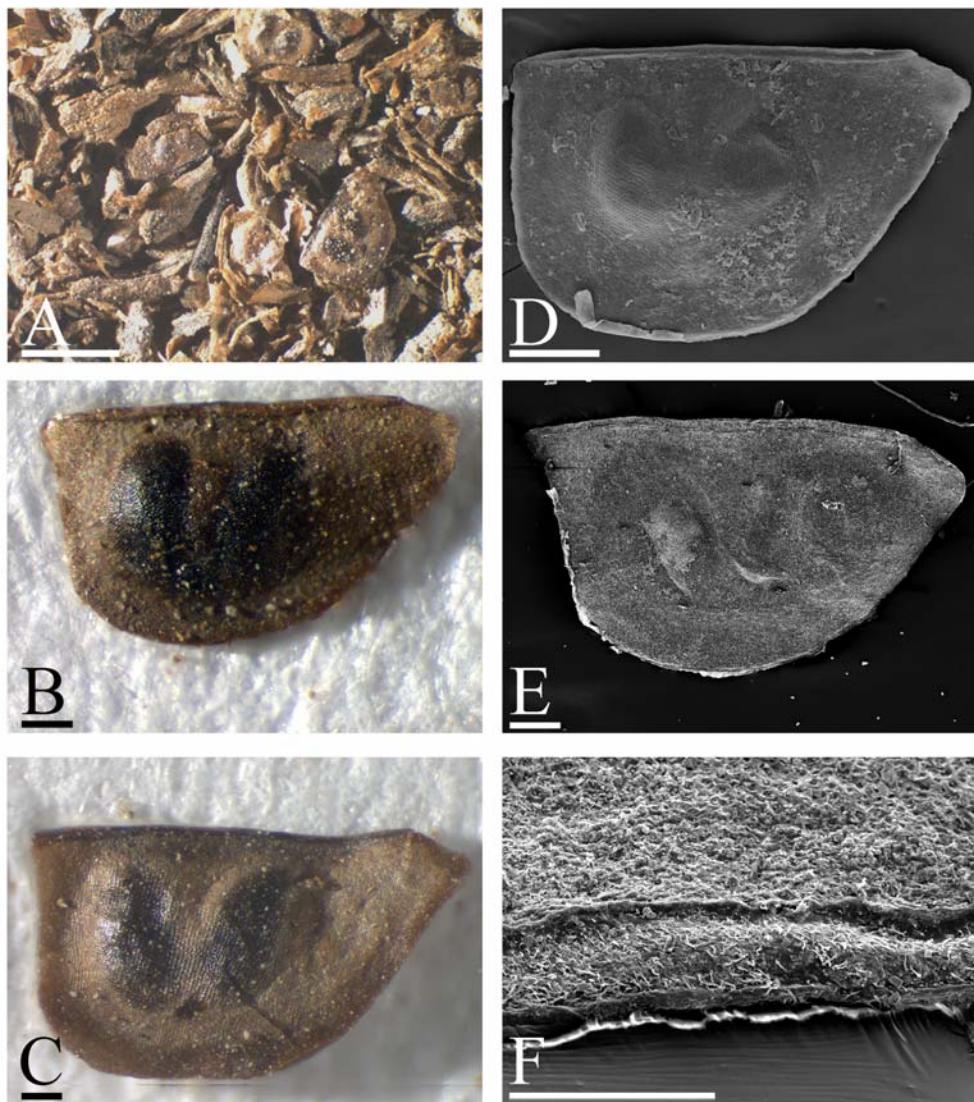


Fig. 2. Fossil ephippia of *Daphnia (Daphnia) longispina* group.

A–D — Old Crow, Yukon, Canada, sample OC-B45, deposit filled by ephippia and general view of different ephippia; E–F — Section Palisades, Alaska, USA, sample AL-4-05 B15, general view of ephippium and its dorsal side. Scale bars: 1 mm for A–C; 0.1 mm for D–F.

Рис. 2. Ископаемые эфиппиумы, принадлежащие видам группы *Daphnia (Daphnia) longispina*.

А–Д — Олд Кроу, Юкон, Канада, образец OC-B45, порода с многочисленными эфиппиумами и общий вид нескольких эфиппиумов; Е–Ф — Разрез Палисадс, Аляска, США, образец AL-4-05 B15, общий вид эфиппиума и его спинной край. Масштабные линейки: 1 мм для А–С; 0,1 мм для Д–Ф.

Рис. 3. Ископаемые эфиппиумы Daphniidae.

А–Д — *Daphnia (Ctenodaphnia) magna*, карьер 48, Альберта, Канада, общий вид эфиппиума, скульптура в его центральной части при двух разных увеличениях, задняя часть эфиппиума с включенной в его состав хвостовой иглой; Е–Ф — Олд Кроу, Юкон, Канада, образец OC-B45, *Simocephalus* sp., эфиппиум морфотипа 1, общий вид и скульптура в центральной части; Г–Н — Олд Кроу, образец OC-B45, *Simocephalus* sp., эфиппиум морфотипа 2, общий вид и скульптура в его центральной части. Масштабные линейки: 1 мм для А; 0,1 мм для В–Н.

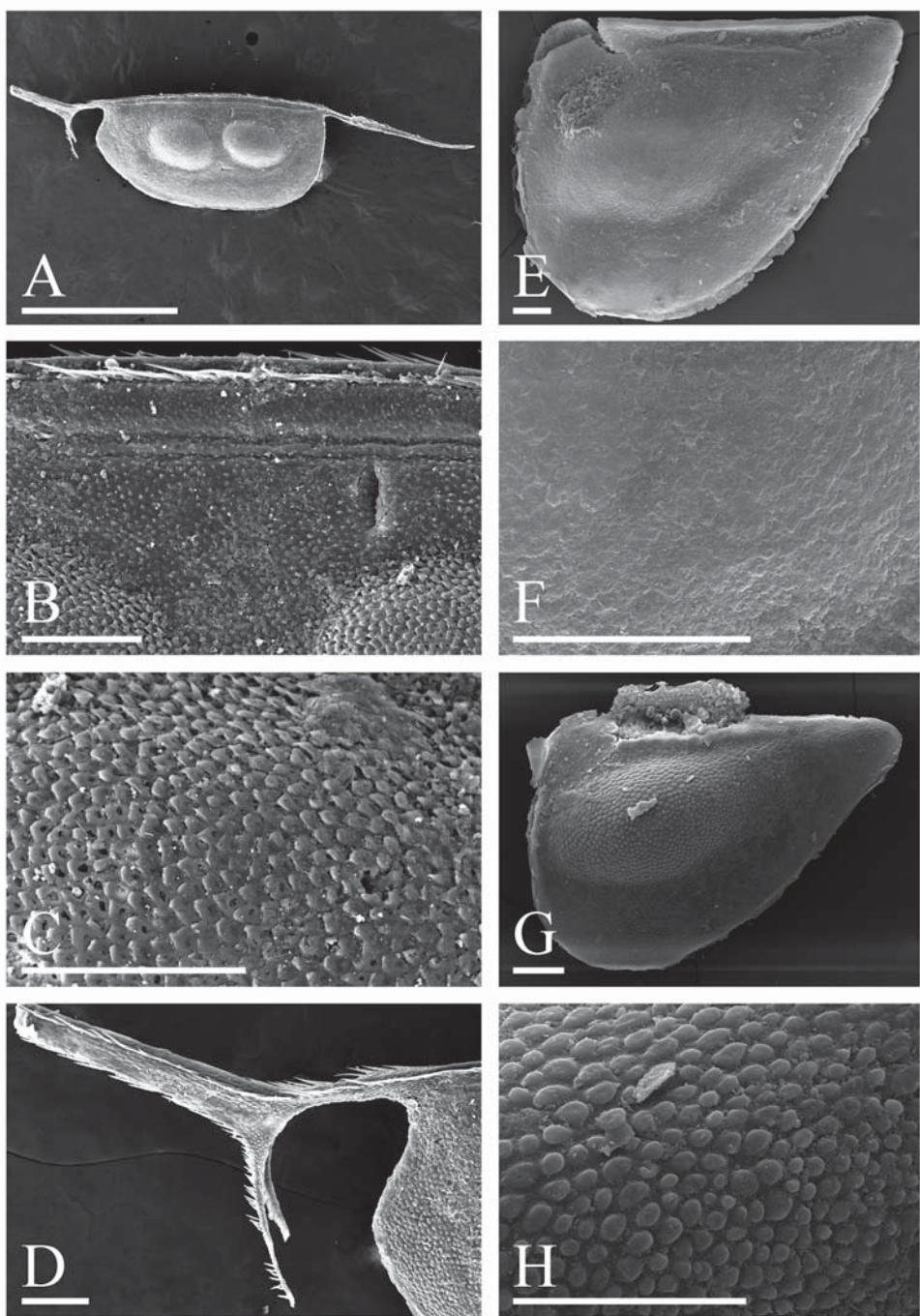


Fig. 3. Fossil ephippia of Daphniidae.

A–D — *Daphnia (Ctenodaphnia) magna*, pit No 48, Alberta, Canada, general view of ephippium, sculpture in its central portion in two different magnifications, posterior projection of ephippium with caudal needle incorporated; E–F — Old Crow, Yukon, Canada, sample OC-B45, *Simocephalus* sp., ephippium of morphotype 1, general view and sculpture in central portion; G–H — Old Crow, sample OC-B45, *Simocephalus* sp., ephippium of morphotype 2, general view and sculpture in central portion. Scale bars: 1 mm for A; 0.1 mm for B–H.

proxies (Subetto *et al.*, 2017; Wetterich *et al.*, 2018), and the cladoceran data can be a very important proxy for using such an approach (Kienast *et al.*, 2011). Moreover, just the ephippia, being properly identified, could be a basis for zonation of the cores, similarly to pollen analysis. In an article by Frolova *et al.* (2017) such zonation of a sediment core from Central Yakutia and palaeoecological reconstruction was successfully conducted using ephippium analysis. Sarmaja-Korjonen (2003) concluded that presence of numerous chydorid ephippia in some layers of a core is correlated with the periods of environmental stresses, i.e. changes of climate and changes of the predation regime (when the periods of gamogenetic reproduction are started earlier and occupy large portion of the life cycle). Analogous conclusions could be proposed for the Pleistocene sections, although some other factors could affect the size of ephippia. For example, the size of ephippia could reflect a press of planktivorous fish in the past, as the juveniles of different fish species prefer large specimens (Jeppesen *et al.*, 2002; Rautio, 2007; Smirnov, 2010). But for such works we need to be sure that the method does not have any artefacts of disproportional size selection of the fossil material.

Special attention could be paid to appearance and disappearance of some species, including indicators of some particular environmental conditions. Such approach could be helpful also for tracing the appearance-disappearance of some species due to well-known strong climatic changes during the Pleistocene. It must be taken into consideration that appearance of remains of some species at some sections is well-known in case of detection of biological invasions of some *Daphnia* species (Kerfoot *et al.*, 2004; Mergey *et al.*, 2006b).

Afore mentioned disproportion of the cladoceran studies (more in late Holocene, and sparse in early Holocene and Pleistocene) could be caused by human factor or differences in the methods and equipment used by different investigators. Several reviews and monographs have been completed on lake sediment coring and the reader is referred to these compilations for more details (e.g., Cushing, Wright, 1965, Wright *et*

al., 1965; Acker, 1974; Murdoch, Azcue, 1995; Glew *et al.*, 2001). But generally, short-term history of a certain lake is usually studied by a simple tube corer or gravity corer (Glew *et al.*, 2001; Brendonck, De Meester, 2003). Such sediments are not so thick, and a core representing all the water body history is easily extracted. Deeper sediments have to be excavated by a heavy drilling with gravity corer or piston corer (Cushing, Wright, 1965; Brendonck, De Meester, 2003), often from special rafts, or from ice; this is complicated and expensive work. But the deep lake long cores are widely used for pollen (Anderson, Lozhkin, 2015), chironomid (Porinchu, Cwynar, 2002; Nazarova *et al.*, 2017), diatom (Laing *et al.*, 1999; Palagushkina *et al.*, 2017), and other types of analysis (Smirnov, 2018). For example the core from El'gygytgyn Lake provides a continuous record of pollen and diatom data since at least the Middle Pleistocene (Nowaczyk *et al.*, 2002; Cherepanova *et al.*, 2007; Lozhkin *et al.*, 2007). Such unique core samples were treated for traditional microfossil analysis, but large- or middle-sized remains (such as insects or cladocerans) were overlooked during such studies.

Use in palaeoreconstructions and sedimentation studies

In some cases (e.g., Old Crow or Titaluk — see Kuzmina *et al.*, 2019) presence of ephippia in deposits in a significant number apparently is correlated with their lake-bog origin. Therefore, data on cladoceran analysis agree well with data from other types of the analysis. But cases of a contradiction between cladoceran analysis and other palaeoproxies can be even more interesting. For example, an analysis of plant macro-fossils in a SAO-1 section (Late Pleistocene of Taimyr) by Kienast *et al.* (2001: 237) revealed “lack of hydromyces and marsh plants and the predominance of xerophytes”, reflecting cryoarid climatic conditions. At the same time, numerous ephippia were found in such palaeolocalities. These remains of freshwater animals unambiguously established the presence of some water bodies (most probably, temporary ponds) during that time.

One of the most important and still unsolved questions of Quaternary Geology in the North-East Eurasia is the origin of the ice rich silty sediment – so-called “Yedoma” (Sher, 1997). There are two main hypotheses on the Yedoma origin: eolian and polygenetic (Strauss *et al.*, 2017). Eolian theory suggests that the loess-like sediment is true loess — wind transported dust (Tomirdiaro, 1996; Beget, 2001). Polygenetic theory proposes that tiny loess-like silt is product of a frost weathering of the different types of sediments (Konishchev, 1987). While a wind input could take part in the sediment accumulation, the Yedoma is composed of cryo-transformed fluvial or slope sediments. Both theories have advantages and disadvantages, and additional evidence is necessary. Obviously, deposit of the eolian origin should contain mostly terrestrial species of plant and arthropods, but fluvial sediments should be full of aquatic and riparian species. Numerous insect samples from north-western North America (Matthews, Telka, 1997; Matthews *et al.*, 2019) and north-eastern Siberia (Kiselev, 1981; Kiselev, Nazarov, 2009) show that aquatic and riparian species are quite rare or absent in the loess-like sediment. That confirms the eolian theory. But there are obvious exceptions to this rule. For example, our samples from Old Crow sections (Kuzmina *et al.*, 2014) usually yield little or no aquatic-riparian invertebrates except the sample OC-B-45 which is poor of insects but is overfilled by daphniid ephippia. This layer (at first glance indistinguishable from surround deposits) evidently has been formed due to a water body existence, probably small temporary pool. This example suggested that predominantly eolian accumulation could be complicated by other factors. Ephippia can play an important role as a special marker of lacustrine deposits and can help to discover hidden gaps in sediment accumulation. Such “geological” benefit of ephippia is not yet appreciated.

Using of ephippia for particular types of analyses

Certain types of analyses of qualitative subsamples containing ephippia from particular

layers of a core could be interesting for tracing environmental changes. For example, a concentration of melanin and spectral absorbance of carapace remains are variables related to past UV radiation exposure (Rautio, Korhola, 2002; Nevalainen, Rautio, 2014). A very important direction of ephippium palaeo-analysis is a study of stable isotopes, demonstrating past dietary patterns and some palaeoclimatic conditions (Schilder *et al.*, 2015a, b). Finally, permafrost or non-permafrost ephippia can be used for AMS ^{14}C dating (Child, Werner, 1999). It is known that the radiocarbon dating of late-Quaternary sediments from high-latitude lakes is often complicated by the influx of old carbon, reservoir effects, or both. But situations when fragments of terrestrial origin are absent in some layers are usual, and in such cases remains of water arthropods like chironomids (Fallu *et al.*, 2004) could be used keeping in mind aforementioned effects making the ages younger. Sometimes cladoceran ephippia are even more numerous than chironomid head capsules, and can be tested as a source of the carbon for AMS dating.

Chance to extract DNA from the permafrost samples and to hatch the specimens

Even in non-permafrost samples, like lake sediments, DNA is stored in daphniid ephippia over centuries and sometimes even over millennia (Mergeay *et al.*, 2004). DNA was successfully extracted from Late Holocene ephippia (Limburg, Weider, 2002; Marková *et al.*, 2006; Mergeay *et al.*, 2004, 2006a; Fritsch, 2014). Permafrost ephippia also can be used for DNA extractions, as for other subfossil animals (Willemsley *et al.*, 2003; Rautio, 2007). Unfortunately, our attempts to extract DNA from ephippia described above were not successful (due to improper techniques of sampling, with intensive rinsing with water in the field). For DNA study it is necessary to extract ephippia from permafrost cores or outcrops in a more accurate way. It will give us a chance to identify species of *Daphnia*, and accurately estimate differences

of a pre-glaciation fauna from recent. Genetics of the microparasites could also be studied for permafrost ephippia, similarly with analogous studies for the Upper Holocene (Decaestecker *et al.*, 2004).

It is known that at least some ephippia are vital in lake sediments during hundreds of years (Cáceres, 1998). Successful hatching of most *Daphnia* resting eggs has been restricted to ca. 60–70 years, or less (Marková *et al.*, 2006), but recently hatchlings were obtained from about 600 year-old ephippia excavated from lake sediments (Frisch *et al.*, 2014). We believe that the resting eggs in daphniid ephippia in permafrost, being better protected as compared with lake sediments, probably can be artificially hatched. If yes, we will have a unique source of information on the genetics, physiology etc. of the animals from past epochs.

Few successful attempts to grow Pleistocene plants from seeds excavated from the permafrost have been made (Yashina *et al.*, 2012). Several authors pointed out that ephippia are analogues of plant seeds (Figueroa, Green, 2002; Van Damme, Sinev, 2013; Kotov, 2013). We believe that some ephippia could be hatched from permafrost, comparable to plant seeds.

Important notes on sampling in the field and lab treatment

Quaternary cladocerans lie between macro- and micro-fossils in size. They could be excavated from both borehole cores and from natural outcrops. Such cores usually have a restricted volume. Natural outcrops permit samples of a large volume. In this case we recommend wet screening of sediments through screening boxes. The size of the mesh must be near 0.1 mm. The net is fixed on the bottom of the screening box, water comes from the bottom to prevent the sample from modern contamination (as modern microscopic animals are filtered out). The best sediment for such examination is silt with tiny plant debris.

The best samples for DNA study come from frozen sediments, and the samples must be kept frozen until lab examination. The task to keep

samples frozen makes field work much more complicated; an easier method is to pick up the ephippia in the field and to put them in alcohol or RNA buffer (in the latter case they need to be partly crashed as the ephippium shell and egg membrane could prevent a successive fixation of embryo).

Note that Pleistocene sediments contain remains of other cladocerans, especially from the families Chydoridae and Bosminidae, which form the bulk of Late Holocene cladoceran remains and are a main material for cladoceran analysis from sub-fossil tanatocenoses (Frey, 1964, 1986; Smirnov, 1984, 2010). But such remains are missed in sampling by palaeobotanist and palaeoentomologists, so we need to use a special method (see above).

Conclusions

1. Cladoceran remains, mostly *Daphnia* ephippia, are widespread in the permafrost deposits of Northern Eurasia and North America. We can expect their presence in all types of terrestrial deposit from all regions of the permafrost zone.

2. Ephippia of cladocerans and Daphniidae (Branchiopoda: Cladocera) in particular could be used for reconstruction of the past environment, palaeoclimate, condition of sediment accumulation, and the ephippium analysis could potentially be widely applied in Quaternary ecology.

3. For reinforcing of the ephippium analysis new knowledge on resting eggs and ephippium morphology, and further development of comprehensive identification keys of cladoceran ephippia, are strongly required.

4. Resting eggs of *Daphnia* and other cladocerans could be a good material for DNA studies and even hatching of specimens, not widely used at the moment. Therefore, the ephippia could be potentially an important source for quantitative information for palaeoecological reconstructions. But such studies need to be discrete rather than a byproduct of paleo-entomological or paleo-botanical studies. The ephippia need to be collected using adequate methods,

i.e. sieves with a small mesh size (not more than 0.1 mm). Moreover, special studies of recent taxa with the aim of elucidating their identification based on ephippia are needed urgently.

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This paper is dedicated to the 80th anniversary of A.V. Sher (1939–2008), renown Russian Quaternary ecologist.

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