

*NOTE ON SOME FOSSILS FROM MADAGASCAR, RECOVERED BY DR. DECORSE,**

BY M. ARMAND THEVENIN.

Dr. Decorse brought to the Paleontology Laboratory an important series of fossils collected by him in Madagascar around 1900, often in very difficult circumstances. They will be described and figured in the *Annales de Paléontologie*, with the more recent sendings of other travelers from the same region; but in waiting for this detailed publication, it may be useful to make known in a summary fashion the results of the study of which they were the subject.

Most of these fossils came from the province of Majunga⁽³⁾. At this same Majunga, the discoveries of Dr. Decorse confirm the presence of the Senonian, signaled fifteen years ago by Messrs. Baron and Newton, Stanislas Meunier, Boule, etc. At the island of Mahakamby, he recovered some probably Eocene fossils (*Magilus grandis*, Tornquist, etc.) in a white limestone that also outcropped, according to him, at Majunga at the edge of the sea (*Echinolampas* sp.), and on the left bank of the Betsiboka at its mouth.

Some other fossils came from Antanimalanda and Ambohitromby in the Kamoro valley, on the right bank of this river, around 40 kilometers from its confluence with the Betsiboka. In the first of these localities, Mr. Decorse recovered above all some small pyritized ammonites from the Upper Jurassic: *Haploceras staszycii* Zeuchsnier; *Oppelia subsidens* Font.; *Phylloceras ptychoicum* Zitt.; *Perisphinctes* cf. *pralairi* Favre, and moreover: *Belemnites jumarensis* Waagen; *B. redivius* Mayer; *Rhynchonella* cf. *inconstans* Dav. In the second locality, some pyritized ammonites of the same age: *Haploceras modestofirme* Oppel; *Peltoceras* sp. and some septaria from *Perisphinctes*

* Original citation: Thevenin, A. 1906. Note sur des fossiles de Madagascar, recueillis par le Dr. Decorse. *Bulletin du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris* 12(5):334-335. Translated by Matthew Carrano, Department of Anatomical Sciences, SUNY at Stony Brook, May 2001.

⁽³⁾ Since the voyage of Dr. Decorse, of other sendings from the same region were made to the Paleontology Laboratory; the most important is that of Captain Colcanap, which was the subject of a note here (*Bull. du Muséum*, December 1905 with 1 map).

beyrichi Futterer⁽¹⁾; numerous *Belemnites claviger* Waagen; *Terebratula dhosaensis* Kitchin, etc.

Since the voyage of Mr. Decorse, these clays with pyritized ammonites have been found at other points, in the Betsiboka basin or at the foot of Bemahra, but nowhere does their fauna appear to be as rich as at Antanimalanda.

At Bemarivo, near Maevatanana, Mr. Decorse recovered *Rhynchonella* cf. *inconstans* in abundance, which Mr. Colcanap had found at other points in the same region with some *Macrocephalites* (*M. transiens*, *M. polythemus*, etc.) characteristic of the Upper Jurassic in India.

At Ankirihitra, at the foot of the Ankara plateau in the Iabohazo valley, Mr. Decorse: found *Alectryonia* cf. *gregaria* Sow.; *Alectryonia* cf. *marshi* Sow.; *Rhynchonella* cf. *oolithica* Sow., which seemed to come from a lower level than that where Mr. Colcanap had recovered numerous fossils near the same village (*Bull. du Muséum*, 1905, p. 518).

We can now know the complete succession of the Middle and Upper Jurassic faunas, thanks to diverse explorers of this region where Mr. Decorse had one of the first discoveries of fossils.

In the manuscript notes and maps that he enclosed in his sending, he moreover indicated some localities of ammonites and belemnites that can only be signaled to new travelers: Marovoay and Ankaladina on the Betsiboka⁽²⁾.

⁽¹⁾ The *P. beyrichi* noted by Munier-Chalmas and Mr. Boule came from the same region.

⁽²⁾ Mr. Decorse equally signaled to the attention of naturalists a vast grotto situated at Ankatsépé, on the left bank of the Betsiboka, opposite Majunga. Some excavation enterprises since then do not appear to have been fruitful.