The Sao Khua Formation of the Khorat Group, northeastern Thailand, has yielded a diverse fossil assemblage including sharks, bony fishes, turtles, crocodiles, dinosaurs and birds (Cavin et al., 2007). Turtle remains are commonly found in this formation. At least four taxa were reported as follows: Isanemys srisuki, Kizyktumenys sp., Protostychachemys rubra and trionychoid. The adocid turtle, Isanemys srisuki, were described from Phu Krum Khao, Kalasin Province, and Phu Wat 1, Khon Kaen Province (Tong et al., 2006). Additional specimens have been found from Ban Na Kri, Kalasin Province and Phu Phok, Sakon Nakhon Province. The carettochelyid turtle, Kizyktumenys sp., is represented by several shell fragments from Phu Wat 2, Khon Kaen Province, Phu Mai Pax and Khok Kong, Kalasin Province, and Phu Phun Thong, Nong Bua Lamphu Province.

A trionychoid taxon has been found from Phu Paeng, Kalasin Province (Tong et al., 2009). Recently, a new adocid turtle, Protostychachemys rubra, is described based on shell material from the new Early Cretaceous vertebrate locality, Phu Din Daeng, Nakhon Phanom Province (Tong et al., in press). In eastern Thailand, at least four turtle taxa have been recorded from Pra Prong locality, Sa Kaeo Province, based on their ornamentation. This assemblage can be correlated with the specimens from the Sao Khua Formation of the Khorat Group in NE Thailand (Nakri et al., 2015).

In 2018, a new locality of the Early Cretaceous Sao Khua Formation has been firstly investigated by researchers from Sirindhorn Museum and the Palaeontological Research and Education Centre, Mahasarakham University at Phu Sung, Sakon Nakhon Province. This locality yields several turtle fragments and other vertebrates. In 2019, researchers from Sirindhorn Museum, Fukui Prefectural Dinosaur Museum, and Northeastern Research Institute of Petrified Wood and Mineral Resources have excavated this locality. More than 10 individual turtles were preserved together. The specimens probably belong to a single species (Isanemys srisuki) that represented by a complete associated carapaces and plastrons. The discovery of this turtle accumulation will shed new light on the taphonomy and palaeoenvironment of Phu Sung fossil accumulation as well as information regarding the biology and anatomy of these turtles.

Keywords: adocid, carettochelyid, vertebrate fossil, diversity, taphonomy;

References


Note