History and results of archeomalacological investigations in Hungary and on the international level

Archeomalakológiai kutatások története és eredményei nemzetközi szinten és hazánkban

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In Hungary – and in fact, in the whole Carpathian Basin – the first quarter- and archeomalacological investigations were carried out by the royal geologist Heinrich Wolf in the 1860ies (Wolf, 1867). Following this, further studies were made by Henrik Horusitzky (1870-1944) and Tivadar Kormos (1881-1946), of the Department of Agrogeology, Royal Geological Institute, Budapest, followed by the inventories of Kálmán Czógler (1884-1952) from Szeged and Mihály Rotarides (1893-1950). These experts processed material from loess layers collected within the Carpathian Basin, as well as from the Holocene layer and Mollusca specimens and remains found in archaeological sites, but this material was all collected by singling. With respect to the malacological study of Hungarian dwelling mound near Szeged, the work of Kálmán Czógler, founder of the Malacological School of Szeged was highly influential. Czógler had processed material collected at neolithic dwelling mounds (tells) (Czógler, 1934), and concluded that such anthropological sites from the Holocene high cultures are well worth investigating with a quarter-malacological aspect.

In spite of all this, archaeological sites were not inventoried by any malacologist until the 1980ies. Even though the pioneers of quarter-malacology, Andor Horváth from 1954 and by Endre Krolopp from 1958 onwards had processed material from several archaeological sites, their studies excluded kurgans. As Hungarian malacologists gradually organised themselves into a school of quarter-malacology, amongst them Levente Fűköh specialised himself in Mollusca faunas of Holocene layers and especially those of archaeological sites from 1977 onwards (Fűköh-Krolopp, 2004).