

»With but few exceptions, the Bej-sän mountains present the appearance of isolated hills or groups of hills, with a slight relative altitude (100 to 300 feet, seldom more), scattered without any regard to order over the lofty swelling (*circa* 5000 feet above sea-level) of this part of the Desert of Hami. There are no well-defined peaks amongst these mountains, although, as stated above, their general direction is from west to east.» With the exception of the bottoms of the valleys and the clefts in their sides, the mountains are perfectly barren. Here wild camels are met with.

»On the south side of these mountains there is a barren plain, 50 versts broad, without boundaries on either east or west. On the other side however it is bordered by mountains of the same character and altitude as the preceding. These too are called Bej-sän, and in all probability are a southern branch of the northern group. The route traverses these mountains for a distance of 40 versts.»

According to Prschevskij, the prevailing winds at this season of high summer blow from the east and, though more seldom, from the north-east. Probably the same relations obtain in this respect as exist in the country of Lop.\*

Thus we find Prschevskij also dwelling upon the presence of a distinctly defined swelling, ribbed with chains of hills, whose relative height is quite insignificant as compared with their absolute height; they are however not continuous, but are disconnected in the same way as in the region which I visited. The route which Prschevskij followed lay to the east of the eastern extremity of the Tschöltagh range. Thus the Bej-sän are plainly the continuation of the Kuruk-tagh. It is also evident from Prschevskij's map that, in addition to the main ranges of the Bej-sän, there are various other unimportant stretches of high ground with an east-west direction. In a word, the orographical features are the same as in the other known parts of the Kuruk-tagh system.

Now we come to Roborovskij. During his 1893—95 journey he made an excursion from Chala-tschi (Chara-nor) of about 110 versts towards the north-west, across the Kuruk-tagh system. As his route lay at the most 120 and at the least 70 versts west of mine, I will, by way of comparison with my own observations quote at length from him, especially as his recently published book is rather inaccessible to the majority of geographers.

»From this place (a saliferous river-bed near Chara-nor), the surface rose gently towards the Kuruk-tagh, and after going two versts we reached a low ridge of red granite . . . which turned out to be about three versts across. On the other side of it was an immense valley, bordered along the foot of the ridge by a belt of high hills clothed with vegetation, and beyond these again, and equally parallel with them and with the ridge, stretches a low elevation, 3 versts broad, and consisting of red coarse-grained granite, excessively disintegrated. Farther to the north is a pretty high, short crest with sharp peaks; this I skirted on the west, travelling north-west. To the north-east we saw the extreme southern projections of the Kuruk-tagh, east of the meridian of the lake. Right across our line of march lay a little granite range, the extreme southern outlier of the Kuruk-tagh. We encamped at

\* Prschevskij, *Is Sajsana tscheres Hami v Tibet na Verschovja Scholtoj Reki*, pp. 84—91.