

The following specimens come from the Desert of Tschertschen. First, one from Camp. No. III, taken on 22nd December 1899 — fine, yellowish sand; a preponderance of sharp-edged grains of quartz, mica, and felspar; strongly calciferous; a heavy percentage of magnetite. On the same day we passed, in bajir No. 5, the flat-topped clay terraces already described, and called by the natives *jardang*. A specimen taken there proved to consist of

- (1) loess concretions;
- (2) concretions of bog iron-ore;
- (3) a fragment of wind-worn, hard, black rock;
- (4) two or three fragments of a weathered grey mineral.

A specimen of salt, taken from bajir No. 13 on 23rd Dec. 1899, consists of common salt, intermingled with sand. This substance is very common throughout the desert wherever the ground is free from sand, and as a rule forms hard layers or cakes (*lamellæ*).

In bajir No. 20 (25 Dec. 1899), we found pure gypsum.

On 27th Dec. 1899 a specimen taken from the eastern side of a lofty dune-accumulation between bajirs No. 32 and 33 was composed of moderately fine, reddish-yellowish sand, consisting of quartz, mica, felspar, and some dark rock, the grains not being especially rounded. The component grains were

70 per cent bigger than 0.5 mm.
30 » » less » 0.5 »

Very slightly calciferous; moderate percentage of magnetite.

On the same day I took from another place a specimen of fine, yellowish sand, consisting of quartz, felspar, mica, and hornblende. Strongly calciferous; very strong percentage of magnetite.

In one of the last bajirs towards the south I took on 5th January 1900 a fine, yellowish sand of quartz, mica, and felspar, the grains of which were less than 0.5 mm.; strongly calciferous; heavy percentage of magnetite.

In order that these may be compared with the specimens from the more westerly parts of the desert, I will briefly quote some of the results obtained by De Geer.*

Proceeding now from east to west, we have first a specimen taken on 2nd May 1896 from Tschapan-kaldi, beside the lower Tschertschen-darja. It consists of faintly reddish, light grey sand, of moderate-sized grains, beautifully rounded, mostly of white, colourless or reddish quartz, with a pretty large admixture of orthoclase, plagioclase, hornblende, and mica, and additions of quartzite, mica-schist, etc.; strongly calciferous.

Another specimen of the 19th February 1896 from the region south of the Atschik-darja contains small fragments of apparently seed and other vegetable remains; in which there is nothing surprising, because the river is quite close, for vegetable remains of that character could not penetrate very far into the desert without being destroyed.

From Camp. No. VII immediately west of the Kerija-darja, I obtained on 26th January 1896 two specimens, one from the north-east, i. e. the windward side of a

* *Peterm. Mitt.*, Ergänzhft. No. 131, pp. 268—269.
Hedin, Journey in Central Asia. II.