

Atschik-köl — a stream identical with that on the right bank of which I pitched Camp LXV. The region abounded in kulans and orongo antelopes, as in October. Continuing farther in the same direction, he travelled to the small foot-hills of Karadgo-kum-bujun,\* the extreme outlier of the Arka-tagh towards the large open basin.

In its lowest reaches the stream is joined by several tributaries and there are in this part a great number of small pools. The sandy western shore of the lake was in many places marshy, and it proved to be impossible to get round the lake by the west and north. The lake also receives another stream coming from the south-west and called on the map Ajgin-utagnin-su; it is there shown as quite short and as though it issues out of the extreme northern outliers of the Arka-tagh. As a matter of fact, it is identical with the river beside which we made Camps LXIII and LXIV and which breaks through two ranges that run east and west.

Roborovskij gives the following information with regard to the lake: »The Atschik-köl is pyriform in shape, and sends out a blunted bay towards the north.\*\* In circumference it measures about 75 versts and its greatest breadth is 25 versts. Its shores, with the exception of that on the south, are very flat, greatly impregnated with salt, and in places marshy, especially on the west, where are the arms of the Atschik-kölning-kojasi and Ajgin-utagnin-su, as also a number of minor feeders and the tiny lakes to which they give origin. The southern shore is however high, and is accompanied by a rampart of sand. The offshoots of the range on the south, some of which reach right down to the lake, form three rocky islands close to the shore. From the eastern end there projects out into the lake a narrow tongue of land about 6 versts in length; and a similar tongue of land juts out from the northern shore, forming a large bay. The water in the Atschik-köl is salt.»

From the lake Roborovskij travelled on due east, crossing over the northern spurs of the Arka-tagh, with a broad valley between them. Here too he crossed the water-divide between the basins of the Atschik-köl and the Ajagh-kum-köl. From Roborovskij's description it is evident that the eastern water-divide of the basin is a more pronounced feature than the western. With regard to the latter he says nothing direct, but the map shows where it lies between the rivers, although there is no indication of any elevation of the ground. From this it is to be inferred, that the western water-divide is particularly flat, possibly it is not even evident to the naked eye. The same thing has been observed scores of times on the Tibetan plateau. Roborovskij's description of his route gives a clear picture of the morphology of the country, and it agrees admirably with the observations which I myself made along the itinerary I took through the same basin, my route cutting his at

\* The word Karadgo is unintelligible. Probably the guide who gave him the word was suffering from a cold and pronounced an *n* as if it were a *d*. Karango-kum-burun is a more likely form, and would mean the Cape of the Black Sand. The name points to the presence of an expanse of sand, although the text says nothing about any such expanse.

\*\* To judge from the map it is circular rather than pyriform. I venture to think however that as an actual fact it is elongated in the same way as the Ajagh-kum-köl, for if the lake has a diameter of 20 to 25 versts and its northern shore is very flat, Roborovskij, who travelled on the southern shore, would not be able to see the opposite side of the lake. As however he distinctly saw, not only the northern shore, but also its blunted bay, the lake must measure a good deal less from north to south than it does from east to west.