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Marsupials from the Late Cretaceous of Uzbekistan

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A fragment of dentary with m4, showing characters of some Late Cretaceous North American marsupials, is assigned to *Marsasia* sp. *Marsasia* Nessov, 1997 from the Coniacian of Uzbekistan, represented by *M. aenigma* known from edentulous dentaries with inflected angular processes, was attributed by Nessov to ?Marsupialia. *Marsasia* sp., found in the same horizon as the type species, resembles it in size and structure of the masseteric fossa, but differs in having a less steep coronoid process. We assign *Marsasia* to Marsupialia on the basis of the following characters: inflected angular process, shape of the dentary similar to that in *Asiatherium*, postcanine dental formula, inferred from alveoli for p1-3, m1-4, and structure of m4 more similar to Cretaceous marsupials than eutherians. The phylogenetic position of Marsasia may be between the Albian *Kokopellia* and Campanian *Asiatherium*. *Marsasia* is tentatively referred to the order Asiadelphia, which may represent an endemic Asian marsupial clade.

Key words: Asiadelphia, Cretaceous, *Marsasia*, Marsupialia, paleobiogeography, Uzbekistan.

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