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\* GORCHAKOVSKY, P. L. [Ural Branch of the Academy of Sciences, Sverdlovsk, USSR] *The influence of the Quaternary glaciation on the flora of the Urals* (ТАХ) —The territory of the Urals was almost completely peneplained by the middle of the Tertiary Period. The present-day mountainous relief developed in the late Tertiary and in the Pleistocene as a result of epeirogenic upheavals. The floristic complex peculiar to broad-leaved forests became degraded in the Pleistocene, especially during the epoch of maximum glaciation; its depauperated relicts survived on the western slope of the South Urals and in some places in the adjacent plains. At that time the Ural areas of some herbaceous 'nemoralis' species became separated from the main (European and Caucasian) area of their distribution; and this geographic isolation, together with the local environmental conditions, doubtless led to the formation of some local endemics (*Lathyrus litvinovii*, *Knautia tatarica*, *Cicerbita gmelini*). In the Pleistocene the newly developed high-mountain region became the site of an intensive process of species building and led to the appearance of a few endemic species. Some of them (e.g. *Lagotis uralensis*, *Anemone biarmiensis*, *Gypsophila uralensis*) originated from

lowland ancestors, and others (*Epilobium uralense*, *Gagea samojedorum*) from the populations of high-mountain species that had migrated into the area. The increase of erosion caused by epeirogenic elevations led to the extension of areas of bare rock in which primary petrophilous and mountain-steppe plants became widespread. The formation of the Ural mountain-steppe and rock-inhabiting endemics (e.g. *Minuartia helmii*, *Dianthus acicularis*, *Astragalus clerceanus*, *Aulacospermum isetense*), which began as early as the Tertiary Period, was completed in its main features by the end of the Pleistocene. Thus the Quaternary glaciation and the concomitant changes in physiographic conditions were the main factors in the formation of the endemic element in the flora of the Urals.