

# DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES AND GEOGRAPHY A6 

## THE MIOCENE OF WESTERN ASIA; FOSSIL MAMMALS AT THE CROSSROADS OF FAUNAL PROVINCES AND CLIMATE REGIMES

MAJID MIRZAIE ATAABADI

# The Miocene of Western Asia; fossil mammals at the crossroads of faunal provinces and climate regimes 

MAJID MIRZAIE ATAABADI

ACADEMIC DISSERTATION
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Cover photo: Late Miocene outcrops, Ivand district, northwestern Iran, September 2007

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مرمر, آرزورانفّة

Patience brings what you desire, not haste Mowlana Rumi

To my Family
To the people of IRAN
 آب و هو/يي. انتشارات دانشگاه هلسينكى. هلسينكى. 99 ورقه و • ا رويه.

## چحكيده

آسياى باخترى با قرارداثشتن در كذركاه قاره هاى دنياى قديم (اروپا، آسيا و آفريقا) داراى جايگاه ممتازى است كه از از
 فسيل ميوسن در باختر آسيا اندك بوده، نبودهاى بزرگَ مكانى و زمانى در بين آنها مشاهده مى شود

 چندين نقطه از شمال و شمال باخترى ايران وجود دارد. علاوه بر اين، بقاياى اسكلتى پپتانانداران موجود در در نواحى
 سال پيش) مى باثند.

بررسى اقليم هاى جانورى مجمو عه هاى فسيلى در اين پزو هش به بهيود دانسته هاى پبشين در اين زمينه منجر شده است و نشان ميدهد در باختر آسيا جهار اقليم جانورى فسيلى با يكديكر برخورد داشتنه اند كه شامل اقليم هاى بالكان-
 نتيجه وجود رشته كو ههاى بلندى است كه بر پپ اكنش پِستانداران فسيل و الگو هاى آب و هو ايیى اثر داشتّه است.



 ميليون سال بيش اتفاق افتاده است.



 جنگل ها و با واكنش به دكرگونى الكو هاى نمناكى، جابجايى مكانى داده است. زياى سيو اليكـ (پپاكستان- هند) در ابتداى ميوسن بالايى دار ای كسترش محلى و محدود بوده است.

اين بֶزو هش بيانگر نياز به كاوش هاى صحرايی بوده، نشان ميدهد كهه پֶى جويى در نواحى گسترده آسياى باخترى كه



 است. بررسى تاريخچه كسترش مجموعه هاى جانورى در زمان و مكان نيز با كاربرد روشهاى نوين محاسباتى و نماسازى رويكرد تازه ایى است كه ميتوان آنرا به عرصه ها هاى تازه كـسترش داد.


#### Abstract

Being at the crossroads of the Old World continents, Western Asia has a unique position through which the dispersal and migration of mammals and the interaction of faunal bioprovinces occurred. Despite its critical position, the record of Miocene mammals in Western Asia is sporadic and there are large spatial and temporal gaps between the known fossil localities.

Although the development of the mammalian faunas in the Miocene of the Old World is well known and there is ample evidence for environmental shifts in this epoch, efforts toward quantification of habitat changes and development of chronofaunas based on faunal compositions were mostly neglected. Advancement of chronological, paleoclimatological, and paleogeographical reconstruction tools and techniques and increased numbers of new discoveries in recent decades have brought the need for updating and modification of our level of understanding.

We under took fieldwork and systematic study of mammalian trace and body fossils from the northwestern parts of Iran along with analysis of large mammal data from the NOW database. The data analysis was used to study the provinciality, relative abundance, and distribution history of the closed- and open-adapted taxa and chronofaunas in the Miocene of the Old World and Western Asia.

The provinciality analysis was carried out, using locality clustering, and the relative abundance of the closed- and open-adapted taxa was surveyed at the family level. The distribution history of the chronofaunas was studied, using faunal resemblance indices and new mapping techniques, together with humidity analysis based on mean ordinated hypsodonty.

Paleoichnological studies revealed the abundance of mammalian footprints in several parts of the basins studied, which are normally not fossiliferous in terms of body fossils. The systematic study and biochronology of the newly discovered mammalian fossils in northwestern Iran indicates their close affinities with middle Turolian faunas. Large cranial remains of hipparionine horses, previously unknown in Iran and Western Asia, are among the material studied. The initiation of a new field project in the famous Maragheh locality also brings new opportunities to address questions regarding the chronology and paleoenvironment of this classical site.

Provinciality analysis modified our previous level of understandings, indicating the interaction of four provinces in Western Asia. The development of these provinces was apparently due to the presence of high mountain ranges in the area, which affected the dispersal of mammals and also climatic patterns.


Higher temperatures and possibly higher $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$ levels in the Middle Miocene Climatic Optimum apparently favored the development of the closed forested environments that supported the dominance of the closed-adapted taxa. The increased seasonality and the progressive cooling and drying of the midlatitudes toward the Late Miocene maintained the dominance of open-adapted faunas. It appears that the late Middle Miocene was the time of transition from a more forested to a less forested world.

The distribution history of the closedand open-adapted chronofaunas shows the presence of cosmopolitan and endemic faunas in Western Asia. The closedadapted faunas, such as the Arabian chronofauna of the late Early-early Middle Miocene, demonstrated a rapid buildup and gradual decline. The open-adapted chronofaunas, such as the Late Miocene Maraghean fauna, climaxed gradually by filling the opening environments and
moving in response to changes in humidity patterns. They abruptly declined due to demise of their favored environments. The Siwalikan chronofauna of the early Late Miocene remained endemic and restricted through all its history.

This study highlights the importance of field investigations and indicates that new surveys in the vast areas of Western Asia, which are poorly sampled in terms of fossil mammal localities, can still be promising. Clustering of the localities supports the consistency of formerly known patterns and augments them. Although the quantitative approach to relative abundance history of the closed- and open-adapted mammals harks back to more than half a century ago, it is a novel technique providing robust results. Tracking the history of the chronofaunas in space and time by means of new computational and illustration methods is also a new practice that can be expanded to new areas and time spans.

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## List of original publications

This thesis is based on the following articles referred to in the text by their bold Roman numerals.
I. Mirzaie Ataabadi, M. and Abbassi, N. 2007. Affinities and implications of new Miocene mammal footprints from Iran. Vertebrata PalAsiatica 45:128-136.
II. Eronen, J. T., Mirzaie Ataabadi, M., Micheels, A, Karme, A., Bernor, R. L., and Fortelius, M. 2009. Distribution history and climatic controls of the Late Miocene Pikermian chronofauna. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 106:1186711871.
III. Mirzaie Ataabadi, M., Zaree, G., and Orak, Z. Large mammals from the new Late Miocene fossil localities in Varzeghan area, northwest Iran. Vertebrata PalAsiatica, (accepted).
IV. Mirzaie Ataabadi, M., Liu, L., Eronen, J. T., Bernor, R. L., and Fortelius, M. Continental Scale Patterns in Neogene Mammal Community Evolution and Biogeography: A Europe-Asia Perspective. In: Asian Neogene Mammal Biostratigraphy and Chronology (eds. Xiaoming, W., Fortelius, M. and Flynn, L.), Columbia University Press, (accepted).
V. Mirzaie Ataabadi, M., Bernor, R. L., Kostopolus, D., Wolf, D., Orak, Z., Zaree, G., Nakaya, H., Watabe, M. and Fortelius, M. Recent Advances in the Paleobiological Research of the Late Miocene Maragheh Fauna, Northwest Iran. In: Asian Neogene Mammal Biostratigraphy and Chronology (eds. Xiaoming, W., Fortelius, M. and Flynn, L.), Columbia University Press, (submitted).
VI. Mirzaie Ataabadi, M., Mohammadalizadeh, J., Zhang, Z., Watabe, M., Kaakinen, A. and Fortelius, M. Late Miocene Large mammals from Ivand (northwestern Iran). Geodiversitas, (submitted).

In addition, unpublished analyses and results have been presented.

## The authors' contribution to the publications

I.
M. Mirzaie Ataabadi interpreted the data and wrote the article. The field work was done by N. A.
II. M. Mirzaie Ataabadi, J. T. E., R. L. B., and M. F. designed the research; J. T. E., M. M. A., A. M., and M. F. performed the research; J. T. E., M. M. A., and A. K. contributed new reagents/analytic tools; J. T. E., M. M. А., A. M., A. K., and M. F. analyzed data; and J. T. E., M. M. A., A. M., R. L. B., and M. F. wrote the paper.
III. M. Mirzaie Ataabadi studied the fossil material and wrote the paper. G. Z. and Z. O. did the field and office work.
IV.
M. Mirzaie Ataabadi, L. L., and M. F. planned the research; M. M. A., J. T. E., L. L. and M. F analyzed the data and performed the research. All the authors contributed to the writing.
V. M. Mirzaie Ataabadi, R. L. B., and M. F. designed the research; M. M. A., Z. O., G. Z., H. N., M. W. and M. F. did the field work; M. M. A., R. L. B., D. K., and D. W. studied fossil collections and M. M. A., R. L. B., D. K., and M. F. wrote the paper.
VI. M. Mirzaie Ataabadi and J. M. planned the research and the field work, M. M. A. and M. W. studied the hipparionine horses, Z. Z. studied the bovids, and A. K. interpreted sedimentology. M. M. A., Z. Z., and A. K. wrote the paper. M. F. commented the text.

## Abbreviations

AFRARB: Africa-Arabia

BAANIR: Balkan-Anatolia-Iran
CHNCAS: China-central Asia
DOE: Department of Environment (Environment Protection Organization), Iran
EMED: Eastern Mediterranean
GFRI: Genus level Faunal Resemblance Index
HMNH: Hamedan Museum of Natural History, Hamedan
HYP: Hypsodonty
INSPE: International Sahand Paleobiology Expedition
LRE: Lake Rezaieh Expedition
MMTT: Muze Meli Tarikh Tabiei (National Museum of Natural History), Tehran
MNEQ: European Mammal Neogene Faunal Zone Equivalents
MNHN: Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris
NBS: North Black Sea
NOW: Neogene of the Old World database
O/C: Open-adapted/Closed-adapted
SIWSEAS: Siwalik-Southeast Asia
WAS: Western Asia
WEUCEU: Western Europe-central Europe

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## 1. Introduction

The Miocene Epoch, 23-5.3 million years (Ma) ago, in the Neogene Period is a time when the world assumed its modern configuration. Major orogenic/tectonic events such as intensification of the uplift of the Alpine-Himalayan Belt in Eurasia and development of the Rift Valley system in East Africa occurred at this time and new mountain ranges were formed. The Tethyan Ocean was also gradually dismembered and diminished, and the landbridges between Africa and Eurasia were formed, facilitating the interchange of faunas between these continents. Thus, the continental environments changed significantly.

During the Miocene, life also attained many of its modern aspects. Miocene mammals were very similar to modern mammals and most of today's mammalian families were already present at that time. Modern climatic and circulation patterns also have their roots in the Miocene. Although the Miocene belongs to the late phase of the Cenozoic climate cooling, it was warmer and more humid than the Pliocene and today (Zachos et al. 2001).

Due to the Late Oligocene and Early Miocene global expansion of the tropical belts, the Early Miocene experienced warm tropical and subtropical climates with evergreen plants. During this time (ca. 20-19 Ma ago), the Tethyan Seaway continued to shrink and the African and Eurasian tectonic plates (Arabian, Iranian and Anatolian plates) collided, generating the rise of the Iranian and the Turkish Plateau. The formation of a consequent landbridge (Gomphotherium landbridge) facilitated the continental mammal exchange between Eurasia and Africa across Western Asia during MNEQ4 and MNEQ5 (Koufos et al. 2005, Rögl 1999, 1998, Bernor 1983). During the Middle Miocene, the Tethyan Seaway reopened, due to the Langhian Transgression. This was a short
event and the intercontinental landbridges soon appeared again (Popov et al. 2006, 2004, Rögl 1999, 1998).

One of the prominent episodes of the Miocene was the warm period known as the "Climatic Optimum" between 17-15 Ma ago (Middle Miocene). During this time subtropical, warm-temperate evergreen forests with low seasonality prevailed in most of the areas (Mosbrugger et al. 2005, Kovar-Eder 2003, Agustí and Antón 2002, Bernor 1983). This climax in Neogene warming was followed by a major cooling event that occurred between $14.8-14.1 \mathrm{Ma}$ ago, as a result of the Antarctic Ice Sheet expansion (Böhme 2003, Zachos et al. 2001, Flower and Kennett 1994). The continued expansion of this ice sheet and the interruption of the circum-Equatorial Current system, due to closure of the Tethyan Seaway, caused persistence in the Neogene cooling and the ultimate passage of the earth into the icehouse state later in the PliocenePleistocene (Agustí and Antón 2002, Zachos et al. 2001).

During the Late Miocene a climatic deterioration occurred, characterized by greater seasonality and a significant expansion of the more open-country floras that replaced the closed, forested environments (Mosbrugger et al. 2005, Kovar-Eder 2003, Agustí and Antón 2002, Bernor 1983). The continued uplift of the Tibetan Plateau and the regression of the Paratethys were important for the climatic changes at this time. These events caused large-scale changes in the continental/marine distribution and global climatic circulation patterns, which resulted in monsoondominated environments in East Asia and indirectly (through long-range connections or teleconnections) influenced the humidity and aridity pattern in other regions (Zhang et al. 2006, Liu and Yin 2002, Fluteau et al. 1999, Ramstein et al. 1997). At the end of the

Miocene, the continued expansion of the Antarctic Ice Sheet and the consequent drop in global sea levels, together with tectonic events (Krijgsman et al. 1999), led to desiccation and isolation of the Mediterranean Basin (Messinian Salinity Crisis). Uplift of the Zagros mountain chain and the activity around the Turkish tectonic plate at this time (Alavi 2004, 1994) established a permanent land connection between Eurasia and Africa.

The Miocene Epoch also records substantial changes in mammalian communities. Osborn (1910) divided the Miocene into old and new parts, and considered the new part to be the time of change in mammalian communities from forest to savanna forms. Crusafont and Golpe (1971) erected the Vallesian stage to indicate the local transition between the Astaracian forest fauna and Turolian savanna forms. Van Couvering and Van Couvering (1976) and Van Couvering (1980) demonstrated a close correlation of shift in environments and mammalian community succession. They suggested that the Miocene mammal faunas showed a succession from less seasonal forests and wooded communities to more seasonal savanna-mosaic communities.

Nevertheless, the replacement of the early Neogene forest communities with the Late Miocene savannalike faunas was not a synchronous event. The evolution of this community type commenced during the Middle Miocene in central Asia, Western Asia, and East Africa and spread in a timetransgressive manner to other areas and dominated the Late Miocene. This was hypothesized, based on the Middle Miocene evolutionary radiation of felid, hyaenid, giraffid, and bovid taxa (Bernor 1983, 1978). However, they displaced the subtropical forest communities of Western Europe and Southwest Asia (Indian subcontinent) significantly later (Agustí et al. 1999).

Later studies concluded that development of the Late Miocene open-country chronofauna
was not related to a savanna environment but closely tied to the development of sclerophyllous evergreen woodland vegetation that later shifted to more seasonal patterns. In such a biome hyaenids, felids, equids, rhinocerotids, giraffids, and bovids reached their greatest diversity (Solounias et al. 2010, 1999, Bernor 1984, 1983, Bernor et al. 1979).

Although the Miocene development of the mammalian communities in the Old World is well known (e.g. Bernor 1984, 1983, Van Couvering 1980), the main patterns of the faunal provinces have been established (e.g. Fortelius et al. 1996, Bernor 1983, Bernor et al. 1979) and the main temporal and spatial developments of chronofaunas and the ecomorphological features of their mammalian taxa are recognized (Eronen 2006, Fortelius et al. 2006, 2003, 2002, 1996, Bernor 1983), less effort has been taken toward the quantification of mammalian faunal developments.

Since the early 1980s, discovery of new fossil assemblages, especially in less-known areas, and detailed studies of some important faunas have enhanced our understanding of the Miocene faunas of the Old World. Advances in bio- and geo-chronological methods have provided better age estimates for the localities and hence more precise dating of major events. Substantial progress has been made in the field of paleoclimatology and paleogeography that helps to evaluate the influence of past climatic patterns and geographic configurations on the distribution of mammalian communities. Finally, establishment and development of paleontological databases such as the Neogene of the Old World (NOW) database (Fortelius 2010, see www.helsinki.fi/science/NOW) have made large amounts of data available, and new study methods and techniques have been developed for their analysis. Therefore, we have better tools, information, and opportunity to more precisely understand, quantify, and illustrate patterns known to us for a long time.

### 1.1 Aims of the study

Being at the heart of Western Asia and at the crossroads of the Old World continents, Iran and Western Asia have been poorly sampled in terms of mammalian faunas. Any new information from this area is crucial to increasing the temporal and spatial resolution of our data. Therefore, this dissertation has two aims:

The first aim was the acquisition of new evidence of fossil mammals in Western Asia and Iran in particular, the systematic study of such new trace and body fossil material, and the biochronological correlation of the new and old localities (I, III, V, VI).

The second aim was to investigate the Miocene development of mammalian faunas and communities in the Old World, with special focus on Western Asia as a hub for the open-country chronofaunas and interprovincial exchanges.

Based on previous findings and new analysis, the provinciality of the Miocene faunas was examined and modified. In addition, the provincial relationships and delineations, and their paleogeographic, paleoecologic, and paleoclimatic contexts are discussed.

The relative abundance history of the forest and nonforest or closed-adapted and openadapted taxa was also examined, using quantitative methods, and the influence of climate on their abundance was assessed.

Lastly, using new illustration methods and recently developed paleogeographical reconstructions to assist our interpretations, the distribution in space and time of the main Western Asian Miocene chronofaunas was surveyed and its relationship with humidity and climatic patterns discussed (II, IV, and the synopsis).

## 2. Material and methods

## Body and trace fossils

The body fossil material studied here (III, VI) was deposited in the Hamedan Museum of Natural History (HMNH), Hamedan and the Department of the Environment (DOE), Maragheh branch, Iran. All the measurements on the hipparionine material were carried out, using digital calipers and following the instructions of Eisenmann et al. (1988). Logarithmic ratio diagrams and other plots were prepared in Excel 2007 (Microsoft Corp. Redmond, WA, USA). The trace fossil material (I) was investigated in situ and the outlines of footprints were duplicated on transparent sheets for further study and analysis in the laboratory. Some of the trace fossil material was deposited in the Department of Geology, University of Zanjan, Iran.

## Data and chronology

The NOW database (Fortelius 2010, see www.helsinki.fi/science/NOW) is the source of the Miocene fossil mammal data for this work (II, IV, V, and the synopsis). Data for the synopsis were downloaded from the NOW on November 25, 2009. All small mammals (orders Lagomorpha, Chiroptera, Rodentia, and Insectivora) and singletons, i.e. sites containing only one taxon occurrence, were excluded from the dataset. Thus, only large mammal data between 23 Ma and 4 Ma in age (MNEQ 2 - MNEQ 14) were used. As provisional common coinage for Eurasian mammal biostratigraphy, the ad hoc MNequivalents (MNEQ) were applied here. The MNEQ is defined and computed from minimum and maximum age estimates for the locality as given; according to where the computed range midpoint fell in the MN correlation scheme of the NOW database (Steininger et al. 1996).

## Relative abundance analysis

To quantify the relative abundance history of the closed- and open-adapted mammalian taxa, the closed-adapted group was defined as members of Anthracotheridae, Cervidae, Hippopotamidae, Moschidae, Suoidae, Tapiridae, Tragulidae, and Proboscidea. The open-adapted group consists of Bovidae, Equidae, Felidae, Giraffidae, Hyaenidae, and Rhinocerotidae. The percentages of these groups in the faunas (557 localities with at least seven taxa identified at the family level) during each MNEQ unit were calculated and plotted, and the trend lines of their average points were drawn, using Excel 2007. Only localities with age spans of less than or equal to two MN units (i.e. $\leq 4.80 \mathrm{Ma}$ ) were used. In this context, the localities with long age spans (i.e. more than 3 Ma ) comprised about $10 \%$ of all the localities in the dataset (see Appendix $2)$.

## Clustering and similarity analysis

The following criteria were applied for undertaking these analyses: localities were excluded from the analysis when they (1) had fewer than seven taxa identified at the genus level, (2) lacked geographic positional data (coordinates), and (3) were not assigned to a single MNEQ unit. Our studies (II, IV) suggested that the number of taxa used did not affect the spatial patterns, since the east-west and north-south dispersions of localities were essentially the same and the patterns were robust. However, when we used fewer than seven taxa the analytical noise increased, and when we limited the analysis to localities with 10 or more taxa, the number of available localities was too low.

I prepared the binary ( $0 / 1$ ) dataset (409 localities and 674 species) with Excel 2007 and used PAST (PAleontological STatistics; see http://folk.uio.no/ohammer/past/) for the
paired-group clustering and similarity analysis (Hammer and Harper 2006, Hammer et al. 2001). Dice (1945), Jaccard (1912), Simpson (1960), and Raup-Crick (1979) similarity measures were used to obtain the clusters and genus-level faunal resemblance index (GFRI) values. The results were compared to determine the disparities in overall trends and between indices. Only the results for Dice GFRI are shown on the maps and the clusters by Raup-Crick are presented. Other GFRI values and clusters, which gave similar results, are presented in Appendices 1 and 2.

## Hypsodonty analysis

Herbivore molar tooth crown height or hypsodonty (HYP) is used as a rough proxy for humidity (Eronen et al. 2010 a,b, Liu et al. 2009, Eronen 2006, Eronen and Rook 2004, Fortelius et al. 2006, 2003, 2002). Three classes of hypsodonty are recorded in the NOW database: brachydont, mesodont, and hypsodont. The criteria for assigning species to these classes are based on the ratio of height to length of the second molar (upper or lower). Brachydont teeth have a ratio of less than 0.8 , mesodont a ratio in the range of $0.8-1.2$, and hypsodont over 1.2. For the present study, the hypsodonty classes were assigned the values 1 , 2, and 3. This is a relatively conservative method, since the difference in crown height between a hypsodont and a brachydont species is usually more than $3: 1$. The mean hypsodonty value is calculated for each locality by averaging these ordinated scores. For this purpose, carnivores (orders Carnivora and Creodonta) and localities with only one herbivore species were also deleted from the dataset. Localities with an age span of more than one MNEQ unit were also used. Therefore, compared with other analyses, the number of localities (1092) is doubled in the hypsodonty analysis.

## Mapping

All maps depicting GFRI and HYP values were made in MapInfo Professional 8.5 (Pitney Bowes Business Insight, Troy, NY, USA) using color grid interpolation and the inverse distance-weighted (IDW) algorithm with the following settings: cell size 20 km , search radius 500 km , grid border $500 \mathrm{~km}, 10$ inflections, values rounded to 0.01 ( 0.1 for HYP). The inflection values were manually set to range from 1 to 3 for HYP and from 0 to 1 for the GFRI maps. I used opacity of $20 \%$ for the color interpolation to show the base map below the interpolated values. The Miocene paleogeographic maps of the circumMediterranean region (after Popov et al. 2004) were overlaid on present-day maps to show the paleogeographic setting.

## 3. New evidence for Miocene mammals in Iran (I, III, VI)

There is a huge gap of about 3000 km between the Late Miocene body fossil localities of Maragheh in northwestern Iran and the Molayan and Taghar localities (Sen et al. 1997) of Afghanistan (Fig. 1). It is evident that any discovery of new fossil localities in this area is crucial to our understanding of mammalian faunas in this gap area. Although vast outcrops of terrestrial Neogene sediment are present in Western Asia, our knowledge of Miocene mammals is mostly limited to a few localities, due to lack of a sufficient number of investigations. Recent discovery of several Miocene trace and body fossil localities in northern and northwestern Iran indicates the favorable potential for discovery of new sites in these areas. The record of mammal trace fossil sites in Asia generally and in Western Asia in particular is scarce. The only records of Neogene mammal tracks outside of Iran are the newly discovered proboscidean tracks in the Late Miocene Baynunah Formation of Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (Higgs et al. 2005).


### 3.1 Trace fossils (I)

## North Central Basin

Mammalian footprints from this basin (Z in Fig. 1) are associated with deposits of the Upper Red Formation. The Upper Red Formation consists of terrestrial and lagoonal deposits that were formed under molasselike conditions, in which fault-controlled subsidence of the basin and gradual uplift of adjacent mountain belts caused an enormous amount of sedimentation. This formation consists mainly of red to brownish sandstone and mudstone, but conglomerates, evaporites, and local marls have also been observed (Amini 1997). A post-Burdigalian (Middle Late Miocene) age of the Upper Red Formation has been specified, based on its position above the marine Qom Formation and below the thick Pliocene conglomerates (Stöcklin and Setudehnia 1970). However, the track-bearing layers most probably belong to the Late Miocene, due to their stratigraphic position in the upper levels of the Upper Red Formation (Abbassi and Shakeri 2005).

## Ichnofauna

Mammal tracks have been identified in the red sandstones and marls of Shokorchi village in the Zanjan district, northwest of central Iran (I: Fig.1). These tracks (I: Fig. 3) belong to gazelle-sized bovids (Gazella and a variety of spiral-horned antelopes) that were among the most common Late Miocene bovids (Agustí and Antón 2002). Considering the Maragheh fauna as the closest Late Miocene body fossil locality to this tracksite, the likely trackmakers resembled bovids such as Gazella, Prostrepsiceros, Oioceros, or similarly sized taxa that were quite common in this fauna (V: Table 3).

Other mammalian tracks at this locality belong to a plantigrade to semiplantigrade carnivorous mammal (I: Fig. 3). The most common representatives of such carnivores in the Middle - Late Miocene were amphicyonids
and ursids. Miocene ursids were larger than these trackmakers and amphicyonids were less common in the Late Miocene. Moreover, the latter are generally considered as forest dwellers (Viranta 1996) not suited to the paleoenvironment of the Upper Red Formation (see below under Paleoenvironment). Therefore, a large mustelid may be a likely trackmaker.

Mammal footprints have also been identified in the Upper Red Formation of the Mushampa district of Zanjan province (Abbassi and Shakeri 2005) and Evanekey (Evan-e-key) district of Semnan province (Abbassi and Amini 2008) (I: Fig. 1). Footprints from the latter locality (Evanekey) belong to two types of carnivores related to felids. In the Mushampa area, the mammalian tracks belong to a large felid similar in size to extant large felids (Mirzaie Ataabadi 2007) and Late Miocene (Turolian) machairodontine cats (I: Fig. 2). Smaller tracks from this locality belong to small carnivores, such as mustelids, that were fairly common in the Late Miocene throughout the Old World (Fortelius 2009, Agustí and Antón 2002).

## Paleoenvironment

Generally, the Upper Red Formation has been deposited in two major environments: a clastic facies in the margins of basins and a lagoonal facies with fine clastic and evaporites in the central playas (Amini 1997). The cyclic occurrence of evaporites, such as gypsum layers in some areas (Rahimzadeh 1994), is evidence for cyclic oversupply of water to the playas (Yechieli and Wood 2002). These conditions disappear toward the top, where normally less evaporite is observed. This tendency may indicate aridification in the upper parts, which resulted in decline of the water supply to the basin and stoppage of gypsum accumulation (Dupont-Nivet et al. 2007). The abundance of calcrete layers and nodules also led Amini (1997) to postulate arid and semiarid conditions during deposition of the Upper Red Formation. The abundance of
artiodactyl tracks in the Upper Red Formation and the absence of groups other than carnivores indicate that like their modern counterparts, these artiodactyls have been open-adapted and less dependent on permanent bodies of water to survive the arid conditions (Stuart and Stuart 2006).

The increasing seasonal aridity and midlatitude drying patterns during the Middle Miocene - Pliocene in Western Eurasia was previously proposed (Kutzbach et al. 1993) and has recently been demonstrated by mammal data (Eronen et al. 2010 b, Liu et al. 2009, Fortelius et al. 2006, 2003, 2002). As mentioned above, sedimentological and ichnological evidence from the Upper Red Formation also supports similar conditions for the north Central Iran Basin.

## South Caspian Basin

The southern parts of the Caspian Sea (north of Iran) were under the influence of the Eastern Paratethys (the northern extension of the Tethys stretched to central Asia and the Aral Sea) and its fluctuations. The Neogene sequence in these areas was transgressive and covered pre-Oligocene deposits (Aghanabati 2004). This transgressive sequence was later succeeded by fine sandstones, siltstones, claystones and intercalations of thin carbonates. These deposits contain abundant molluscs that have been used for assignment of these beds to the Karaganian and Konikian ages or mid-Middle Miocene (Rahimzadeh 1994). This sequence was covered by Sarmatian deposits, which have more carbonates than the previous units but still have clastic components. By the Late Miocene the Caspian-Euxinian Basin had shrunk, many parts formerly covered by this basin had emerged, and clastic sedimentation had been initiated (Rahimzadeh 1994). These clastic deposits unconformably covered the mainly lacustrine lower beds and are known as the "Continental Series", which is a thick sequence of conglomerates interbedded with sandstones
and mudstones. A Late Miocene - Pliocene age was considered for this in general poorly fossiliferous series, based on some freshwater molluscs (Stöcklin and Setudehnia 1970) and a few mammalian bones (Papp and Thenius 1959).

## Ichnofauna

Several tracks of mostly large mammals (I: Fig. 4) have been discovered in these continental deposits in the Sari district, north of Iran (S in Fig. 1). The robust large tracks belong to a proboscidean with a $2.5-\mathrm{m}$ height at the shoulders (Mirzaie Ataabadi 2007) and the oval-shaped perissodactyl tracks with three toes are similar in form and size to the tracks of rhinos (Stuart and Stuart 2006). The small artiodactyl tracks belong to gazelle-sized bovids.

The mammal body fossils are known from a nearby locality (Takam or Tokoum), but they only represent a single giraffid mandible (Papp and Thenius 1959). Due to geographical proximity, trackmakers of the Sari district are likely to have affinities with the mammalian fauna of Maragheh (V). Two proboscideans are known from Maragheh: Deinotherium and Choerolophodon. Based on the size of the proboscidean tracks, Choerolophodon is more likely to be related to these tracks, since the larger size of Deinotherium implies larger footprints. There are four genera of rhinocerotids at Maragheh: Diceros, Chilotherium, Iranotherium and Rhinocerotidae gen. and sp. nov. (V). Chilotherium is the smallest of these taxa, therefore rhino tracks of the Sari district were likely made by individuals showing affinities with the larger rhinocerotids of Maragheh.

## Biochronology and paleoenvironment

With no diagnostic fossils in the Miocene Continental Series of northern Iran, these tracks are important for constraining the age of this sequence. With the dispersal of proboscideans from Africa to Eurasia through the "Gomphotherium landbridge" at about 18

Ma ago (Koufos et al. 2005, Rögl 1999, 1998) or 23 Ma ago, based on "proboscidean datum" in Western Asia (Bugti and Zinda Pir faunas of Pakistan, Lindsay et al. 2005), the maximum age of the track-bearing strata in the South Caspian Basin of northern Iran could be as early as the Early Miocene. However, due to fluctuations of the Eastern Paratethys and higher water levels before the Sarmatian, which is evident in the lower lacustrine beds of the Paratethyan deposits in northern Iran, these mammalian tracks most likely belong to the post-Sarmatian (Late Miocene) age.

The occurrence of proboscidean and rhinocerotid tracks and lesser abundance of bovid and other tracks may indicate a more closed environment near a body of water. Lack of sedimentological evidence for arid conditions (unlike the Upper Red Formation) also supports this interpretation. Thus, during the Late Miocene more humid and closed environments prevailed in the north of the Alborz Range (South Caspian Basin), while more arid and open areas were found in the south of these mountains (Upper Red Formation). This likely points to a possible Late Miocene influence of the Alborz Mountains on the development of environmental contrast on its opposite sides, similar to that of present conditions.

## Zagros Basin

In the Zagros Basin, southwestern Iran, Early Miocene - Pliocene deposits are regressive cycles incorporating the evaporites of the Gachsaran Formation, marly deposits of the Mishan Formation, and terrigenous deposits of the Aghajari Formation. The Aghajari Formation, formed largely from sandstones, siltstones, and marls, consists of fining-upward cycles that were deposited in braided and meandering river systems and floodplains. The Lahbari Member, the upper fine-grained member of this formation, with a coarseningupward trend, is equivalent to the Lower Bakhtiari Formation (Motiei 1993). The Lower

Bakhtiari beds in northern Iraq (INJ in Fig. 1) have produced significant numbers of Late Miocene fossil mammals (Thomas et al. 1980). In Iran, only fragmentary fossil mammals were recovered from the Aghajari Formation and Lahbari Member (Stöcklin and Setudehnia 1970). However, available evidence including the field reports in the archives of the DOE and unpublished personal data obtained from National Iranian Oil Company geologists imply the occurrence of mammal and bird footprints in the Miocene deposits (Aghajari Formation) of the Zagros Basin.

## Conclusions

The above-mentioned basins (central Iran, South Caspian, and Zagros) are structurally depressed, accumulating sediments under terrestrial conditions in response to the orogenies. Such basins (especially in the marginal parts) are high-energy environments and typically poor in terms of vertebrate body fossils (Remeika 2001). Nonetheless, they show favorable potential for preserving vertebrate trace fossils which, to some extent, can fill the gaps in the body fossil record.

### 3.2 Body fossils (III, V, VI)

## New localities (III, VI)

For more than 150 years, the famous Late Miocene vertebrate localities in Maragheh were the focus of attention (Table 1) and the exclusive sources of information for the Neogene mammalian faunas of Iran. However, recent discovery of new localities in the northwestern parts of Iran has demonstrated a wider distribution of mammal-bearing deposits in this area of Western Asia. These new fossiliferous areas are situated north and northeast of Tabriz, the capital city of East Azarbaijan province of Iran, app. 110-150 km away from Maragheh (I and V in Fig. 1).

During the Late Miocene and Pliocene, tectonic activities established new erosional cycles in northwestern Iran that filled the locally closed basins with fluvial and lacustrine
deposits (Aghanabati 2004). While pyroclastic sediments accumulated and preserved abundant mammalian fossils in the Maragheh area, these basins were filled in the Tabriz area by lacustrine deposits with abundant
freshwater fish and rare mammalian remains. The new fossil localities in the Ivand and Varzeghan districts were formed in similar local basin troughs, but under different sedimentary environments.

Table 1. History of the excavations and studies in the Maragheh fossil localities, northwestern Iran (after Bernor 1986 and personal data).

| Year | Excavators | Nationallity | Fossil Depository | Publications |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1840 | Khanikoff et al. | Russian | ? | Abich 1858 <br> Brandt 1870 <br> Grewingk 1881 |
| 1884 | Pohlig et al. | Austrian | Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna? | Pohlig 1886 |
| 1885? | Damon? | British? | Natural History Museum, London | Lydekker 1886 <br> Forsyth Major 1893 |
| 1885 | Rodler and Kittl et al. | Austrian | Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna | Kittl 1885, 1887 Rodler 1887, 1890, Rodler and Weithofer 1890 |
| 1904 | de Mecquenem et al. | French | Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Mecquenem 1905, } \\ & 1906,1908,1911, \\ & 1924-1925 \end{aligned}$ |
| 1956 | Takai et al. | Japanese | ? | Takai 1958 |
| 1958 | Savage et al. | British | Natural History Museum, London |  |
| 1967 | Tobien et al. | German | Bayerische Staatssammlung für Paläontologie/Geologie, Munich | Tobien 1968 |
| 1973 | Erdberink et al. | Dutch/German | Department of Earth Sciences, Utrecht University, <br> Utrecht <br> Bayerische Staatssammlung für <br> Paläontologie/Geologie, <br> Munich | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Erdbrink et al. } 1976 \\ & \text { Erdbrink } 1976 \text { (a,b), } \\ & 1977,1978,1982, \\ & 1988 \end{aligned}$ |
| 1973 | Kamei et al. | Japanese | Department of Geology Kyoto University, Kyoto | Kamei et al. 1977 <br> Watabe 1990, Watabe and Nakaya 1991a,b |
| $\begin{aligned} & 1974 \\ & 1975 \\ & 1976 \end{aligned}$ | Campbell et al. (LRE project) | American | Laboratory of Evolutionary Biology, Department of Anatomy, College of Medicine, Howard University, Washington DC | Campbell et al. 1980, <br> Bernor et al. 1980, <br> 1996 Bernor 1978, <br> 1985, 1986 <br> Morris 1997 |
| 1987 | Partoazar et al. | Iranian | Geological Survey of Iran |  |
| 2005 | Pourabrishemi et al. (DOE project) | Iranian | Department of the Environment, (DOE) Maragheh |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & 2008 \\ & 2009 \end{aligned}$ | Fortelius et al. (INSPE project) | InternationalIranian | Department of the Environment, (DOE) Maragheh | Mirzaie Ataabadi et al. <br> Submitted (V) |

## Varzeghan locality (III)

The occurrence of fossils near the surface and lack of sediment exposures in this locality obscure the nature of the fossil-bearing sequence and its sedimentology and depositional environment. However, based on observations from a small trench near the fossil locality in Abkhare village, fine-grained sediments and coarser channel deposits are clearly present at the fossiliferous sites, indicating fluvial environments.

The fossils in this locality are very well preserved and show no signs of weathering or abrasion. The prospect of finding (partially) articulated fossil animals at this locality is probably higher than at other localities in northwestern Iran. The fossil material collected from this locality includes several cranial and postcranial elements of a large deinothere and a large number of isolated maxillary and mandibular cheek teeth, several mandibular fragments, part of a juvenile skull, and a few distal metapodial fragments of hipparionine horses. This material is stored in the DOE branch in Maragheh.

Two species of hipparionine horses are distinguished in the Varzeghan district, based principally on the size and dental morphology of mandibular fragments. Hipparion sp. 1 is represented by a single mandibular fragment (III: Fig. 2) and belongs to a small-to mediumsized species. Based on the comparisons, Hipparion sp. 1 is in the size range of $H$. moldavicum, which is abundant in the Maragheh fauna and may belong to it. Deeper ectoflexids and $V$-shaped linguaflexids in the molars of Hipparion sp. 1 support this assignment. Other mandibular fragments (III: Fig. 2) belong to a larger species. The ectoflexid in the larger species is deeper and the linguaflexid is more open and shallow and the plicabalinid is weak. Hipparion sp. 2 is similar in size to $H$. prostylum-H. dietrichi and may belong to either of these species, based on size and cheek teeth morphology.

The Deinotherium material from the Varzeghan district belongs to a very large individual. The molars (III: Fig. 3) are comparable in size to Deinotherium giganteum from Obuhovka (MN 12) of southern Russia (Bajgusheva and Titov 2006), but are smaller than the teeth of D. gigantissimum (III: Fig. 4).

## Ivand locality (VI)

In the locality of Ivand, the lithology of the sequence consists mainly of thick layers of conglomerates interbedded with finer clastic sediments. The characteristics of the conglomerates suggest that they are deposits of gravity flows, sheet flows, and to a lesser extent, channelized flows on an alluvial fan. A vertical trend of upward coarsening and thickening of the beds suggests an overall progradational pattern of the alluvial fan.

A substantial amount of fossil material has been collected from this locality, among which hipparionine horses are predominant. Several cranial and postcranial elements of these animals have been recovered. Among this fossil material, a large hipparion represented by an almost complete skull and mandibles is noteworthy (VI: Fig. 2). The skull in general is similar to that of Hippotherium brachypus and H. giganteum (H. giganteum-H. brachypus lineage sensu Vlachou and Koufos 2009) . A logarithmic ratio diagram (VI: Fig. 4) shows similarities of the large skull from Ivand with H. brachypus from several Turolian localities of the Eastern Mediterranean (EMED) region, such as Pikermi (Koufos 1987), Hadjidomovo (Hristova et al. 2003), and Akkaşdaği (Koufos and Vlachou 2005). However, due to some differences in facial morphology, such as the shape of the preorbital fossa (POF) and its lack of posterior pocketing, I refrain from assigning the hipparion skull from Ivand to $H$. brachypus and refer to it as Hipparion sp. large.

The large-sized skull from Ivand is not proportionally similar to any of the hipparionine horses from Maragheh (VI: Fig. 4). This skull apparently belongs to a large-
sized species previously unknown from the cranial material in northwestern Iran (i.e. the Maragheh area). The presence of large hipparions in Maragheh was previously evinced by the presence of medium to large, robust third metapodials. These robust metapodials from Maragheh were assigned to Hipparion prostylum, even though they showed greater similarity to the metapodials of H. brachypus from Pikermi (Watabe and Nakaya 1991a: Fig. 15). Bernor (V) is of the opinion that $H$. prostylum, originally defined based on skull morphology alone, did not occur at Maragheh and that Hippotherium brachypus is a more likely referral for the Maragheh hipparion samples (both cranial and postcranial) housed by the MNHN, Paris, formerly assigned to $H$. prostylum (Bernor 1985).

A small number of bovid horn cores attributed to Oioceros and Gazella are also recorded from Ivand (VI: Fig. 7). The Oioceros specimen is smaller and less laterally compressed than Oioceros rothii from Pikermi and its size and morphology falls into the variation in Oioceros atropatenes which is the most abundant bovid specimen present in the Maragheh fossil localities.

Postcranial evidence (VI: Fig. 5) also points to the presence of Deinotherium giganteum (proportionally close to both Deinotherium giganteum from Pikermi and an undetermined specimen from Maragheh) and Rhinocerotinae indet. The rhino is clearly distinct from Chilotherium and is more similar to Ceratotherium neumayri and Stephanorhinus pikermiensis from Eastern Mediterranean localities such as Pikermi, Akkaşdaği, and Maragheh (VI: Fig. 6).

Carnivores are rare in the Ivand locality and the only known specimen is a medium-sized machairodontine cat, smaller than Machairodus aphanistus and M. giganteus, which were quite common in the Turolian localities of the Eastern Mediterranean region. Other fossil material identified (in collections
other than in the HMNH) from Ivand includes postcranials of a giraffe, larger than Palaeotragus and in the size range of Samotherium and Helladotherium, and a partial skull with preserved basal parts of the horn cores resembling Urmiatherium (unpublished personal data and observations).

More recently, the first fossil porcupine remains from Iran were described from this locality. This material consists of upper cheek teeth and lower incisors identified as Hystrix aryanensis, previously recorded from the Late Miocene locality of Molayan in Afghanistan (Sen and Purabrishemi 2010).

## Maragheh locality (V)

The fossil localities of Maragheh are located in the province of eastern Azarbaijan, northwestern Iran and have long been considered as one of the classical Western Eurasian Late Miocene "Pikermian" chronofaunas (Bernor et al. 1996, Bernor 1986). In recent years, Iran's DOE and National Museum of Natural History, Tehran (MMTT) started a new initiative and sponsored new excavations in the Maragheh fossil sites.

The MMTT-University of Helsinki initiative, known as the International Sahand Paleobiology Expedition (INSPE), was also recently started (Table 1). These programs have further reinitiated study of the mammalian fauna with the intention of bringing them into a contemporary taxonomic context for comparative paleoecological and paleobiogeographic studies. Bernor (1986) and Bernor et al. (1996) provided an account of the mammalian species reported from Maragheh. Since 1996, there have been a number of taxonomic revisions that affected the documentation of fossils at Maragheh. Taxonomic changes and updates of the Maragheh fauna are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. List of Maragheh taxa updated in this research (after Bernor 1986).

| Order/Family | Bernor 1986 | This research (V) |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Hyaenidae | Percrocuta eximia | Adcrocuta eximia |
| Felidae | Machairodus aphanistus | Amphimachairodus aphanistus |
| Proboscidea | Deinotherium sp. indet. | Deinotherium gigantissimum |
| Rhinocerotidae | - | Rhinocerotidae gen. and sp. nov. |
| Equidae | Hipparion prostylum | Hippotherium brachypus |
| Suidae | Microstonyx erymanthius | Microstonyx major |
| Giraffidae | Helladotherium cf. duvernoyi | Helladotherium duvernoyi |
| Giraffidae | - | Bohlinia attica |
| Bovidae | Gazella deperdita | Gazella capricornis |
| Bovidae | Gazella rodleri | "Gazella" rodleri |
| Bovidae | - | Gazella cf. ancyrensis |
| Bovidae | - | Prostrepsiceros cf. vinayaki |
| Bovidae | "Prostrepsiceros" rotundicornis | Prostrepsiceros cf. rotundicornis |
| Bovidae | - | Prostrepsiceros fraasi |
| Bovidae | - | ?Palaeoreas sp. |
| Bovidae |  | Skoufotragus laticeps |
| Bovidae | Palaeoryx laticeps | Palaeoryx sp. |
| Bovidae |  | Mirabilocerus cf. maius |
| Bovidae | Miotragocerus amalthea | Miotragocerus cf. vallenciennesi |
| Bovidae | - | ?Criotherium sp. |
| Bovidae | - | Tragoportax cf. amalthea |
| Bovidae | - | Samokeros minotaurus |
| Bovidae | Palaeoryx crassicornis | ?Skoufotragus schlosseri |
| Rodentia | - | $H y s t r i x ~ s p . ~$ |

## Biochronology and relationships of the fossil mammal localities in NW Iran

Based on the geographical proximity of the fossil localities in northwestern Iran (MRG, I, V in Fig. 1), their comparison is of interest. Although Deinotherium has a broad stratigraphical distribution from the Middle Miocene to the Pliocene ( $18-2 \mathrm{Ma}$ ago), the deinotheriid trend toward increasing size during the Miocene (Huttunen 2002) and large size of deinotherium material from Ivand and Varzeghan suggest a Late Miocene age for
these localities
The chronology of Hippotherium brachypus and Cremohipparion moldavicum in Eastern Mediterranean faunas (e.g. Pikermi, Samos, and Akkaşdaği) also indicates a Middle Turolian age (MNEQ 12) for the new localities in northwestern Iran. The presence of Hystrix aryanensis, a species previously known from the locality of Molayan in Afghanistan (Sen 1998) ca. 8-7 Ma ago (Sen and Purabrishemi 2010), support this age assignment for the Ivand locality.

The known Deinotherium remains from Maragheh are recorded from the upper biostratigraphical interval of this formation (the K1 locality of Erdbrink et al. 1976; identical to MMTT locality 31 of Bernor 1986). The absolute ages obtained from the zircon fission track and the potassium/argon (K/Ar) dating of pumicites from higher levels of the Maragheh Fm. imply an age of 7.4 Ma for these levels (Bernor 1986). In addition, the presence of Hippotherium brachypus in Maragheh is now expected. This taxon occurs with Cremohipparion aff. moldavicum in the Middle Maragheh interval dated 8.1-7.6 Ma ago (V). Therefore, based on the fossil material from these new localities and their correlation with the Middle and Upper biostratigraphic intervals of the Maragheh Fm., a MNEQ 12 age (ca. 8-7 Ma ago) is plausible for them.

The lophodont and brachydont cheek teeth of the deinotheriids indicate a folivorous diet, implying a forested environment. The very large size of the animal, however, suggests a more open landscape than that of a forest (Poulakakis et al. 2005). The paleoecological profile of the Maragheh fauna indicates a mixture of open and closed characters, paleoenvironmentally between the Greek localities of Pikermi and Samos (Koufos et al. 2009, Fig. 7). The brachydont, mesodont, and hypsodont taxa in Maragheh are almost evenly distributed, and each group comprises at least $30 \%$ of the community (V: Fig. 8). Primates as well as diversified felids, mustelids, and hipparionine horses exist together with browsing and grazing proboscideans, rhinos, giraffes, and bovids in Maragheh. Therefore, the Late Miocene environment of northwestern Iran had considerable amounts of wooded settings in its predominantly grassy/bushy vegetation.

## 4. Faunal provinciality in the Miocene of Western Asia

There have been a number of previous studies on the faunal provinciality of the Old World land mammals in the Neogene. Using cluster analysis of 38 Late Miocene localities with Simpson's faunal similarity index, Bernor (1978) and Bernor and Pavlakis (1987) investigated the faunal provinciality of the Miocene mammals of Eurasia and Africa. Bernor $(1984,1983)$ proposed several Eurasian and African paleobiogeographic provinces (bioprovinces) that were distinct in their faunal characteristics and ecology (Table 3). These zoogeographic provinces include: 1) the Western and Southern European province, 2) Eastern and central European province, 3) Romanian and western Russian province, 4) Sub-Paratethyan province (Turkey, Greece, and Iran), 5) North African province, and 6) Siwalik province. The possible presence of a Chinese and East African province was also put forward by Bernor (1984), based on the works of other scholars.

Fortelius et al. (1996) also studied provinciality in the Eurasian land mammals of the Miocene. They (a priori) divided Eurasia into Western and Eastern blocks and further divided these into six geographical regions including: Western Europe, West central Europe, Austria, Black Sea region, Balkans, and Anatolia and Iran (see Table 3 for the geographical extent of these regions). They measured faunal similarity between these blocks and regions, using Dice, Pielou, and Simpson similarity indices. These studies found a correlation between the geographic proximity and degree of similarity between regions and locality clustering. Due to problems with identification and temporal range of the paleospecies, these authors found that analyses at the genus level are more logical and useful for studies of faunal similarity, correlation, and interprovincial zoogeography. This is supported by the analysis of North American mammal data by Alroy (1996), who concluded that genus-level data are taxonomically robust and show much
of the same signals seen in the species-level data.

More recently, Casanovas-Vilar et al. (2005) studied provinciality in the Miocene of Europe based on cluster analysis with the unweighted pair-group method with arithmetic mean (UPGMA) algorithm and Raup-Crick index. They distinguished three main bioprovinces (Iberian (including southern France), central European, and Greek-Iranian) for most of this time span. Nargolwalla (2009) also conducted provinciality analysis, using raw presence/absence data in addition to similarity indices and identical cluster analyses, using the Jaccard, Dice, and RaupCrick similarity indices. She used both genusand species-level analyses to define Spanish, central European, Italian, and Eastern European/Western Asian provinces as four distinct paleobioprovinces. These studies used the NOW database and both large and small mammal data in their analyses.

In this research, I analyzed the provinciality of 407 localities in the Miocene of the Old World, using pair-group clustering based on presence/absence data and similarity indices. These indices work, based on the pair-wise comparisons of these presence and absence data. I used Dice (1945), Jaccard (1912), Simpson (1960), and Raup-Crick (1979) similarity measures. I present here the results for the Raup-Crick index and demonstrate the results of other indices, which show similar clusters, in Appendix 1. Raup-Crick similarity index (Raup and Crick 1979) is useful for locality clustering studies (Werdelin 2008, Casanovas-Vilar et al. 2005). This index weights data on the basis of frequency and uses Monte Carlo randomization to compare the observed number of co-occurrences in a pair of localities with the distribution of cooccurrences in 200 random iterations (Hammer and Harper 2006). Therefore both the widespread (common) and unique (rare) taxa proportionately affect the results, and the main clusters are strongly asserted.

### 4.1 Results

As shown by the previous studies and also supported here, geographic proximity plays a major role in the clustering of localities. Therefore, I named each group of clustered localities, based on their regional (and temporal) characteristics and presented the results here in a concise way (Fig. 2, see also Appendix 1). Nevertheless, occurrence of spatially or temporally exotic localities in these regional clusters is possible but unlikely.

The results show two megaclusters, one grouping the Early and Middle Miocene faunas (Fig. 2A) and the other Late Miocene faunas (Fig. 2B). This holds for all four similarity indices used in this analysis (see Appendix 1). The only exceptions are the early Late Miocene (MNEQ 9) Western and central European (WEUCEU) and Siwalik localities, which are clustered within the Early-Middle Miocene megacluster

This clearly indicates the different paleoecological and paleoenvironmental settings in these localities, which were different from the predominantly more open settings of the Late Miocene. Apparently, localities and faunas showing more closed, forested settings are clustered together in the Early-Middle Miocene megacluster and those adapted to more open, nonforested environments are grouped in the Late Miocene megacluster.

The megaclusters (Fig. 2A,B) show the formation of subclusters named by geographical regions and their temporal attributes that can be used for dividing the areas into different bioprovinces. Thus, the following bioprovinces can be defined for the Early and Late Miocene: Western and central Europe (WEUCEU), Western Asia including Anatolia, Iran, the Arabian Peninsula, Afghanistan, and the Indian subcontinent (WAS), northern China and central Asia (CHNCAS), and Africa and Arabia (AFRARB).

Table 3. Faunal provinces (for the Miocene of the Old World) and geographic subdivisions, and their areal extensions proposed and used in previous studies and the present research.

| Name of Province/Geographical area | Areal Extension |
| :---: | :---: |
| Western Asia | Turkey (east), Caucasus, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, Afghanistan,Tajikistan |
| Western Europe | Spain, France, Germany, Italy |
| central Europe | Austria, Czech, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland |
| Balkans | Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Kosovo, Albania, Bulgaria, Greece |
| North Black Sea | Romania, Moldova, South Ukraine |
| Southeast Asia | India, Nepal, Thailand, Burma, Vietnam, South China |
| Eastern Mediterranean | Balkan, North Black Sea, Anatolia, Caucasus, NW Iran |
| BAANIR ${ }^{\text {M }}$ | Balkan, North Black Sea, Anatolia, Caucasus, Iran, Afghanistan, Tajikistan |
| CHNCAS ${ }^{\text {M }}$ | North China, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan |
| SIWSEAS ${ }^{\text {M }}$ | Pakistan, India, Nepal, Thailand, Burma, Vietnam, South China |
| AFRARB ${ }^{\text {M }}$ | Libya, Chad, Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, Israel, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Iraq |
| Western and Southern Europe Province ${ }^{\text {B }}$ | Spain, France, Italy |
| East and central European Province ${ }^{\text {B }}$ | Germany, Austria, Czech, Slovakia, Hungary |
| Romania-Western USSR Province ${ }^{\text {B }}$ | North Black Sea, Caucasus region |
| Sub-Paratethyan Province ${ }^{\text {B }}$ | Balkans, Anatolia, Western Asia (excluding <br> Caucasus, possible extension to central Asia and China) |
| North African Province ${ }^{\text {B }}$ | Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Egypt |
| Siwalik Province ${ }^{\text {B }}$ | Pakistan (possible extension to Southeast Asia) |
| Greco-Irano-Afghane Province ${ }^{\text {D }}$ | Greece, Anatolia, Iran, Afghanistan |
| Western Europe ${ }^{\text {F }}$ | Spain, France |
| central Europe ${ }^{\text {F }}$ | Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Poland, Czech, Slovakia, Hungary |
| Southeastern Europe ${ }^{F}$ | Balkans, Romania, Georgia, Turkey-Thrace |
| Southwestern Asia ${ }^{\text {F }}$ | Anatolia, Iran |
| West ${ }^{\text {F }}$ | Western and central Europe |
| East ${ }^{\text {F }}$ | Southeastern Europe, Southwestern Asia, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan |
| central European Province ${ }^{\text {N }}$ | France, Germany, Austria, Czech, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania |
| Eastern European/Western Asia Province ${ }^{\text {N }}$ | Greece, Turkey, Iran, Caucasus region |

${ }^{M}$ Present work, ${ }^{B}$ Bernor 1983, ${ }^{\text {D }}$ de Bonis et al. 1992, ${ }^{\text {F }}$ Fortelius et al. 1996, ${ }^{\text {N }}$ Nargolwalla 2009

As mentioned before, the Late Miocene Siwalik and Southeast Asian localities are also a distinct bioprovince (SIWSEAS) within this megacluster (SIW in Fig. 2A). Figure 2B shows the clusters for the Late Miocene episode. The major difference at this time is the fact that Western Asia cannot be defined as a distinct province and most of it, is part of the Balkan-Anatolia-Iran (BAANIR) province. Indeed, Western Asia is the crossroads of main provinces (BAANIR, CHNCAS, SIWSEAS and AFRARB) at this time. This indicates the availability of permanent land connections in Western Asia, as well as the presence of high mountain ranges that served as geographic barriers.

### 4.2 Discussion

### 4.2.1 Balkan-Anatolia-Iran province

Although the results of provinciality analysis in this research are in major agreement with previous studies, some modifications are proposed. Bernor $(1984,1983)$ proposed the Sub-Paratethyan province mainly for the Vallesian and Turolian localities in Greece, Turkey, and Iran, pointing to its possible continuation into China. Discovery of Turolian faunas in Afghanistan (Brunet et al. 1981, Heintz et al. 1981, 1979, 1978) inspired de Bonis et al. (1992) to propose a Greco-IranoAfghane province that was synonymous with Bernor's Sub-Paratethyan province.

A. Early/Middle Miocene


## B. Late Miocene

FIGURE 2. Clusters of localities showing the relationships of faunal provinces in the Miocene of the Old World. Clusters are from an analysis of 407 Miocene localities, using the Raup-Crick similarity index. A: Early-Middle Miocene clusters, B: Late Miocene clusters, WEUCEU: Western Europecentral Europe, WAS: Western Asia, CHN: North China, ARB: Arabia, AFR: Africa, SIW: Siwaliks, BAANIR: Balkan-Anatolia-Iran, NBS: North Black Sea, CAS: central Asia.

Fortelius et al. (1996) described a similar Balkan and Anatolia-Iran province for these regions and Casanovas-Vilar et al. (2005) used the Greek-Iranian name for it. Nargolwalla's Eastern European/Western Asian province addresses the same area (Nargolwalla 2009). The so-called Balkan-Anatolia-Iran province (BAANIR in Fig. 1) can also be regarded as synonymous with the previous terms and divisions to some extent. The main difference here is the inclusion of the North Black Sea (NBS) fossil localities in BAANIR, which were assigned to a separate province by Bernor (1983). This inclusion is supported by the cluster analysis and distribution history of the "Pikermian" chronofauna (II), which dominated this province in the Late Miocene.

### 4.2.2 Africa-Arabia province

Unlike Bernor (1978) and Bernor and Pavlakis (1987), other studies do not extend their analyses to most of the (east) Asian and African localities. In the present study, I included data from these areas. The results indicate some differences from previous research. Bernor $(1984,1983)$ proposed a North African province that included exclusively localities from that region. Later discovery of Miocene fossil localities in the Arabian Peninsula (see Whybrow and Hill 1999 for a review) and Djurab Desert, Chad (Brunet et al. 2000) and detailed studies of some important Middle and Late Miocene North and East African faunas such as Sahabi, Libya (Boaz et al. 2008, 1987), Wadi Moghara, Egypt (Miller 1999), Lothagam, Kenya (Leakey and Harris 2003) and Middle Awash, Ethiopia (Haile Selassie and Wolde Gabriel 2009) also offered a better opportunities for quantitative and qualitative provinciality study of the African and Arabian faunas.

Bernor (1984) included the Arabian Late Miocene localities in his sub-Paratethyan province. However, later studies (Bernor and Rook 2008, Leakey and Harris 2003, Bernor et
al. 2001, Whybrow and Hill 1999, Whybrow 1987) demonstrated higher similarity of these localities with the North and East African localities than the "Pikermian" chronofaunas. Cluster and faunal resemblance (GFRI) analyses also support the closer relationship of the Arabian faunas both in the Middle and Late Miocene with African faunas. In addition, the presence of several lineages in common at these localities, such as Canthumerycinae in North Africa and Arabia (Geraads and Aslan 2003, Thomas et al. 1999), proboscideans in Ad Dabtiyah, Arabia; Wadi Moghara, Egypt, and Jabal Zaltan (Gebel Zelten), Libya (Sanders 2008a, Sanders and Miller 2002) in the Middle Miocene, and in Baynunah, Arabia; Sahabi, Libya and Lothagam, Kenya (Sanders 2008b, Tassy 2003, 1999) in the Late Miocene, and even nonmammalian groups, such as ratit birds (Bibi et al. 2006), support this idea. Hence, it is better to define this area along with North and East Africa in a single province: Africa-Arabia (AFRARB, Fig. 1).

Nevertheless, evidence for the presence of subprovinces within AFRARB such as a Chado-Libyan (Boaz 2008, Lihoreau et al. 2006) or possibly an East African province (Bernor and Pavlakis 1987, Bernor 1978) is evident. In addition, interprovincial connections between this province and Balkan-Anatolia-Iran also existed. The AfricanArabian faunas clearly had "Pikermian" elements that were vicariant and evolved independently, subsequent to early-middle Late Miocene extensions (Bernor et al. 2009, Bernor and Rook 2008, Werdelin 2003). However, due to geographical barriers, the northward migration of lineages (to the Palearctic realm) was probably less frequent than the east-west (between the Ethiopean and Oriental realms) directions (Hill and Whybrow 1999, Van der Made 1999).

### 4.2.3 China-central Asia province

The Chinese Miocene faunas are East Asian expressions of the Pan-Eurasian Hispanotherium
and Hipparion faunas, which correspond to their Western counterparts (IV, II). Although Bernor (1983) pointed to the presence of a Northern Asian province (sensu Qiu et al. 1979), he refrained from defining this province, due to its undeveloped geochronology in the modern sense. However, the results of our cluster and GFRI analysis (IV) as well as of some previous studies (Sotnikova et al. 1997, Vislobokova 2009) shows that the central Asian (Russia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrkyzstan) faunas are very similar to the northern Chinese localities and should be included in the same province (hence the CHNCAS province, Fig. 1). On the other hand, the fauna from Tajikistan are more similar to the west and south (Sotnikova et al. 1997) and are better grouped together with Afghanistan in the Balkan-Anatolia-Iran province. The CHNCAS Middle Miocene chronofauna originated in and extended from Western Europe (see also Fig. 10B) in response to continental drying and increased seasonality. They followed the widening arid belt towards the East (IV); however, their strongest expression in East Asia was at the very end of their history.

The Late Miocene localities of CHNCAS are clearly part of the Pan-Eurasian chronofaunas (IV, see also Fig. 10B). Nevertheless, there is evidence showing their distinction from their Western counterparts. This consists mainly of taxonomic and chronological differences, that express their development via a stage-of-endemism in harsh environmental settings. This was followed by expansion when summer rainfall brought richer resources and immigrants to northern China (Fortelius and Zhang 2006, Watabe 1992).

### 4.2.4 Siwalik-Southeast Asia province

The Siwalik province was delineated by Bernor (1983, after Barry et al. 1982). He pointed to the remarkably endemic character of this province and illustrated its possible
extension to Southeast Asia and southern China (Bernor 1984: Fig. 1). Here, the results of cluster and GFRI analyses (see section 6 under Siwalikan chronofauna and Fig. 8) support the high level of endemism of the Siwalikan faunas. In recent years there have been several discoveries of new Miocene localities in Southeast Asia (Chavasseau et al. 2006, Htike et al. 2005, Pillansa et al. 2005, Marivaux et al. 2004, Nakaya et al. 2003, Sehgal and Nanda 2002, Covert et al. 2001, Ducrocq et al. 1994,1995, Ginsburg et al. 1992, West et al. 1991,1978, and Ginsburg and Tassy 1985), which were used in the analysis here. The results show that they are grouped together with the Siwalik localities and thus form the Siwalik-Southeast Asia province (SIWSEAS in Fig. 1). The southern Chinese localities (e.g. Lufeng) should be included in this province, since they were separated from the northern localities in the Middle Miocene by a dry midlatitude belt (Liu et al. 2009, and IV). The possible interprovincial relationships of SIWSEAS with other provinces will also be discussed later (see section 6 discussion, under the Siwalikan chronofauna).

### 4.3 Conclusions

The present study demonstrates the formation of two megaclusters of localities in the Miocene of the Old World. One cluster (Fig. 2A) groups the faunas of the Early-Middle Miocene, which were best adapted to more forested settings, while the other (Fig. 2B) assembled the Late Miocene faunas, adapted to more open conditions. In agreement with previous studies, but with some modifications, four main faunal bioprovinces are proposed that interacted in Western Asia: 1) the Balkan-Anatolia-Iran (BAANIR) province, including the faunas of Iran, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan together with those of Anatolia, Caucasus, Balkans, and the North Black Sea, 2) the China-central Asia (CHNCAS) province for the northern Chinese, Mongolian, and central Asian localities, 3) the Africa-Arabia (AFRARB)
province for the North and East African and Arabian Peninsula localities, and 4) the Siwalik-Southeast Asia (SIWSEAS) for the Siwalik, Indian subcontinent, and Southeast Asian localities.

Although this provinciality pattern existed in late Early-Middle Miocene times, it is better expressed and defined in the Late Miocene. The Western Asian localities that formed a separate cluster in the Middle Miocene do not appear as a separate entity in the Late Miocene. Indeed, they became parts of other provinces at this time. This is evidence for increased provinciality in Western Asia in the Late Miocene, which was due to the changing climate and paleogeographic conditions.

## 5. Relative abundance history of the closedand open-adapted taxa

The faunal and floral developments in the Miocene of Eurasia are well known. A shift from tropical/subtropical evergreen forest conditions of the Early and early Middle Miocene to more seasonal and open, deciduous woodlands and grasslands of the Late Miocene was recorded by several authors (e.g. Solounias et al. 2010, 1999, Bruch et al. 2007, Mosbrugger et al. 2005, Fortelius et al. 2006, 2003, 2002, Agustí et al. 2003, 1999, 1997, Gabunia and Chochieva 1982, Dorofeyev 1966). As marked by the climatic and environmental records of the Miocene and also exhibited in the results of the clustering analysis of the previous section, the Miocene can be divided unequivocally into two parts: an Early-Middle Miocene part that is associated with the development of closed-adapted (forest) taxa and a Late Miocene part that corresponds to the enhanced evolution of openadapted (nonforest; woodland and grassland) taxa.

Here, a taxic (taxon-counting) approach (Levinton 1988) toward quantification of the Miocene mammalian groups and their
environments (closed/open), and a survey of their relative abundance in space and time was carried out. The "Pikermian" large mammal assemblages that were composed of open-country-adapted taxa that dominated the later part of the Miocene in Eurasia are characterized by dominance of the families Bovidae, Equidae, Felidae, Giraffidae, Hyaenidae, and Rhinocerotidae, and poor representation of the families Cervidae, Tragulidae, and Suidae (Solounias et al. 2010, 1999, Bernor 1984).

Thus, in the present work, the open-adapted taxa are defined as members of the families Bovidae, Equidae, Felidae, Giraffidae, Hyaenidae, and Rhinocerotidae. On the other hand, families with poor representation in the "Pikermian" chronofaunas were not favored by the increasingly open and seasonal environments of the Late Miocene. As a result, the closed-adapted taxa are defined as members of the families Cervidae, Suoidae, Tragulidae, and other clearly closed/humidadapted groups such as Anthracotheriidae, Hippopotamidae, Moschidae, Palaeomerycidae, Tapiridae, and Proboscidea.

Kurtén (1952), in his quantitative study of the Chinese Hipparion fauna, listed the frequency of species in the closed (Gazella gaudryi), mixed, and open (Gazella dorcadoides) faunas of the Shanxi region of northern China. His results showed the high percentage of Equidae, Giraffidae, Bovidae, and Carnivora in the open-adapted faunas while Cervidae and Suidae were abundant in the closed-adapted faunas (Kurtén 1952: Fig. 2). More recently, Nakaya and Tsujikawa (2006) used the average percentage of opencountry taxa in sub-Saharan Africa to show a significant increase in the relative abundance of these taxa from the Early to the Late Miocene.

The analysis of mean hypsodonty (HYP) values in the groups termed here open- and closed-adapted (Fig. 3A) reveals the predominance of brachydont taxa in the


$\square$ Open $\quad$ Close $\quad$ Bovidae $\quad$ Equidae $\quad$ Rhinocerotidae $\quad$ Giraffidae
$\square$ Tragulidae $\quad$ Cervidae $\quad$ Moschidae $\quad$ Suidae $\quad$ Anthracotheriidae $\quad$ Proboscidea



FIGURE 3. Mean hypsodonty (HYP) in the Miocene of: (A) families and orders assigned to open- and closed-adapted classes in this work and (B) open- and closed-adapted classes. (C) Total diversity (Nt) and (D) standing diversity (Nst) of the open- and closed-adapted categories in the Miocene of the Old World. The trend lines are polynomial $4^{\text {th }}$ order.

Open-adapted: Bovidae, Equidae, Giraffidae, and Rhinocerotidae (+ Felidae and Hyaenidae in the diversity curves)
Closed-adapted: Anthracotheriidae (+ Hippopotamidae), Cervidae, Moschidae (+ Palaeomerycidae), Suoidae (+ Tapiridae), Tragulidae, and Proboscidea
closed-adapted category ( $\mathrm{HYP}=1$ ), while most of the mesodont and hypsodont species are found within the open-adapted classes (HYP > 1). The mean HYP trends of these groups in the Miocene shows that the closedadapted taxa had a mean HYP value of 1 for most of their history, showing only slightly higher values during the Late Miocene. Conversely, the open-adapted taxa are strongly coupled with mean HYP values of more than 1 during their entire history, which significantly increased in the Late Miocene (Fig. 3B).

Hypsodonty is the adaptive response of the dentition to the need for more wear tolerance and functional durability, which is related to more open, less forested habitats with fibrous,
abrasive vegetation (Eronen et al. 2010a, Fortelius et al. 2006, 2003, 2002, Fortelius and Solounias 2000, Solounias et al. 1994, Janis and Fortelius 1988, Fortelius 1985). In contrast, brachydont (low-crowned) teeth are present in herbivores eating relatively nonabrasive food in grit-free environments (soft browse in closed environments). The data of Janis et al. (2002) showed that the HYP indices in living ungulates of woodland and forest habitats are app. 1.5. Therefore, it seems that mean HYP values of less than 1.5 would probably correlate well with more closed environments, while higher values would correspond to more open conditions. The Late Miocene average HYP values of the open- and
closed-adapted groups (HYP > 1.5 vs. HYP < 1.5) in the present research (Fig. 3B) agree well with this idea and support this grouping.

Thus, the open- and closed-adapted categories described here are credible and realistic, and are good representatives of their designated environments. Although some of these families and orders were not exclusively adapted to the closed or open environments, it appears that exceptions are present in all groups, while the majority of species of these groups were adapted to the environments assigned to them. So, this fact does not devalue the patterns seen in the relative abundance of these open- and closed-adapted groups in space and time.

The total (Nt) and standing (Nst) diversity (richness) of the open- and closed-adapted groups for each MNEQ unit throughout the study area (Old World) were also calculated, based on the formula used in Fortelius et al. 1996 (after Maas et al. 1995 and Barry et al. 1995). Total diversity (Nt) here (Fig. 3C) is based on counts of the number of open- and
closed-adapted genera in each MNEQ unit while standing richness (Nst) is the number of genera known before and after the MNEQ interval, plus the sum of the first, last, and only occurrences in the MNEQ interval, divided by 2 (Fig. 3D). The diversity patterns (Fig. 3C,D, see also discussion) are similar to the relative abundance pattern (Fig. 4A), indicating that the relative abundance patterns are not biased by oversampling of a few taxa. The frequencies of the closed- and open-adapted groups, as defined above, were calculated in each locality, as recorded in the NOW database. The sum of these taxa was recorded and their percentages in each locality were calculated (see Appendix 2 for raw data). The graphs showing the relative abundance of open- and closedadapted taxa during the Miocene are presented in Figure 4. The graphs include one plot (Fig. 4A) for the Old World Miocene localities of the NOW database that met the criterion for selection (see methods) and four plots for the major faunal provinces presented in this work (Fig. 4B-F).

FIGURE 4. Relative abundance (percentage) of the (C) closed- and (O) open-adapted taxa (\% O/C), and number of localities and species during the Miocene in different geographical and provincial regions: (A) O/C percentage in the Old World, (B) O/C percentage in Western and central Europe (WEUCEU), (C) O/C percentage in Balkan-Anatolia-Iran (BAANIR) province, (D) O/C percentage in the north China-central Asia (CHNCAS) province, (E) O/C percentage in Africa-Arabia (AFRARB) province, (F) O/C percentage in Siwalik-Southeast Asia (SIWSEAS) province. The green and yellow dots represent fossil localities. The trend lines are polynomial $4^{\text {th }}$ order. (G) All regional trend lines of open-adapted taxa percentage, $(\mathbf{H})$ All regional trend lines of closed-adapted taxa percentage. Dots represent average points. (I) Number of localities and (J) species in each regional subdivision and province. MN units in areas other than Europe are MNEQ.

Open-adapted taxa: Bovidae, Equidae, Felidae, Giraffidae, Hyaenidae, and Rhinocerotidae. Closed-adapted taxa: Anthracotheriidae, Cervidae, Hippopotamidae, Moschidae, Palaeomerycidae, Suoidae, Tapiridae, Tragulidae, and Proboscidea.


Figure 4. See caption on page 33

### 5.1 Results

### 5.1.1 Miocene relative abundance history of the closed- and openadapted taxa

As seen in Figure 4A, the trend of open(nonforest; woodland-grassland) adapted taxa (hereafter open-adapted taxa) over the Miocene in the Old World are completely different from that of closed (forest) adapted taxa (hereafter closed-adapted taxa). The percentage of open-adapted taxa from the Early to Late Miocene continuously increased until they decreased in the late Late Miocene. There was an initial rise during the late Early-early Middle Miocene, due to Hispanotherium fauna, while the trend accelerated over the Middle and Late Miocene until it peaked at MNEQ 12. The open-adapted taxa comprised $20 \%$ or less of the faunas during the Early Miocene, but from the early Late Miocene they began to dominate until they reached their acme in MNEQ 12. The turning point for the open-adapted taxa to prevail over the closed-adapted taxa was probably the late Middle Miocene (MNEQ $7+8$ ), although they only began to dominate the faunas from MNEQ 9

The closed-adapted taxa trend showed two increasing periods in the Miocene: one early and one late. Nonetheless, the second rise was not very significant, attaining only the levels of the early Early Miocene. The percentage of closed-adapted taxa increased rapidly in the mid-Early Miocene and peaked in the late Early-early Middle Miocene (MNEQ 4-6). During MNEQ 3-MNEQ 7+8, they dominated the faunas by more than $40 \%$. Later, they experienced a constant fall over the midMiddle and Late Miocene until MNEQ 12, when they showed their lowest percentage ( $20 \%$ ) in the faunas. The closed-adapted taxa began to increase again in MNEQ 13 and14, but they did not attain significant levels.

### 5.1.1.1 Western and central Europe

The trend of the open- and closed-adapted taxa in Western and central Europe (WEUCEU) is shown in Fig. 4B. The general trend in Europe was similar to that of global developments. This is probably due to the good sampling in WEUCEU, which predominates in the dataset. The percentage of open-adapted taxa in the faunas gradually increased, but not as sharply as the Old World trend. There was an early increase and minor peak in the percentage of the open-adapted taxa in MN 4-6 (due to the Hispanotherium fauna), while the next and major peak was in the Late Miocene (MNEQ 12, 13). The closed-adapted taxa, on the other hand, reached their acme in MN 4-6, with more than $40 \%$ of the faunas, and later steadily decreased until MN 13. Unlike the global trend, the turning point for the open-adapted taxa to rise above the closed-adapted taxa in WEUCEU was in MN 9. This shows that the dominance of the closed-adapted taxa in these faunas lasted longer. The open-adapted taxa began to predominate here after the Vallesian Crisis, which marked the extinction of the closed-adapted taxa in WEUCEU (Agustí et al. 2003, Agustí and Moya Sola 1990). The openadapted taxa continued their acme here for a longer time (until MN 13) and declined only in MN 14.

### 5.1.1.2 Balkan-Anatolia-Iran province

Figure 4C shows the trend of open- and closedadapted taxa in the Balkan-Anatolia-Iran (BAANIR) province. Regardless of poor sampling in the Early Miocene, the openadapted taxa in this area showed a trend similar to that in the global graph. They increased from the Middle to the Late Miocene until MN 12 and then began to decrease over MN 13 and14. The closed-adapted taxa, on the other hand, behaved differently. The percentage of these taxa was more than $50 \%$ during MN 3-5 and then decreased from the Middle to the Late Miocene. This drop was sharp until MNEQ10
and there was a slight increase over MN 13 and 14 . The turning point in this province was the mid-Middle Miocene (MN 6), when openadapted taxa began to dominate the faunas (by more than $50 \%$ ). However, their acme was in MN 10-12, by more than $70 \%$ in some faunas. They decreased abruptly in MN 14.

### 5.1.1.3 China-central Asia province

The trend of open- and closed-adapted taxa in this province is shown in Figure 4D. The general trends here are very similar to those of Balkan-Anatolia-Iran. The open-adapted taxa increased steadily until the Late Miocene and the closed-adapted taxa decreased at the same time. The open-adapted taxa dominated the faunas in the Late Miocene and climaxed in MNEQ 13. The closed-adapted taxa predominated in the faunas in the Early and Middle Miocene, by more than $40 \%$. There was an increase in the percentage of closedadapted taxa in MNEQ 13 and 14, but they were still well below the open-adapted taxa.

### 5.1.1.4 Africa-Arabia province

The open- and closed-adapted taxa trends in this province are illustrated in Figure 4E. The graphs are generally similar to those of the global trends. The open-adapted taxa here were in sharp, steady increase until reaching climax in MNEQ $10-12$ by more than $60 \%$. They decreased over MNEQ 13 and 14. The closedadapted taxa increased sharply in the Early Miocene and peaked in MNEQ 4 and 5, then decreased until the Late Miocene (MNEQ 11). They increased again in MNEQ 12-14. Although they were predominant only in MNEQ 4 and 5, they always comprised a significant percentage of the faunas. The only significant decrease in closed-adapted taxa below the open-adapted taxa was in MNEQ 11 and 12. This is the time of poor sampling in Africa. Only a few sites in Africa (e.g. the Tugen Hills and Lothagam) represent this time interval in which a major change in the African sub-Saharan terrestrial vertebrate fauna
evolved (Hill 1995) and the ecological transition from equatorial forests to savanna grasslands occurred (Leakey and Harris 2003). This is also coincident with the transition of $\mathrm{C}_{3}$ to $\mathrm{C}_{4}$ vegetation in Africa (Segalen et al. 2007). Nonetheless, faunal evidence suggests that forest vegetation was present in the region of the western Rift Valley during the Late Miocene and Early Pliocene (Hill 1999, Pickford 1990a).

### 5.1.1.5 Siwalik-Southeast Asia province

In the Siwalik-Southeast Asia (SIWSEAS) province, the general trend in closed- and open-adapted taxa (Fig. 4F) was similar to that of other provinces and the global trend, although the sampling is admittedly poor compared with that of other provinces (Fig. 4I, J). The abundance of open-adapted taxa increased from the Early to the Late Miocene, while the closed-adapted taxa decreased. However, the detail of patterns indicates that the open-adapted taxa did not increase their percentage significantly until MNEQ 9. The percentage of the closed- and open-adapted taxa in the faunas was similar during MNEQ 9 and 10. The open-adapted taxa only predominated in MNEQ 11 and 12, while the closed-adapted taxa prevailed until the early Late Miocene, longer than in other provinces and similar to the situation in Western and central Europe.

### 5.2 Discussion

The distribution of the Old World Miocene fossil mammal localities is not uniform in space and time (sampling bias) and this may complicate the trends observed in the relative abundance of the open- and closed-adapted taxa. In recent article, Saarinen et al. (2010) used the locality-based occurrence data of the NOW database and grid-based modern mammal distribution data to determine whether fossil locality point data result in favorable estimates of the total fauna known


Figure 5. See captions on page 38

FIGURE 5. (A) Relative abundance (percentage) of closed- and open-adapted taxa in the Old World, (B) evolution of atmospheric $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$ concentration after Kürschner et al. 2008 (stomatal index) and Zachos et al. 2008 (boron and alkenones), (C) global ice-free temperature and oxygen isotopes after Zachos et al. 2008, and (D) MN zones after Steininger 1999, during the Miocene.
Open-adapted taxa: Bovidae, Equidae, Felidae, Giraffidae, Hyaenidae, and Rhinocerotidae Closed-adapted taxa: Anthracotheriidae, Cervidae, Hippopotamidae, Moschidae, Palaeomerycidae, Suoidae, Tapiridae, Tragulidae, and Proboscidea
from the grid cells. Their results showed that the fossil localities they studied captured almost $60 \%$ of the known species richness, and the community structure could be accurately estimated from these locality data. Thus, the NOW data are almost certainly good representatives of the real faunas from which they were drawn. The open- and closedadapted taxa during the Miocene, even in provinces with small numbers of localities, clearly showed the general trends. These trends are probably robust patterns that were not altered by sampling bias.

After an initial cooling phase at the transition of the Oligocene to Miocene (Kürschner et al. 2008), warm climates with dense vegetation prevailed in Eurasia during the first half of the Miocene (Alçiçek 2010, Akgün et al. 2007, Bruch et al. 2007, Mosbrugger et al. 2005, Kovar-Eder 2003, Zubakov and Borzenkova 1990), Siwaliks (Quade and Cerling 1995), and Africa (Jacobs 2004, Pickford 2004, Nesbit Evans et al. 1981, Van Couvering 1980, Axelrod and Raven 1978, Andrews and Van Couvering 1975). A temperature peak known as the Middle Miocene Climatic Optimun occurred between 17-15 Ma ago (Böhme 2003, Zachos et al. 2001). Between $15-14$ Ma ago a major cooling step occurred that was associated with East Antarctic Ice Sheet growth (Zachos et al. 2001). As a result, midlatitude drying increased (Kutzbach et al. 1993). The levels of $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$ also decreased (Fig. 5B) at this time (Kürschner et al. 2008), marking the passage from the greenhouse climate, which had prevailed so far, into the icehouse period (Holbourn et al. 2005). The $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$ fluctuations probably had an important effect on Cenozoic
climate trends and changes in terrestrial ecosystems (Kürschner et al. 2008). After these events, significant progressive drying and cooling of the midlatitudes in Late Miocene time caused the expansion of more open vegetation and increased aridity and seasonality (Fortelius et al. 2006, 2003, 2002, 1996, Agustí and Antón 2002).

On the global (Old World) scale, the closed-adapted taxa dominated the faunas by more than $40 \%$ from MNEQ 3 to MNEQ 6 . However, their acme was in MNEQ 4-6 for the global trend as well as most of the provinces (Fig. 4H). The diversity patterns of the closed-adapted taxa (Fig. 3C and D) showed peaks in the richness of this group of mammals in the late Early-early Middle Miocene (MNEQ 4 and 5). Mammalian faunas in the Great Plains region of North America also showed an extraordinary richness of browsing taxa in the late Early Miocene that decreased steadily through the Middle and Late Miocene (Janis et al. 2000, 2002, 2004).

The peak in relative abundance of the closed-adapted taxa as shown in Figure 5A (and also their taxonomic richness as shown in Figure 3C and D) coincides with the Middle Miocene Climatic Optimum (Fig. 5C). A period of climax resulted in temperatures believed to be $6{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ warmer than present conditions (Zachos et al. 2001). This is also the period of highest atmospheric $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$ concentration in the Miocene, based on some proxy data (Kürschner et al. 2008, Retallack 2001), and may reflect higher primary productivity levels of the vegetation at this time (Janis et al. 2000, 2002, 2004). Therefore, the peak of the closed-adapted taxa and their
environments probably was closely related to the climatic conditions of the Middle Miocene.

The succeeding cooling event caused the decrease in relative abundance and diversity of the closed-adapted taxa and a subsequent increase in abundance and richness of the open-adapted taxa in the faunas. This may also have been due to a gradual decline in primary productivity of vegetation, which would be consistent with the decrease in atmospheric $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$ concentrations (Fig. 5B) from higher early Middle Miocene levels (Kürschner et al. 2008) and opening of the environments. From the early Middle Miocene to the end of this epoch, a distinct shift occurred in European floras (Bruch et al. 2007, Mosbrugger et al. 2005, Kovar-Eder 2003, Bernor 1983). The subtropical (warm-temperate forests with low seasonality) that predominated during the first half of the Miocene gave place to warmtemperate taxa (open-country floras with higher seasonality). Nevertheless, the closedadapted taxa still showed a significant percentage during MNEQ 9 and 10 (about $30 \%$ ) while their diversity was severely reduced. This was due to the Western-central European and Siwalik-Southeast Asian faunas that retained their humid/closed environments longer than other parts of Eurasia (Barry et al. 2002, Agustí et al. 1999, 1997)

The onset of Miocene cooling and the subsequent increase in aridity and seasonality apparently favored the open-adapted taxa, which began to increase their diversity and numbers significantly after the Middle Miocene Climatic Optimum. Throughout the dataset, the time for the open-adapted taxa to predominate over the closed-adapted taxa and become taxonomically diverse is the early Late Miocene. However, the relative abundance patterns may be different in the provinces due to regional differences. In Western-central Europe and Siwalik-Southeast Asia, this occurred after MNEQ 9 (Fig. 4B, F), which was the time after the Vallesian Crisis in Western Europe (Agustí et al. 1999).

In north China-central Asia and AfricaArabia this occurred in MNEQ 9 (Fig. 4D and E), even though sampling is poor during MNEQ $7+8$ in both regions. It has been suggested that the mammalian assemblages of sub-Saharan Africa significantly changed during the Middle Miocene (Astaracian) by an increase in the number of open-country taxa (Nakaya and Tsujikawa 2006).

The trends in Balkan-Anatolia-Iran (Fig. $4 \mathrm{C})$ were quite different in this context. The open-adapted taxa in this province began to predominate during MN 6, much earlier than in other areas and immediately after the Climatic Optimum. In this area the number of Early and Middle Miocene localities was significantly lower than in the Late Miocene. However, some of the major fossil localities of this time (e.g. Çandir and Paşalar, Turkey) documented the beginning of seasonality and opening of the environment by an increase in number of hyaenids, bovids, and giraffids (Bernor 1978). A mosaic landscape with relatively dry and seasonal, subtropical woodland was proposed for these localities (Geraads and Aslan 2003, Andrews 1990) although some taxa in these localities showed adaptations to more open environments (Quade and Cerling 1995). This region was also the core area in which the classic "Pikermian" chronofauna of the Late Miocene would later thrive. The open-adapted taxa here became predominant in the Late Miocene (MN 9-13) by more than $50 \%$ in the faunas. However, they were significant even before and after this time. This pattern coincided with the acme of "Pikermian" chronofauna and was closely associated with climatic phenomena, such as the late Neogene cooling trend (Zachos et al. 2001), midlatitude drying (Kutzbach et al. 1993), development of physical drivers such as the Tibetan Plateau uplift and the retreat of the Paratethys (Eronen et al. 2010b), and changes in the North Atlantic climatic system with increased northward heat transport (II, Micheels et al. 2010).

The overall abundance patterns of open- and closed-adapted taxa in north China-central Asia were very similar to those of Balkan-Anatolia-Iran. This indicates similar history and success of open-adapted taxa in these areas. The distribution history of several chronofaunas from these regions was also similar (see also Fig. 10B) and indicates broad mutual association of these regions. On the other hand, Siwalik-Southeast Asia was similar in overall pattern to Africa-Arabia. This was likely due to longer predominance of closedadapted taxa in these provinces or (less likely) it may have been an artifact of sampling. Nonetheless, as proposed by some authors (Pickford 1990b, Pickford and Morales 1994, Van der Made 1999), the presence in the Miocene of biogeographical zones (e.g. CHNCAS-BAANIR and SIWSEASAFRARB) similar to present-day Palearctic and Paleotropic (Ethiopean and Oriental realms) bioprovinces can be emphasized here.

### 5.3 Conclusions

The relative abundance history patterns of closed- and open-adapted taxa during the Miocene of the Old World reveal the close relationships of these trends with major climatic events during this epoch. The dominance of closed-adapted taxa as defined here (i.e. Suoidae, Cervidae, Tragulidae, Moschidae, Hippopotamidae, Anthracotheriidae, Palaeomerycidae, Tapiridae, and Proboscidea) is well correlated with the Middle Miocene Climatic Optimum and possibly increased
atmospheric $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$ concentrations. The timing of the shift from a closed to an open environment varies in different regions and is highly diachronous. Nonetheless, it is related to the subsequent cooling event of the Middle Miocene which caused the decline in percentage of the closed-adapted taxa and increase in the number of open-adapted taxa. The later predominance of the open-adapted taxa is related to the midlatitude drying and increased aridity in Eurasia as well as to paleogeographical and paleoclimatological configurations. The trends observed in distribution and relative abundance history of open- and closed-adapted taxa appear to be realistic and straightforward signals that are not likely to be critically affected by sampling inconsistency.

## 6. Distribution history of the Western Asian Miocene chronofaunas

Olson (1952) developed the concept of the chronofauna as "a geographically restricted, natural assemblage of interacting animal populations that has maintained its basic structure over a geologically significant period of time" (Olson 1952:181). A computational (quantitative) equivalent of this concept in terms of faunal resemblance was recently developed, which characterizes a chronofauna as a set of localities united by faunal similarity to an arbitrarily selected type or standard locality (II, IV).

FIGURE 6. Mean ordinated hypsodonty (HYP) values mapped for each MN-equivalent (MNEQ) unit during the Miocene. A) MNEQ 2, B) MNEQ 3 (NP: Napak, NG: Negev, DB: Dera Bugti), C) MNEQ 4 (AD: Ad Dabtiyah, DB: Dera Bugti), D) MNEQ 5 (AS: As Sarrar), E) MNEQ 6 (SS: Sansan, SM: Simorre, PS: Paşalar, MH: Muruarot Hill, AJ: AI Jadidah), F) MNEQ 7+8, G) MNEQ 9, H) MNEQ 10, I) MNEQ 11, J) MNEQ 12, K) MNEQ 13, L) MNEQ 14. Red and yellow patterns (high HYP) indicate increased aridity while blue patterns (low HYP) represent humid conditions. Paleogeographic setting of the European and Eastern Mediterranean areas are from Popov et al. 2004 (redrawn after Eronen 2006).


Figure 6. See caption on page 40.

The dynamics of land mammal provinciality was recently addressed, using faunal similarity to chart the rise and fall of the several Miocene Eurasian chronofaunas, including "Pikermian" (II), Baodean, and Tunggurian (IV) chronofaunas.

These studies showed that the westward expansion of the "Pikermian" chronofauna from the late Middle Miocene to the middle Late Miocene correlates closely with the expansion of arid habitats, as well as some paleogeographical and paleoclimatological configurations (II). We also demonstrated that both the Tunggurian and the Baodean chronofaunas moved into Eastern Asia from the West, apparently shifting their range across the continent in response to changing climate (IV).

Eronen et al. (2010a,b), Fortelius et al. (2006, 2003, 2002), Eronen (2006), and Eronen and Rook (2004) previously showed that the mean ordinated hypsodonty (i.e. molar crown height assigned to hypsodonty classes, see methods) of large herbivorous mammals can be used as a proxy for humidity, yielding both qualitative and quantitative estimates. These studies indicate major regional differences in the chronology of the general trend of Neogene midlatitude aridification. It is known that these patterns are due to the genera and species with the highest occupancy or relative locality coverage (Eronen 2006, Jernvall and Fortelius 2002).

Here, I focused on the development of the late Early and early Middle (MNEQ 4 and 5), early Late (MNEQ 9 and 10) and middle Late Miocene (MNEQ 11 and 12) mammal assemblages of Western Asia. I refer to these assemblages as the Arabian, Siwalikan, and Maraghean chronofaunas, after their localities of occurrence, respectively (Ad Dabtiyah and As Sarrar, Saudi Arabia, Siwaliks of Pakistan, and Maragheh, Iran (see also Fig. 1). As demonstrated in sections 4 and 5, the Miocene can be divided into two large cycles: the Early-Middle Miocene, dominated mainly by
closed-, forest-adapted taxa and the Late Miocene, dominated by open-adapted, nonforest taxa. Therefore, the Western Asian chronofaunas investigated are representative of these closed and open environments.

The rise and fall of these major Western Asian chronofaunas were mapped and described over a series of time steps, based on correlation with the MNEQ system (see methods for details). The aim was to observe the relationships of these chronofaunas to their neighboring provinces through the faunal resemblance patterns and determine whether these patterns were related to regional differences in environmental conditions. For this purpose, I investigated the spatial and temporal distribution of two attributes that reflect the regional development of faunas and environments: faunal resemblance and humidity estimated from mean hypsodonty.

I mapped the distribution in space and time of the Arabian, Siwalikan, and Maraghean chronofaunas using Dice (1945), Jaccard (1912), Simpson (1960), and Raup-Crick (1979) similarity indices. All indices gave similar patterns; hence, to be consistent with previous studies (IV), I present the maps depicting Dice index values and the other raw results in Appendix 2. The Dice index weights shared taxon occurrences more profoundly than unique (unshared) taxa, and produced some of the best results among a number of similar indices (Maples and Archer 1988, Archer and Maples 1987). It is calculated as $2 C / A+B$, where $C$ is the number of shared taxa between two faunas, and $\mathrm{A}+\mathrm{B}$ are the total number of taxa in the faunas compared. I also presented the hypsodonty maps (Fig. 6) to follow the patterns of change in humidity and to determine whether there were any relationships between the development of the chronofaunas studied (Fig. 7-9) and the humidity/aridity patterns.

### 6.1 Results

### 6.1.1 Arabian chronofauna

Due to the small number of Miocene localities in Western Asia (see Table 3 for regional


Similarity (Dice FRI) to Arabian MNEQ4-5
extent and Appendix 2 for list of localities), the choice of localities for analytical studies was limited. For the late Early-early Middle Miocene analysis, the Ad Dabtiyah (Whybrow 1987) and As Sarrar (Thomas et al. 1982) fossil localities from the continental equivalents


FIGURE 7. Faunal similarity (Dice GFRI) to the Arabian MNEQ 4 and 5 faunas at the genus level, mapped for each MN-equivalent (MNEQ) unit during the Miocene. A) MNEQ 2, B) MNEQ 3 (NP: Napak, NG: Negev, DB: Dera Bugti), C) MNEQ 4 (AD: Ad Dabtiyah), D) MNEQ 5 (SM: Sant Mamet, AN: Antonios, AS: As Sarrar, ZP: Zinda Pir), E) MNEQ 6 (SS: Sansan, SM: Simorre, PS: Paşalar, MH: Muruarot Hill), F) MNEQ 7+8 (MS: Massenhausen, ST: Steinheim, DV: Dang Valley), G) MNEQ 9 (CP: Can Ponsic, EP: Eppelsheim, WB: Wartenberg), H) MNEQ 10. Red and yellow patterns (high GFRI) indicate high similarity while blue patterns (low GFRI) represent insignificant similarity. Paleogeographic setting of the European and Eastern Mediterranean areas are from Popov et al. 2004 (redrawn after Eronen 2006).
of the Dam formation in Saudi Arabia, situated near the western coasts of the Persian Gulf, were used. The age of these localities are placed between 19-16 Ma ago (Whybrow and Clements 1999). Since the MNEQ 4 and 5 are lumped here, the problem of assigning these localities to one of these MNEQ units is not relevant. The early and middle Miocene localities of Pakistan are also present among the Western Asian data. However, they were not selected as the reference chronofaunas, due to their more endemic and distinct provincial nature.

Figure 7 shows the result of the GFRI (Dice index) of the Arabian chronofauna. Figure 7B shows that MNEQ 3 areas similar to Arabia are present in Western Asia. These are the Negev locality (NG in Fig. 7B) in Israel (Dice 0.36) and Dera Bugti 4 (DB in Fig. 7B) of Pakistan (Dice 0.3). Both faunas share "Dicerorhinus", Dorcatherium, Eotragus, and Gomphotherium with Arabia. The Negev locality also shares Canthumeryx with Arabia, while Bugti shares Amphicyon, Brachypotherium, and Bunolistriodon.

Another locality with moderate similarity is Napak (NP in Fig. 7B) in East Africa (Dice 0.27). Common genera (i. e. those with incidence over $25 \%$ throughout the data matrix for the relevant MNEQ zone) at this time are Amphicyon, Brachypotherium, "Dicerorhinus", Dorcatherium, Gomphotherium, and Martes. The humidity according to hypsodonty analysis (Fig. 6B) showed humid conditions for these areas. However, conditions in the localities mentioned above are slightly more arid than in other localities.

More similarity appears during MNEQ 4, where sampling is very good in Europe and Africa, but poor in Asia. Regardless of Ad Dabtiyah, which has a Dice index of 0.6 and is one of the reference points, the area of highest similarity with Arabia in Western Asia is Dera Bugti 6 (Dice 0.24) of Pakistan. Areas highly similar to Arabia (Dice 0.3-0.34) appeared in Western Europe in Spain (Can Canals,

Artesilla, Els Casots) and Germany (Langenau 1) and also in Eastern Africa in Kenya (Rusinga (Kiyune), Uyoma 2 (Chianda N)) and Uganda (Bukwa). Common genera that drove the similarity at this time are: Aceratherium, Brachypotherium, Bunolistriodon, Canthumeryx, Deinotherium, "Dicerorhinus", Dorcatherium, Gomphotherium, and Pseudaelurus.

Hypsodonty analysis at this time (Fig. 6C) also showed cells of increased aridity in Western Europe, Eastern Africa and Western Asia. Nonetheless, the mean hypsodonty values in the above-mentioned localities show that the highest similarity with Arabia is between 1 and 1.2 and hence, these areas are not significantly arid.

During MNEQ 5, when the As Sarrar fauna (Dice 0.6) was present in Arabia, the highest similarity (Dice 0.35) was shown in Antonios (AN in Fig. 7D), Greece, Sant Mamet (SM in Fig. 7D), Spain, and Zinda Pir 3 (ZP in Fig. 7D), Pakistan. In both MNEQ 4 and MNEQ 5, many localities other than these with Dice indices $>0.2$ (green patterns in Fig. 7C and D) are also present. Common genera encountered at this time were mostly those of the previous time slice, including: Brachypotherium, Bunolistriodon, Canthumeryx, Deinotherium, Dorcatherium, Gomphotherium, and Pseudaelurus with addition of Amphicyon and Eotragus. The humidity pattern (Fig. 6D) showed the predominance of humid conditions in most of the areas. The exceptions were localities in Anatolia and Caucasus, which were less humid than others.

After MNEQ 5, there were no localities with high similarity (Dice $\geq 0.3$ ) to Arabia. Even the Al Jadidah fauna of Saudi Arabia is not similar to the MNEQ 4 and 5 faunas (Dice 0.15 ). Even so, several localities with Dice $=$ $0.23-0.26$ remained until MNEQ 9 , mostly in Western Europe. In MNEQ 6 these localities were: Paşalar (PS in Fig. 7E) in Turkey, Sansan and Simorre (SS and SM in Fig. 7E) in France, and Muruarot Hill (MH in Fig. 7E), Kenya. In MNEQ 7+8 Massenhausen and

Steinheim (MS and ST in Fig. 7F), Germany and the Dang Valley (DV in Fig. 7F), Nepal showed the highest similarity and in MNEQ 9 Can Ponsic I (CP in Fig. 7G), Spain and Eppelsheim and Wartenberg (EP and WB in Fig. 7G), Germany were the most similar. The common taxa during MNEQ 6 were: Amphicyon, Brachypotherium, Dorcatherium, Eotragus, Gomphotherium, Listriodon, and Pseudaelurus. During MNEQ 7+8, Eotragus was out of the list and Deinotherium was included. In MNEQ 9 Amphicyon, Brachypotherium, and Pseudaelurus exited the list and Aceratherium entered it. The humidity pattern (Fig. 6E) in MNEQ 6 was similar to that of the previous time slice but with more increased aridity, especially in the Eastern Mediterranean and China-central Asia. During MNEQ $7+8$, when sampling is quite low, the humid pattern (Fig. 6F) was predominant but the situation changed significantly in the wellsampled MNEQ 9. During this time, the first signs of midlatitude drying become visible. One exception was most of Western Europe, which retained its significantly humid conditions. This is the refugial area for the lingering similarities to Arabia.

### 6.1.2 Siwalikan chronofauna

The Siwalik series of Pakistan records an exceptionally continuous Neogene record of 18-2 Ma (Pilbeam et al. 1996). Significant studies have been carried out on this fauna by American universities and the Geological Survey of Pakistan teams in recent decades (e.g. Barry et al. 2002, 1995, 1982). The bulk of fossil material in Siwaliks is from the early Late Miocene localities (Barry et al. 2002), which can be correlated with MNEQ 9 and 10 intervals. Hence, the early Late Miocene (MNEQ 9 and 10) fauna of the Siwaliks has been used to study the development of early Late Miocene faunas in Western Asia. The Siwaliks data are being added to the NOW database and will soon become public. Although the faunas of India-Pakistan
during MNEQ 5 and 6 (e.g. Manchar 1, Zinda Pir 3, and Ramangar) showed slight similarity (Dice 0.15) with the early Late Miocene Siwalikan faunas, the early incarnation of these faunas can be traced to MNEQ 7+8 of IndiaPakistan and Southeast Asia. These include the Dang Valley (DV in Fig. 8B), Nepal (Dice 0.19), Chiang Muan (CM in Fig. 8B), Thailand (Dice 0.23), and Siwalik Y0076 (SY in Fig. 8B), Pakistan (Dice 0.26). The common Siwalikan genera during the Middle Miocene were: Deinotherium, Dorcatherium, Eotragus, and Listriodon. The humidity analysis during this time (Fig. 6F) showed the prevalence of humid conditions in the areas of higher similarity, even though the midlatitude drying had already started in Eurasia.

During MNEQ 9 and 10 , the peak of similarity to the Siwalikan fauna is observed (Fig. 8C and D) in the India-Pakistan area. Low similarity (Dice 0.1-0.13) is observed outside this territory, mainly in Anatolia and Western Europe. Common genera encountered at this time were: Deinotherium, Dorcatherium, Gazella, Hipparion, Listriodon, and Propotamochoerus, while Elachistoceras, Selenoportax, Sivapithecus, and Tragoportax also became common in MNEQ 10. Although midlatitude drying continued during this time and increased aridity was visible in Eurasia, the areas of high similarity were still significantly humid (Fig. 6G and H ).

During the Late Miocene (MNEQ 11-13), the areas of high similarity were confined again to the India-Pakistan area (Fig. 8E-G). However, some lingering slight similarities to the Siwalikan fauna were visible outside this area, including the MNEQ 11 locality of Injana (IJ in Fig. 8E) in Iraq, MNEQ 12 of LufengShihuiba (LF in Fig. 8F) in southern China and Baynunah (BY in Fig. 8F) of Arabia, and MNEQ 13 localities of Gravitelli (GV in Fig. 8G), Italy; Sahabi (SH in Fig. 9G), Libya, and Tha Chang 2 (TC in Fig. 8G) of Thailand. All of these localities shared hippopotamids and some other common taxa with the Siwalikan


FIGURE 8. Faunal similarity (Dice GFRI) to the Siwalikan MNEQ 9 and 10 faunas at the genus level, mapped for each MN-equivalent (MNEQ) unit during the Miocene. A) MNEQ 6, B) MNEQ 7+8 (SY: Siwalik, DV: Dang Valley, CM: Chiang Muan), C) MNEQ 9, D) MNEQ 10, E) MNEQ 11 (IJ: Injana), F) MNEQ 12 (BY: Baynunah, LF: Lufeng), G) MNEQ 13 (GV: Gravitelli, SH: Sahabi, TC: Tha Chang), H) MNEQ 14. Red and yellow patterns (high GFRI) indicate high similarity, while blue patterns (low GFRI) represent insignificant similarity. Paleogeographic setting of the European and Eastern Mediterranean areas are from Popov et al. 2004 (redrawn after Eronen 2006).
fauna. Common taxa during this time were: Deinotherium, Gazella, Hipparion, and Tragoportax. Hexaprotodon also became more common during MNEQ 13. Hypsodonty maps (Fig. 6I-K) showed increasing aridity during this time. Nevertheless, the faunas showing the greatest similarity with the Siwalikan fauna lived under more humid conditions than the average.

### 6.1.3 Maraghean chronofauna

The Maraghean fauna of northwestern Iran, along with Samos and Pikermi in Greece, has long been considered as one of the three finest Western Eurasian Late Miocene "Pikermian" chronofaunas (II, V). In Western Asia, even though fossil assemblages are not very abundant, localities similar to the Maraghean fauna were also found in other parts of the region (e. g. Afghanistan and Caucasus). Nonetheless, due to the sheer abundance and diversity of its fauna, Maragheh was chosen as the reference locality. We have recently updated the list of the Maraghean fauna and have addressed some biochronological problems in the correlation of the classical "Pikermian" chronofaunas (V). Although presence of the fauna in MNEQ 11 is possible in the Lower and Middle Maragheh subdivisions, we believe the bulk of fossils from Maragheh can be safely correlated with MNEQ 12.

The early incarnation of the Maraghean fauna can be traced to the MNEQ 9 faunas of Anatolia. The Middle Sinap (MS in Fig. 9C) fauna showed the earliest moderate similarities (Dice 0.24 and 0.28 ) to the Maraghean fauna. Similarities were also seen in the faunas from other regions, such as Naklai (NK in Fig. 9C) of Kenya (Dice 0.25), Kalfa (KF in Fig. 9C) of Moldova (Dice 0.23), and Can Ponsic I (CP in Fig. 9C) of Spain (Dice 0.23). Common taxa of the Maraghean fauna at this time were: Deinotherium, Gazella, Hipparion, Hippotherium, Miotragocerus, Palaeotragus, and Thalassictis.

The humidity patterns (Fig. 6G) showed
strong midlatitude drying in central Asia, but the pattern in the Eastern Mediterranean and Balkan-Anatolia-Iran provinces also showed less humid conditions than areas such as Western Europe, which was quite humid.

During MNEQ 10, the first areas with high similarity emerged in Anatolia, Caucasus, and the northern Black Sea (NBS) area. The localities with the highest similarity were: Grebeniki (GB in Fig. 9D); Dice 0.42, of Ukraine, Sinap 49 (S49 in Fig. 9D); Dice 0.42, Sinap 12 (S12 in Fig. 9D); Dice 0.36, and Gülpinar (GP in Fig. 9D); Dice 0.41, in Turkey, Eldari I (EL in Fig. 9D); Dice 0.34 and Udabno I (UD in Fig. 9D); Dice 0.3, in Georgia, and Can Purull (CP in Fig. 9D); Dice 0.32, Spain. Common Maraghean taxa encountered at this time were: Chilotherium, Choerolophodon, Deinotherium, Gazella, Hipparion, Hippotherium, Microstonyx, Palaeotragus, and Tragoportax. Areas with high similarity to Maragheh appeared strongly arid (Fig. 6H).

During MNEQ 11, areas of high similarity to the Maraghean fauna became expanded and more localities with high similarities (Dice > 0.3 ) were seen. These localities were present in the same areas as the previous time slice (i.e. EMED, NBS, BAANIR and Spain). Thermopigi (TP in Fig. 9E) and Ravin des Zouaves 5 (RZ in Fig. 9E) of Greece (Dice 0.47 and 0.45 ), Novaja Emetovka (NE in Fig. 9E) of Ukraine (Dice 0.44), and Karacahasan (KC in Fig. 9E) of Turkey (Dice 0.41) showed the highest similarities to the Maraghean fauna. More Maraghean taxa appeared at this age and became common, including:
Adcrocuta, Chilotherium, Choerolophodon, Cremohipparion, Deinotherium, Gazella, Hipparion, Hippotherium, Ictitherium, Indarctos, Microstonyx, Oioceros, Palaeoreas, Palaeotragus, Prostrepsiceros, Samotherium, and Tragoportax. Increased aridity was now widespread in the midlatitudes of Eurasia (Fig. $6 \mathrm{I})$.


FIGURE 9. Faunal similarity (Dice GFRI) to the Maragheh MNEQ 11 and 12 faunas at the genus level, mapped for each MN-equivalent (MNEQ) unit during the Miocene. A) MNEQ 6, B) MNEQ 7+8, C) MNEQ 9 (CP: Can Ponsic, KF: Kalfa, MS: Middle Sinap, NK: Nakali), D) MNEQ 10 (CP: Can Purull, GB: Grebeniki, S49: Sinap 49, S12: Sinap 12, GP: Gülpinar, EL: Eldari, UD: Udabno), E) MNEQ 11 (TP: Thermopigi, RZ: Ravin des Zouaves, NE: Novaja Emetovka, KC: Karacahasan), F) MNEQ 12 (HJ: Hadjidimovo, PK: Pikermi, SM: Samos, AK: Akkaşdaği), G) MNEQ 13 (AR: Arquillo, DT: Dytiko, PV: Pavlodar, B30: Baode loc. 30), H) MNEQ 14. Red and yellow patterns (high GFRI) indicate high similarity, while blue patterns (low GFRI) represent insignificant similarity. Paleogeographic setting of the European and Eastern Mediterranean areas are from Popov et al. 2004 (redrawn after Eronen 2006).

MNEQ 12 was the climax time of the Maraghean chronofauna. High similarity to this fauna was now visible from Spain to Afghanistan. However, localities with the highest similarity were found in Greece and Anatolia. These localities were: Samos (SM in Fig. 9F), Pikermi (PK in Fig. 9F), and Halmyropotamos in Greece (Dice 0.5-0.6), Hadjidimovo-1 (HJ in Fig. 9F) in Bulgaria (Dice 0.55), and Akkaşdaği (AK in Fig. 9F) in Turkey (Dice 0.56). Common Maraghean taxa of this age included:
Adcrocuta, Amphimachairodus, Ancylotherium, Chilotherium, Choerolophodon, Cremohipparion, Deinotherium, Gazella, Hipparion, Hippotherium, Ictitherium, Mesopithecus, Metailurus, Microstonyx, Oioceros, Orycteropus, Palaeoreas, Palaeoryx, Palaeotragus, Prostrepsiceros, Protragelaphus, Samotherium, Thalassictis, and Tragoportax. Most of these were present in the previous time slice as well. Aridity was now widespread in all Eurasia, with the exception of a few areas (green patterns in Fig. 6J).

MNEQ 13 was a critical time for the Maraghean fauna. Strangely, there is no significant locality at this time in the core area (BAANIR province), which witnessed the predominance of the Maraghean chronofauna in the previous time. As far as current data suggest, the Maraghean chronofauna moved mostly toward the East to the central Asia and north China, where now the highest similarities to Maragheh are observed. The most localities similar to Maragheh at this time were: Pavlodar (PV in Fig. 9G), Kazakhstan (Dice 0.4 ), Qingyang loc. 115 and Baode loc. 30 (B30 in Fig. 9G), China (Dice 0.37), Dytiko 1 (DT in Fig. 9G), Greece (Dice 0.39), and Arquillo 1 (AR in Fig. 9G), Spain (Dice 0.33). Of the common Maraghean taxa of the previous time slice, Adcrocuta, Chilotherium, Cremohipparion, Gazella, Hipparion, Hippotherium, Ictitherium, Indarctos, Metailurus, Palaeotragus, Samotherium, Thalassictis, and Tragoportax continued to thrive at this time. The aridity pattern at this time (Fig. 6K) also showed predominance of
arid cells in the areas of high similarity with Maragheh across Eurasia. Where more humid conditions prevailed, the similarity to Maragheh was quite low.

MNEQ 14 is the end of the Maraghean chronofauna history, with no locality with significant similarity seen across the Old World, even though arid cells continued to be present in some areas (Fig. 6L).

### 6.2 Discussion

### 6.2.1 Arabian chronofauna

The high similarity pattern in the MNEQ 3 localities of Negev and Bugti (Pakistan) with the Arabian MNEQ 4 and 5 faunas showed the presence of a mixture of African and Asian elements in Arabia. The Negev fauna, which represented the first evidence for exchange of faunas between Africa and Asia (Koufos et al. 2005, Tchernov et al. 1987) and also the proboscidean datum in Pakistan, which is now believed to be older than 20 Ma (Lindsay et al. 2005), indicated a connection between Arabia and Western Asia well before the "Gomphotherium landbridge" in MNEQ 4. Such an earlier (Late Oligocene-earliest Miocene) connection between Africa and Eurasia was proposed previously (Morlo et al. 2007, Pickford 2001, Morales et al. 2000, Adams et al. 1999, 1983, Van der Made 1999, Whybrow 1984) and new paleogeographic reconstructions (Popov et al. 2006, 2004) indicated its feasibility.

In MNEQ 4 the landbridge connection to Europe resulted in areas with high similarity in Western and central Europe. During MNEQ 5, although the landbridge temporarily vanished, areas of high similarity were present in Western-central Europe, Eastern Mediterranean and Western Asia. This indicated either an interchange of taxa between these areas well before MNEQ 5 or pulses of land connections during MNEQ 5. The presence of several
species of Canthumerycinae (Giraffidae) with mutually close affinities at this time in the above-mentioned areas and Africa-Arabia (Geraads and Aslan 2003, Thomas et al. 1999) support this idea. By MNEQ 6, the areas of high similarity were gone, but some localities with moderate similarity continued to thrive, especially in Western Europe, until they also disappeared at the end of MNEQ 9. This coincided with the Vallesian Crisis, which caused the extinction of the Western European forest faunas (Agustí et al. 2003, Agustí and Moya-Sola 1990). This was further evidence for the closed-adapted nature of the Arabian MNEQ 4 and 5 faunas and contrasted with previously suggested more open woodland/bushland environments for the Early Miocene of Arabia (Kingston and Hill 1999).

The humidity pattern based on hypsodonty analysis showed no significant association of the Arabian MNEQ 4 and 5 faunas with more arid conditions. Conversely, the increased aridity reflected in the sabkha and dune deposits of Arabia during Middle Miocene time (Kingston and Hill 1999) and opening of the environment, which was inferred from the MNEQ 6 Al Jadidah fauna (Sen and Thomas 1979, Thomas et al. 1978) may explain the demise of the Arabian MNEQ 4 and 5 chronofaunas. This shows that the Arabian faunas in particular and the Western Asian faunas in general were not similar to the Hispanotherium fauna. This chronofauna inhabited the seasonal dry conditions of the lower Middle Miocene of the Iberian Peninsula in Europe (Agustí and Antón 2002, Antunes 1979). They extended their range to Eastern Asia later in the terminal Middle Miocene, following the widening arid belt towards the East (IV). The Arabian MNEQ 4 and 5 faunas were probably adapted to humid conditions. Therefore, increased humidity in Europe and development of midlatitude aridity may explain the lingering similarities to Arabia in Western and central Europe until MNEQ 9.

### 6.2.2 Siwalikan chronofauna

Bernor (1984, 1983) pointed to the zoogeographically distinct nature of the Siwalik faunas and province. I performed locality clustering that also showed the endemic character of the Siwaliks. However, faunas showing high similarity to the early Late Miocene Siwalik fauna are found within Southeast Asia and the Indian subcontinent. The subtropical, forested conditions apparently lasted longer in the Siwaliks, even longer than in Western Europe (Agustí et al. 1999). Only in the middle Late Miocene did the openadapted taxa also affect the Siwalik province. The longer persistence of forested conditions in the Siwaliks may have reflected strong monsoonal influence in the area (Leakey and Harris 2003, Agustí et al. 1999). Results of a new fullycoupled atmosphere-ocean model simulation for the Tortonian (11-7 Ma ago) showed increased monsoon rainfall over the Indian subcontinent (Micheels et al. 2010).

Nonetheless, previous evidence for intensification of the Indian monsoons postdated the early Late Miocene (An et al. 2001), which more likely coincided with the expansion of $\mathrm{C}_{4}$ grasses in the region (Cerling et al. 1997, Quade and Cerling 1995, Quade et al. 1992, 1989). A major ecological change also occurred during the late Late Miocene (Badgley et al. 2008, Barry et al. 2002, Pilbeam et al. 1996), while hypsodonty analysis (Fig. 6I and J) indicates increased aridity in the region.

Evidence for interprovincial connections between Siwalik-Southeast Asia (SIWSEAS) and other provinces, especially with AfricaArabia (AFRARB) were noted from both large (e.g. Koufos et al. 2003, Werdelin 2003, Pickford 2001, Gentry 1999, Van der Made 1999, Barry et al. 1991) and small (e.g. Wessels 2009, López-Antonanzas and Sen 2003, 2004, Flynn and Jacobs 1999) mammal data. From nonmammalian groups, crocodiles are good examples of interprovincial,
paleoenvironmental, and paleoecological connections and similarities between the SIWSEAS and AFRARB localities (e.g. Storrs 2003, Rauhe et al. 1999). They were present in many localities in these provinces, but are rarely found in other areas.

This is supported by provinciality analysis of this research, which showed clusters of most of the Siwaliks and Indian subcontinent faunas close to the AFRARB assemblages. In addition to the Early and Middle Miocene interchange of taxa between these provinces, which was discussed in the previous section, the late Miocene also witnessed a number of exchanges. The hipparionine horses of the Sivalhippus group are one of the examples, which entered Africa during the middle Late Miocene and are closely related to the African Eurygnathohippus lineages (Bernor and Harris 2003, Bernor and Armour-Chelu 1999). The Hippopotamidae are another example of association between these regions (Weston 2003). They drove the lingering similarity observed between the Siwaliks and some MNEQ 13 faunas of AFRARB and Eastern Mediterranea (see section 6 results under Siwalikan chronofauna).

The role played by high mountains as an obstacle to migration of the Siwalikan elements northward is evident. The Turolian locality of Molayan in Afghanistan showed that even at close proximity, the mammalian faunas on opposite sides of the mountains are completely different (Brunet et al. 1984, Heintz and Brunet 1982). Indeed, one can mark a borderline between the SIWSEAS and Balkan-Anatolia-Iran (BAANIR) provinces through the mountains separating these two localities. The alpine mountains within Western Asia (i.e. the Taurids, Zagrids, Beloutches, and Himalayas) apparently played a major role in preventing northward immigration of taxa between AFRARB, the Siwaliks, and BAANIR. Good examples include the cervids, which did not enter the Indian subcontinent until the Pliocene-

Pleistocene, due to this barrier (Heintz et al. 1990, Heintz and Brunet 1982), and the anthracotheres such as Merycopotamus which were limited to the south of the Asian alpine arc (Lihoreau et al. 2007). Nevertheless, some taxa passed through this barrier. The gerbil Abudhabia is an example that was found in the late Late Miocene of Africa (Wessels 2009, Winkler 2003 ), Arabia (Bruijn and Whybrow 1994), Pakistan (Flynn and Jacobs 1999), Afghanistan (Sen 1983), and China (Qiu et al. 2004). Prostrepsiceros aff. vinayaki is another example, now believed to have been present in Maragheh (V). Recently, a new species of Sivatherium was also recorded from the Late Miocene-Pliocene of Macedonia, which showed association with Africa and Western Asia (Geraads 2009).

The most likely route for such migrations was along the southern paths of these alpine mountain belts, from Baluchistan to southern Iran and along the Persian Gulf and Zagross Mountains to Anatolia and Africa.

Merycopotamus, app. 10 Ma ago, followed a similar direction through the connection of the drainage systems to disperse from the Indian subcontinent to the Injana locality in Iraq (Lihoreau et al. 2007). This locality clearly had broad associations with the "Pikermian" chronofaunas of its surroundings (Bouvrain et al. 1995, Bouvrain and Thomas 1992, Brunet and Heintz 1983) and Arabia (Friend 1999), and may have been a hub for the interaction of Late Miocene Western Asian province

### 6.2.3 Maraghean chronofauna

The Maraghean chronofauna is clearly not distinct from the "Pikermian" chronofauna, either in its taxonomic content (V) or in its distribution history (II). Figure 10A shows the trend of mean similarity of Old World localities to Pikermi and Maragheh in the Miocene. The graph clearly illustrates the high mutual similarity of these chronofaunas over time. The development of these chronofaunas


FIGURE 10. Trend lines of average similarity to the: (A) Western Asian chronofaunas (Arabian, Siwalikan, and Maraghean) and (B) Eastern Asian chronofaunas (Baodean and Tunggurian), compared with the "Pikermian" and European Middle Miocene (Esvres-Marine Falunes) chronofaunas. Trend lines are polynomial $4^{\text {th }}$ order. Dots represent average points. the MN units are MN-equivalents (MNEQ).
during the Late Miocene was closely related to the expansion and contraction of seasonal aridity across Eurasia. The onset of midlatitude drying apparently marked the early development of these chronofaunas, and subsequent environmental, climatic, and paleogeographic processes facilitated their time-transgressive expansion (II).

The evidence indicates high faunal similarity between Pikermi, Samos, and Maragheh as the classical representatives of the "Pikermian" chronofauna (V). Maragheh is paleoecologically located somewhere between Pikermi and Samos (Koufos et al. 2009). Maragheh, like Pikermi (Solounias et al. 1999), had more wooded settings (V) than Samos (Koufos et al. 2009), but on the other hand, like Samos had enough open habitats to sustain its high number of mixed-feeders and hypsodont grazers. It is worth mentioning that the evidence for the presence of $\mathrm{C}_{4}$ grasses was also found in Maragheh (Strömberg et al. 2007). Solounias et al. (2010) proposed a model for the "Pikermian" chronofauna (Pikermi and Samos) that is similar to present day Kanha Park in India. This habitat is woodland with large areas of small trees, as well as dense forest and grassy regions that can support a significant number of browsing and
mixed-feeding herbivores.
The latest Miocene climatic and environmental changes, such as the demise of the Paratethys in central Asia and the Messinian Salinity Crisis, were apparently detrimental to the open-adapted chronofaunas of Eurasia (Kostopoulos 2009). Probably, increased humidity and forestation after a period of increased seasonality and regional differentiation caused the extinction of these chronofaunas from their core areas (II). These chronofaunas could have been the precursors of those of the African woodlands, since some of their species extended their ranges into Africa (Bernor et al. 2009, Bernor and Rook 2008, Werdelin 2003) and likely evolved into the Pliocene-Pleistocene and recent biomes of East Africa (Solounias et al. 1999).

### 6.3 Conclusions

Chronofaunas, such as individual species and genera, typically appear to have unimodal histories including buildup, climax, and decline. The chronofaunas investigated here developed in two different ways. The closedadapted chronofaunas (e.g. Arabian chronofauna) appear to have undergone rapid buildup and gradual decline (Fig. 10A). On the
other hand, the open-adapted chronofaunas (e.g. Maraghean, "Pikermian", Baodean chronofaunas) evidently experienced a gradual buildup and an abrupt decline (Fig. 10A and B). This is in contrast to the individual genera and species of these faunas, in which rise and fall appeared symmetrical (Jernvall and Fortelius 2004). For the closed-adapted chronofaunas, the reason for the rapid buildup could have been the unique or older histories of their taxa, which were not sampled or were excluded from the data studied. Their gradual decline, on the other hand, indicated continuous change from a more closed forested habitat toward more open conditions, as a result of the increase in seasonality after the Middle Miocene cooling event. As the numbers of closed-adapted taxa decreased progressively, the numbers of open-adapted taxa rose to fill the unoccupied niches. The abrupt decline in the open-adapted chronofauna may have indicated their strong dependence on specific environments. Consequently, an environmental reversal towards more humid and closed conditions caused their sudden decline. The Siwalikan chronofauna is unique, because it appears to have been more symmetrical than others (Fig. 10 A and B ). The significantly lower peak of this chronofauna is apparently the result of its geographical confinement and limited regional extension.

## 7. Concluding remarks

As a summary of the various results and discussions, the following conclusions are presented:
-With the paucity of body fossil localities in vast areas of Western Asia, mammalian trace fossils such as the footprints discovered in the northern parts of Iran can provide information on mammalian faunas and their habitats during the Miocene.
-Discovery of new fossil localities much further north than the famous Maragheh sites, in northwestern Iran, is increasing our understanding of the Late Miocene mammalian faunas in the area. The presence of fossil mammal localities other than Maragheh shows the favorable potential of northwestern Iran for new findings.
-New excavations and multidisciplinary research in the Maragheh area is updating our understanding of the mammalian fauna of Maragheh and will facilitate better comprehension of critical topics,such as geoand biochronology, habitats, paleodiets, and paleoecology.
-Clustering of 407 Miocene large mammal fossil assemblages from the Old World resulted in two megaclusters, one grouping mostly the Early-Middle Miocene faunas and the other, the Late Miocene localities.
-The early Late Miocene faunas of Western European and the Siwaliks clustered in the Early-Middle Miocene. This reveals that the Early-Middle Miocene cluster represented the closed-adapted (forest) faunas and the other, the open-adapted (nonforest) faunas.
-Four mutually interacting faunal provinces in Western Asia (Balkan-Anatolia-Iran, north China-central Asia, Siwalik-Southeast Asia, and Africa-Arabaia) can be distinguished according to the clusters. Some of these faunal provinces were previously known to some extent, and are modified here
-The Western Asian localities in the Early-Middle Miocene formed a single cluster, but in the Late Miocene they failed to do so. This reflects the increased provinciality of the later Miocene in this region, due to paleoclimatic and paleogeographic configurations.
-To quantify the relative abundance history of mammals in the closed (Early-Middle Miocene) and open (Late Miocene) habitats, two groups of mammals were defined: closedadapted taxa including Anthracotheriidae, Cervidae, Hippopotamidae, Moschidae, Proboscidea, Palaeomerycidae, Suoidae, Tapiridae, and Tragulidae and open-adapted taxa including Bovidae, Equidae, Felidae, Giraffidae, Hyaenidae, and Rhinocerotidae.
-The relative abundance patterns of the openand closed-adapted taxa showed the climax of the closed-adapted taxa during the Middle Miocene Climatic Optimum and the acme of the open-adapted taxa in the Late Miocene.
-Warmer climatic conditions and probably high atmospheric $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$ concentrations could have increased the primary productivity in the late Early-Middle Miocene that sustained the forested environments and hence the abundance of closed-adapted taxa.
-The subsequent cooling event and the progressive increase in seasonality caused the decline in the closed-adapted taxa. The onset of midlatitude drying and the expansion of seasonally arid environments in Eurasia facilitated the success of the open-adapted taxa.
-The "Pikermian" chronofauna developed in response to the increased aridity and seasonality patterns in the Eastern Mediterranean region. This occurred due to midlatitude drying and a number of changes in paleogeography, as well as climatic configurations, that caused changes in the precipitation patterns.
-The Baodean and Tunggurian chronofaunas both came to China from the West, in association with moving patterns of aridity. They were subsets of the "Pikermian" and Hispanotherium chronofaunas of the West. However, the Baodean chronofauna, unlike its Western counterpart, had numerous endemic taxa.
-The distribution history of the late Early-early Middle Miocene Arabian chronofauna includes a rapid buildup and climax in MNEQ 4 and 5, in relation to humid conditions, and a gradual decline. This pattern was similar to that of the Western European localities such as Esvres-Marine-Faluns and means that the Arabian chronofauna can be regarded as a subset of the Western European chronofaunas.
-The early Late Miocene Siwalikan chronofauna is restricted in distribution to the Siwaliks and Southeast Asia with very limited connections to the outside.
-The Late Miocene (Turolian) Maraghean chronofauna developed as did the "Pikermian" chronofauna. It showed a gradual buildup and climax in MNEQ11 and 12. It later moved eastward before an abrupt decline in the latest Miocene-Pliocene. The history of this chronofauna is closely associated with aridity and seasonality patterns.
-The closed-adapted chronofaunal builtup was rapid and their decline gradual in contrast to those of the open-adapted chronofaunas. This could have been due to the unique or unrecorded history of the closed-adapted taxa and strong dependence of the open-adapted taxa on their seasonal, arid environments that were severely disrupted and reversed in the terminal Miocene.

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Appendix 1 Clusters of localities showing the relationships of faunal provinces in the Miocene of the Old World. Clusters are from an analysis of 407 Miocene localities, using (A) Dice, (B) Jaccard, and (C) Simpson similarity indices. A: Early-Middle Miocene clusters, B: Late Miocene clusters. WEU: Western Europe, CEU: central Europe, WAS: Western Asia, CHN: north China, ARB: Arabia, AFR: Africa, SIW: Siwaliks, BAANIR: Balkan-Anatolia-Iran, NB SEA: north Black Sea, CAS: central Asia, SIWSEAS: Siwalik-Southeast Asia.

Appendix 1A. Dice clusters


Appendix 1B. Jaccard clusters

A. Early/Middle Miocene

B. Late Miocene

Appendix 1C. Simpson clusters


Appendix 2. List of the localities used in provinciality, abundance, and similarity analyses of this study with their geographical positions (country and coordinates), age correlation (MN-equivalent: MNEQ) and age span, Dice (DFRI), Jaccard (JFRI), Simpson (SFRI), and Raup-Crick (RCFRI) genus-level faunal resemblance to Maragheh MNEQ 11 and 12 (MRG), Arabia MNEQ 4 and 5 (ARB), and Siwalik MNEQ 9 and 10 (SIW), percentage of open-adapted (\%OPEN) and closed-adapted (\%CLOSE) taxa, and taxa excluded from these categories (\%OTHER), total number of taxa (TOTAL), and mean hypsodonty (HYPS) values. Localities with blank FRI values had fewer than seven distinct genera and were not used in similarity analysis. Those with no HYP value had fewer than two herbivorous genera. Open-adapted taxa: Bovidae, Equidae, Felidae, Giraffidae, Hyaenidae, and Rhinocerotidae Closed-adapted taxa: Anthracotheriidae, Cervidae, Hippopotamidae, Moschidae, Palaeomerycidae, Suoidae, Tapiridae, Tragulidae, and Proboscidea
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## Mfwangano 3

Mfwangano 5 Moli Calopa Montreal－du－Gers Moroto II Napak IV Pellecahus Petersbuch 2 Rusinga Rusinga（Gumba） Rusinga（Hiwegi west） Rusinga（Hiwegi） Rusinga（Kalim） Rusinga（Kathwanga） Rusinga（kiahera hill） Rusinga（Kiyune） Rusinga（kulu） Rusinga（Nyamsingula）
 Rusinga（R 114） Rusinga（R105） Rusinga（R106） Rusinga（R107） Rusinga（Wakondu） Rusinga（Wayondo） Sihong－songlinzhuang Songhor（Main） Ulan－Tologoj Uyoma 12 （Rangoye） Uyoma 2 （Chianda N） Wintershof－West




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| Aktau Mountain |
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| Al-Sarrar |
| Antonios (ANT) |
| Baigneaux-en Beauce |
| Belometchetskaja |
| Çandir (Loc. 3) |
| Chios |
| Contres MN 5 |
| Dzhilanchik |
| Edelbeuren-Maurerkopf |
| Eibiswald |
| Engelswies |
| Estación Imperial |
| Esvres - Marine Faluns |
| Faluns of Touraine |
| Gebel Zelten |
| Georgensgmünd |
| Grund |
| Göriach |
| Häder |
| Hambach $6 C$ |
| Heggbach |
| Kalkaman lake |
| Kaloma |
| Kirimun |
| La Hidroelectrica |
| La Retama |
| Münzenberg (Leoben) |
| Maboko |
| Majiwa |
| Manchar 1 |




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Manchar 2
Monteagudo
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Paseo de la Esparanza
Paseo de las Acacias
Pontlevoy
Poudenas-Peyrecrechen
Puente de Vallecas
Rimbez - Lapeyrie base
Rothenstein 1
Samburu Hills 1
Sandelzhausen
Sant Mamet
Savigné-sur-Lathan
Shanwang
Sinda
Thymiana B
Devinská Nová-Bonanza
Devínská Nová-Fissures
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| Serbia |
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| France |

Devinská Nová-Sandhill
Edelbeuren-Schlactberg
Fort Ternan
Fort Ternan 2 (Serek)
Griesbeckerzell
Haulies
Hezheng-laogou Inönü I (Sinap 24A) Jiulongkou Junggar-1 Junggar-Botamoyin China荌 Austria China Kenya
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 シ Devínská Nová-Sandhill Edelbeuren-Schlactberg Fort Ternan 2 (Serek) Griesbeckerzell Hezheng-laogou Jiulongkou Junggar-1 Junggar-Tieersihabahe Kipsaramon 1 Kipsaramon 2 Klein Hadersdorf Liet Lintong-Lengshuigou Muruarot Hill Nyakach 10 (Kaimogool) Nyakach 11 (Kaimogool) Nyakach 19 (Pundo) Nyakach 8 (Kadianga) Nyakach 9 (Kaimogool) Paracuellos 3 Paracuellos 5 Paşalar Prebreza Ramangar Samburu Hills 4 Sansan



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| Simorre |
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| Can Feliu |
| Castell de Barberà |
| Chiang Muan |
| Dang Valley |
| Escobosa |
| Hostalets de Pierola Inf. |
| Junggar-duolebulejin |
| Kaiyuan-Xiaolongtan |
| Kutsaj M |
| La Grive St. Alban |
| Lintong-lengshuigou |
| Mannersdorf |
| Massenhausen |
| Ngorora |
| Nombrevilla-2 |
| Poudenas-Cayron |
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| Saint-Gaudens (Valent.) |
| Sant Quirze |
| Saricay |
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| Sofca |




| Steinheim |
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| Tunggur |
| Yeni Eskihisar 1 |
| Yenieskihisar |
| Vösendorf |
| Akin |
| Alkcaköy (1-6) |
| Atavaska |
| Awash 1 |
| Ballestar |
| Bou Hanifia |
| Buzhor 1 |
| Can Llobateres I |
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| Can Ponsic I |
| Charmoille |
| Chorora Fm. |
| El Firal |
| Eppelsheim |
| Esme Akçaköy |
| Esselborn |
| Estevar |
| Gaiselberg |
| Gau-Weinheim |
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|  | $\underset{\text { N̦ }}{\substack{\text { N }}}$ | $\underset{\sim}{\underset{O}{*}}$ | $\stackrel{\sim}{0}$ |  | $\stackrel{\text { fi}}{0}$ | $\underset{\substack{n}}{n}$ |  | $\stackrel{q}{0}$ | $\stackrel{\infty}{0}$ |  | $\stackrel{N}{0}$ |  |  |  |  |  | $\stackrel{N}{n}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & 0 \\ & \underset{0}{0} \end{aligned}$ | $\underset{0}{7}$ | $\underset{\sim}{\infty}$ | No |  | $\stackrel{M}{0}$ | $\stackrel{\circ}{\circ}$ | $\stackrel{\infty}{\sim}$ | $\stackrel{m}{0}$ | $\underset{\sim}{\underset{O}{N}}$ | $\stackrel{\infty}{\infty}$ | $\xrightarrow{\circ}$ |
|  | $\stackrel{\circ}{0}$ | O- | O | $\stackrel{N}{0}$ | O | O |  | $\stackrel{\circ}{0}$ | $\stackrel{m}{0}$ |  | O- |  |  |  |  |  | $\stackrel{\infty}{\circ}$ |  | O | O- | O. | $\stackrel{\circ}{\circ}$ |  | O | $\stackrel{m}{0}$ | O | O | O | $\underset{\substack{\text { J }}}{ }$ | $\bigcirc$ |
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|  | $\underset{\infty}{\infty}$ | $\stackrel{\mathrm{O}}{\mathrm{i}}$ | $\underset{\sim}{m}$ | O | $\stackrel{m}{\circ}$ | $\stackrel{\circ}{\mathrm{i}}$ |  | O | $\stackrel{n}{\hat{O}}$ |  | $\stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{\text { N}}$ |  |  |  |  |  | \％ |  | $\stackrel{8}{\mathrm{i}}$ | $\stackrel{\text { O}}{i}$ | $\stackrel{\text { O}}{+}$ | $\stackrel{\circ}{\circ}$ |  | $\stackrel{\infty}{\circ}$ | $\stackrel{\infty}{\circ}$ | $\stackrel{\text { O}}{+}$ | $\stackrel{\text { O}}{+}$ | $\stackrel{n}{0}$ | $\stackrel{\circ}{\circ}$ | N |
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| Götzendorf |
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| Kohfidisch |
| La Cantera |
| La Roma 2 |
| La Tarumba I |
| Lantian－12 |
| Lantian－6 |
| Lantian－Shuijiazui |
| Lantian－shuijiazui－L1 |
| Masía del Barbo |
| Masía del Barbo 2 |
| Masía del Barbo 2B |
| Montredon |
| Ngeringerowa 1／1003 |
| Pentalophos 1 （PNT） |
| Poksheshty |
| Ravin de la Pluie（RPL） |
| Ravin des Zouaves 1 |
| Respopeny |
| Samburu Hills 2 |
| Sant Miquel de Taudell |
| Sinap 12 |
| Sinap 49 |
| Siwaliks Yo158 |
| Siwaliks Y0166 |
| Siwaliks Y0191 |




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 Siwaliks Y0312 Siwaliks Y0314 Siwaliks Y0317 Siwaliks Y0327


 Siwaliks Y0337 Soblay Terrassa Udabno I Wissberg Xirochori 1 (XIR) Altan-Teli

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## Corakyerler

Corakyillente 2
Csakvar Dorn Dürkheim 1 Dzhuanaryk Garkin Injana Kalimanci 1 Karacahasan Kayadibi Kemiklitepe 1.2 Kemiklitepe D Kocherinovo 1 Kocherinovo 2 Kujalnitskij liman Küçükçekmece Lower Maragheh Nikiti 1 (NKT) Nikiti 2 (NIK) Novaja Emetovka Piera Puente Minero Qaidam-shenggou Ravin des Zouaves 5 Samos-Q6 Sarihasan Sinap 34 Siwaliks Y0024 Siwaliks Y0028 Strumyani 1 Strumyani 2



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Taghar
Thermopigi
Vivero de Pinos Vivero de Pinos Yuanmou-baozidong Yulafli (CY) Akgedik-Bayir Akkaşdaği Baccinello V2 Baltavar Baynunah Belka Cerro de la Garita Chimishlija (Cimislia) Chobruchi (Tchobrutchi) Chomateres Çobanpinar (Sinap 42) Concud
Concud Barranco Crevillente 15 Crevillente 16 Duzyayla Fiume Santo Gülpinar 3 Gorna Susica Gura-Galben Hadjidimovo-1 Halmyropotamos (HAL) Irrawaddy 1 Kalimanci 2







| Kalimanci 4 |
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| Kalimantsi-Pehtsata |
| Karain 2 |
| Kavakdere (Turolian) |
| Kefraya |
| Kemiklitepe A-B |
| Kerassia 1 |
| Kerassia 4 |
| Khirgis-Nur II-Altan-Teli |
| Kizilören |
| Los Aljezares |
| Los Mansuetos |
| Lothagam 1 |
| Lufeng-shihuiba |
| Mahmutgazi |
| Middle Maragheh |
| Molayan |
| Monte Bamboli |
| Mt. Luberon |
| Mytilinii 1A |
| Mytilinii 1B |
| Mytilinii 1C |
| Mytilinii 3 |
| Mytilinii 4 |
| Novo-Elizavetovka |
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Ravin X
Salihpasalar
Salihpasalar 1
Salihpasalar 2
Samos (A-1)
Samos Main Bone Beds
Samos White Sands
Samos-Q5
Sandikli Kinik
Serefköy
Sinap 26
Sinap 27
Sinap 33
Siwaliks L0082
Siwaliks Yo011
Siwaliks Y0017
Siwaliks Y0019
Siwaliks Yo097
Sor
Taraklia
Tudorovo
Upper Maragheh
Valdecebro 5
Vathylakkos 2 (VTK)
Vathylakkos 3 (VAT)
Albertine 1
Albertine 12
Albertine 14
Amasya 2
Arenas del Rey
Arquillo 1



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| Asa kuma |
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| Baccinello V3 |
| Brisighella |
| Casino |
| Dytiko 1 (DTK) |
| Dytiko 2 (DIT) |
| Dytiko 3 (DKO) |
| El Arquillo 1 |
| Fugu-Laogaochuan-miao |
| Fu-Ku-Lok.51 |
| Gravitelli |
| Gusinyy perelyot |
| Hezheng-heilingding |
| Hsin-An-Loc.12 |
| Huade-Tuchetse |
| Huoxian-anlecun |
| Jilong |
| Jungar-Yaogou |
| Kalmakpaj |
| Karabastuz |
| Khirgis-Nur II-lower |
| Kuseralie |
| La Alberca |
| Langebaanweg 2 (PPM) |
| Langebaanweg 3 (QSM) |
| Lantian-42 |
| Lantian-jiulaopo |
| Lantian-koujiacun-damia |
| Lantian-majiahe-yuanjia |
| Las Casiones |
| Lemudong'o |

Page 17 of 19

| Librilla | Spain | MN13 | 1.80 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 37.50 | 50.00 | 12.50 | 8 | 1.75 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Lothagam 2 | Kenya | MN13 | 1.80 | 0.19 | 0.10 | 0.21 | 0.48 | 0.05 | 0.02 | 0.10 | 0.24 | 0.04 | 0.02 | 0.08 | 0.23 | 58.18 | 21.82 | 20.00 | 55 | 1.67 |
| Lukeino | Kenya | MN13 | 1.80 | 0.17 | 0.09 | 0.28 | 0.66 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.04 | 0.32 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.23 | 57.14 | 33.33 | 9.52 | 21 | 1.61 |
| Manonga 1 | Tanzania | MN13 | 1.80 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.23 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.23 | 57.14 | 35.71 | 7.14 | 14 | 1.92 |
| Maramena | Greece | MN13 | 2.90 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 52.63 | 15.79 | 31.58 | 19 | 1.54 |
| Milagros | Spain | MN13 | 1.80 | 0.24 | 0.14 | 0.67 | 0.99 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.27 | 0.08 | 0.04 | 0.10 | 0.58 | 58.33 | 41.67 | 0.00 | 12 | 1.89 |
| Mpesida | Kenya | MN13 | 1.00 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 60.00 | 40.00 | 0.00 | 10 | 1.60 |
| Nurpur | India | MN13 | 1.80 | 0.10 | 0.05 | 0.16 | 0.21 | 0.20 | 0.11 | 0.26 | 0.76 | 0.20 | 0.11 | 0.28 | 0.87 | 42.86 | 52.38 | 4.76 | 21 | 1.21 |
| Nyanza 2 (Chamtwara34) | Kenya | MN13 | 1.80 | 0.04 | 0.02 | 0.06 | 0.03 | 0.08 | 0.04 | 0.10 | 0.56 | 0.08 | 0.04 | 0.11 | 0.54 | 5.00 | 15.00 | 80.00 | 20 | 1.13 |
| Pao-Te-Lok. 108 | China | MN13 | 1.90 | 0.32 | 0.19 | 0.60 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.18 | 0.04 | 0.02 | 0.05 | 0.37 | 80.95 | 4.76 | 14.29 | 21 | 1.85 |
| Pao-Te-Lok. 109 | China | MN13 | 1.90 | 0.23 | 0.13 | 0.55 | 0.99 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.24 | 0.05 | 0.03 | 0.06 | 0.46 | 82.35 | 11.76 | 5.88 | 17 | 1.55 |
| Pao-Te-Lok. 110 | China | MN13 | 1.90 | 0.27 | 0.16 | 0.70 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.25 | 0.05 | 0.03 | 0.06 | 0.46 | 83.33 | 16.67 | 0.00 | 12 | 1.60 |
| Pao-Te-Lok. 30 | China | MN13 | 1.90 | 0.38 | 0.23 | 0.52 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.11 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.05 | 0.24 | 81.82 | 6.06 | 12.12 | 33 | 1.95 |
| Pao-Te-Lok. 31 | China | MN13 | 1.90 | 0.32 | 0.19 | 0.56 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.16 | 0.04 | 0.02 | 0.05 | 0.35 | 80.95 | 0.00 | 19.05 | 21 | 1.71 |
| Pao-Te-Lok. 43 | China | MN13 | 1.90 | 0.31 | 0.18 | 0.50 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.15 | 0.04 | 0.02 | 0.05 | 0.31 | 80.77 | 11.54 | 7.69 | 26 | 1.71 |
| Pao-Te-Lok. 44 | China | MN13 | 1.90 | 0.25 | 0.15 | 0.50 | 0.99 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.18 | 0.09 | 0.05 | 0.11 | 0.60 | 79.17 | 20.83 | 0.00 | 24 | 1.67 |
| Pao-Te-Lok. 49 | China | MN13 | 1.90 | 0.34 | 0.21 | 0.41 | 1.00 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.04 | 0.14 | 0.06 | 0.03 | 0.11 | 0.34 | 65.79 | 15.79 | 18.42 | 38 | 1.43 |
| Pao-Te-Lok. 52 | China | MN13 | 1.90 | 0.20 | 0.11 | 0.56 | 0.98 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.31 | 0.05 | 0.03 | 0.06 | 0.48 | 61.54 | 15.38 | 23.08 | 13 | 1.70 |
| Pavlodar | Kazakhstan | MN13 | 1.80 | 0.41 | 0.25 | 0.57 | 1.00 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.04 | 0.21 | 0.04 | 0.02 | 0.06 | 0.26 | 64.00 | 12.00 | 24.00 | 25 | 1.87 |
| Polgardi | Hungary | MN13 | 2.90 | 0.25 | 0.14 | 0.47 | 0.97 | 0.07 | 0.04 | 0.08 | 0.49 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.25 | 43.75 | 18.75 | 37.50 | 16 | 1.50 |
| Puy Courny | France | MN13 | 0.96 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 57.14 | 42.86 | 0.00 | 7 | 1.57 |
| Qingyang | China | MN13 | 1.90 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 81.25 | 18.75 | 0.00 | 16 | 2.60 |
| Qingyang-Lok. 115 | China | MN13 | 1.90 | 0.38 | 0.23 | 0.83 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.23 | 0.04 | 0.02 | 0.05 | 0.41 | 94.12 | 5.88 | 0.00 | 17 | 1.92 |
| Qingyang-Lok. 116 | China | MN13 | 1.90 | 0.33 | 0.20 | 0.69 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.20 | 0.04 | 0.02 | 0.05 | 0.39 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 17 | 1.83 |
| Sahabi | Libya | MN13 | 1.10 | 0.20 | 0.11 | 0.24 | 0.61 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.04 | 0.15 | 0.09 | 0.05 | 0.17 | 0.51 | 57.14 | 22.86 | 20.00 | 35 | 1.77 |
| Silata | Greece | MN13 | 2.90 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 85.71 | 14.29 | 0.00 | 7 | 1.40 |
| Sinap 118 | Turkey | MN13 | 2.90 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 55.56 | 22.22 | 22.22 | 9 | 1.25 |
| Sinap 77 | Turkey | MN13 | 2.90 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 75.00 | 0.00 | 25.00 | 8 | 1.29 |
| Sinap 78 | Turkey | MN13 | 2.90 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 63.64 | 9.09 | 27.27 | 11 | 1.60 |
| Songshan-Loc. 2 | China | MN13 | 1.90 | 0.28 | 0.16 | 0.47 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.14 | 0.06 | 0.03 | 0.07 | 0.40 | 82.35 | 5.88 | 11.76 | 17 | 1.64 |
| Songshan-Loc. 3 | China | MN13 | 1.90 | 0.26 | 0.15 | 0.58 | 0.99 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.23 | 0.04 | 0.02 | 0.05 | 0.41 | 93.75 | 0.00 | 6.25 | 16 | 1.50 |


| Tha Chang 2 | Thailand | MN13 | 4.10 | 0.08 | 0.04 | 0.22 | 0.54 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.28 | 0.14 | 0.08 | 0.18 | 0.75 | 40.00 | 60.00 | 0.00 | 10 | 1.60 |
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| Titov Veles | Macedonia | MN13 | 2.90 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 70.00 | 10.00 | 20.00 | 10 | 1.29 |
| Toros-Menalla (TM-266) | Chad | MN13 | 1.80 | 0.19 | 0.11 | 0.29 | 0.76 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.12 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.17 | 59.09 | 22.73 | 18.18 | 22 | 1.47 |
| Wenquan-dakusitai | China | MN13 | 1.90 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 75.00 | 12.50 | 12.50 | 8 | 1.40 |
| Venta del Moro | Spain | MN13 | 1.80 | 0.19 | 0.11 | 0.27 | 0.72 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.04 | 0.22 | 0.05 | 0.03 | 0.08 | 0.34 | 60.71 | 14.29 | 25.00 | 28 | 1.69 |
| Villastar | Spain | MN13 | 1.80 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 55.56 | 33.33 | 11.11 | 9 | 1.88 |
| Wudu-longjiagou | China | MN13 | 1.90 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 56.67 | 33.33 | 10.00 | 30 | 1.46 |
| Wu-Hsiang-loc. 78 | China | MN13 | 1.90 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 75.00 | 25.00 | 0.00 | 8 | 1.38 |
| Wu-Hsiang-Lok. 70 | China | MN13 | 1.90 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 71.43 | 28.57 | 0.00 | 7 | 1.29 |
| Wu-Hsiang-Lok. 73 | China | MN13 | 1.90 | 0.12 | 0.06 | 0.33 | 0.78 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.27 | 0.05 | 0.03 | 0.06 | 0.49 | 60.00 | 40.00 | 0.00 | 10 | 1.22 |
| Yushe | China | MN13 | 1.80 | 0.11 | 0.06 | 0.25 | 0.58 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.21 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.21 | 44.00 | 44.00 | 12.00 | 25 | 1.25 |
| Zhangqiu-Balouhe | China | MN13 | 1.90 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 50.00 | 50.00 | 0.00 | 12 | 1.45 |
| Alcoy+B556 | Spain | MN14 | 1.10 | 0.12 | 0.06 | 0.30 | 0.67 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.26 | 0.11 | 0.06 | 0.13 | 0.70 | 45.45 | 45.45 | 9.09 | 11 | 1.90 |
| Aramis | Ethiopia | MN14 | 0.06 | 0.07 | 0.04 | 0.11 | 0.12 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.04 | 0.28 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.21 | 34.48 | 31.03 | 34.48 | 29 | 1.45 |
| Awash 4 | Ethiopia | MN14 | 1.10 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 46.67 | 53.33 | 0.00 | 15 | 1.57 |
| Awash 5 | Ethiopia | MN14 | 1.10 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 45.00 | 30.00 | 25.00 | 20 | 1.72 |
| Beresti | Romania | MN14 | 1.10 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 11.11 | 33.33 | 55.56 | 9 | 1.60 |
| Dorkovo | Bulgaria | MN14 | 1.10 | 0.08 | 0.04 | 0.25 | 0.52 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.29 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.31 | 38.46 | 30.77 | 30.77 | 13 | 1.40 |
| Fonelas | Spain | MN14 | 1.10 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.21 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.20 | 64.29 | 21.43 | 14.29 | 14 | 2.00 |
| Yushe-Gaozhuang | China | MN14 | 2.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.03 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.21 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.23 | 33.33 | 25.00 | 41.67 | 12 | 1.60 |
| Gona Western Margin 3 | Ethiopia | MN14 | 0.17 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 50.00 | 50.00 | 0.00 | 10 | 1.50 |
| Guanghe-shilidun | China | MN14 | 1.10 | 0.16 | 0.09 | 0.40 | 0.91 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.26 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.27 | 80.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10 | 1.50 |
| Khirgis-Nur II | Mongolia | MN14 | 0.40 | 0.08 | 0.04 | 0.20 | 0.47 | 0.05 | 0.02 | 0.05 | 0.46 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.27 | 50.00 | 18.75 | 31.25 | 16 | 2.31 |
| Khirgis-Nur II-upper | Mongolia | MN14 | 0.80 | 0.12 | 0.06 | 0.33 | 0.78 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.28 | 0.07 | 0.04 | 0.10 | 0.58 | 60.00 | 20.00 | 20.00 | 20 | 2.21 |
| Kolle | Chad | MN14 | 1.10 | 0.07 | 0.04 | 0.14 | 0.24 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.20 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.24 | 40.00 | 46.67 | 13.33 | 15 | 1.57 |
| Kossom Bougoudi | Chad | MN14 | 1.10 | 0.10 | 0.05 | 0.18 | 0.26 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.17 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.21 | 54.55 | 31.82 | 13.64 | 22 | 1.61 |
| Kosyakino | Russia | MN14 | 1.10 | 0.11 | 0.06 | 0.21 | 0.44 | 0.08 | 0.04 | 0.08 | 0.53 | 0.11 | 0.06 | 0.13 | 0.66 | 35.71 | 42.86 | 21.43 | 14 | 1.30 |
| La Gloria | Spain | MN14 | 1.10 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 80.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10 | 1.43 |
| La Gloria 4 | Spain | MN14 | 1.10 | 0.08 | 0.04 | 0.20 | 0.48 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.26 | 0.05 | 0.03 | 0.06 | 0.46 | 85.71 | 7.14 | 7.14 | 14 | 2.33 |
| Lothagam 3 | Kenya | MN14 | 1.10 | 0.14 | 0.08 | 0.17 | 0.23 | 0.05 | 0.03 | 0.10 | 0.30 | 0.04 | 0.02 | 0.08 | 0.25 | 57.78 | 31.11 | 11.11 | 45 | 1.71 |
| Montpellier | France | MN14 | 1.10 | 0.10 | 0.05 | 0.14 | 0.22 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.04 | 0.26 | 0.05 | 0.03 | 0.07 | 0.34 | 30.77 | 30.77 | 38.46 | 26 | 1.35 |

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \begin{array}{l}
9 \\
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7 \\
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\end{array} \\
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& \wedge N
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \stackrel{\sim}{\infty}
\end{aligned}
$$

$\stackrel{\stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{9}}{\underset{i}{i}}$

MN14
MN14

## Paper I

Mirzaie Ataabadi, M. and Abbassi, N. 2007.

Affinities and implications of new Miocene mammal footprints from Iran.

## Paper II

Eronen, J. T., Mirzaie Ataabadi, M., Micheels, A, Karme, A., Bernor, R. L., and Fortelius, M. 2009.

Distribution history and climatic controls of the Late Miocene Pikermian chronofauna. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 106:11867-11871.

## Paper III

Mirzaie Ataabadi, M., Zaree, G., and Orak, Z.

Large mammals from the new Late Miocene fossil localities in Varzeghan area, northwest Iran.

Accepted for publication in Vertebrata PalAsiatica.

## Paper IV

Mirzaie Ataabadi, M., Liu, L., Eronen, J. T., Bernor, R. L., and Fortelius, M. Continental Scale Patterns in Neogene Mammal Community Evolution and Biogeography: A Europe-Asia Perspective.

Accepted for publication in Asian Neogene Mammal Biostratigraphy and Chronology

## Paper V

Mirzaie Ataabadi, M., Bernor, R. L., Kostopolus, D., Wolf, D., Orak, Z., Zaree, G., Nakaya, H., Watabe, M. and Fortelius, M. Recent Advances in the Paleobiological Research of the Late Miocene Maragheh Fauna, Northwest Iran.

Submitted to Asian Neogene Mammal Biostratigraphy and Chronology.

## Paper VI

Mirzaie Ataabadi, M., Mohammadalizadeh, J., Zhang, Z., Watabe, M., Kaakinen, A. and Fortelius, M.

Late Miocene Large mammals from Ivand (northwestern Iran).
Submitted to Geodiversitas.


The Miocene Epoch, 23-5.3 million years ago, was a time when the world assumed its modern configuration, and life attained many of its modern aspects. Modern climatic and circulation patterns also have their roots in the Miocene. Being at the crossroads of the Old World continents, Western Asia has a unique position through which the dispersal and migration of fossil mammals and the interaction of faunal bioprovinces occurred. Despite its critical position, the record of Miocene mammals in Western Asia is sporadic and there are large spatial and temporal gaps between the known fossil localities. I under took fieldwork and systematic study of mammalian trace and body fossils from the northwestern parts of lran along with analysis of large mammal data from the NOW database. The data analysis was used to study the provinciality, relative abundance, and distribution history of the closed- and open-adapted taxa and chronofaunas in the Miocene of the Old World and Western Asia.

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[^0]:    Bala Yaylaköy

