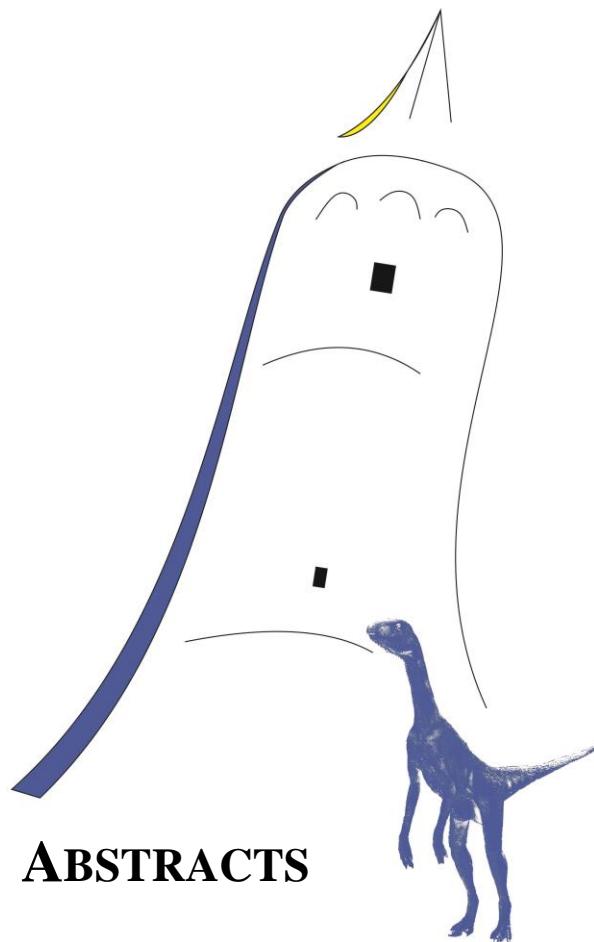


EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF VERTEBRATE PALAEONTOLOGISTS



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Research of Pleistocene megafauna carried out at the Laboratory of Palaeobiology of Opole University

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Expansion of the research area and a more intensive search for Ice Age mammalian fossils have resulted in an increasing number of specimens from Opole area at southwest Poland. In addition, our knowledge of the environment these animals inhabited and of the causes of their extinction has been augmented considerably. Between 2012 and 2014, isolated bones of Pleistocene mammals, generally well preserved but mostly fragmentary, have been analysed. These specimens were recovered from Malerzowice Wielkie and from the sand pits Kuźnica Warężyńska and 'Kotlarnia'. In the same period (2012-2014), bones of three species from the last-named locality were measured and described. This project was resumed last year, when all fossil material from the other localities was registered, described and measured. These remains can be ascribed to woolly mammoths (*Mammuthus primigenius* (Blumenbach, 1799)), **woolly rhinoceros (*Coelodonta antiquitatis* (Blumenbach, 1807))**, wild horse (*Equus ferus* Boddaert, 1785) and steppe bison (*Bison priscus* Bojanus, 1827). In comparison to previous research, the fauna listed here is more diverse, with remains of wild horse and steppe bison having been found here the first time. Thus, it has been rewarding not only to describe this material morphologically, but also to document a higher Pleistocene megafaunal diversity in the Opole area.