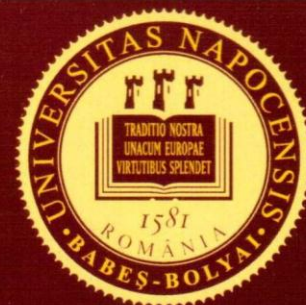




TENTH ROMANIAN SYMPOSIUM ON PALEONTOLOGY

Cluj-Napoca, 16-17 October 2015

ABSTRACTS AND FIELD TRIP GUIDE



Edited by:

Ioan I. Bucur, Iuliana Lazăr and Emanoil Săsăran

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Abstracts and Field trip guide

Edited by Ioan I. Bucur, Iuliana Lazăr & Emanoil Săsăran

Presa Universitară Clujeană, 2015

The 10th Romanian Symposium on Paleontology

Cluj-Napoca, 16-17 October 2015

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Crețești-Dobrina 1: a new Early Vallesian locality in Moldova

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In Eastern Romania, the Late Miocene formations of the Moldavian Platform are part of the last sedimentary megasequence (3rd sedimentary cycle), which started in the Middle Miocene (Badenian). In the Sarmatian *s.l.* (BARBOT DE MARNY, 1869), the waters of the Eastern Paratethys that once covered this area of the Dacic Basin regressed and the evolution of the terrestrial environments started on these new emerged lands.

Until now, very scarce data were available on the Late Vallesian terrestrial vertebrates. The majority of data are based on scattered, fortuitous finds. But in the last couple of years, due to regular geological surveys in Vaslui District, new Vallesian localities were found. Among them, the most illustrative is by far a locality that we name now Crețești-Dobrina 1. It was discovered due to the works carried for renewing the national road 24B, linking Crasna and Huși.

At Crețești-Dobrina 1, the Late Sarmatian (Khersonian) deposits are cropping out on a rather small area, on the roadside. The thickness of the sedimentary succession exposed is about two meters only. In dominance there is greenish mudstone, interleaving with thin (few centimeters only) silty sand. These rocks are rich in vertebrate remains, but apart from vertebrates it worth to notice the presence of freshwater gastropods (e.g. *Planorbis* sp.). The sedimentary structure of this heterolithic deposit is the horizontal lamination. Based on sedimentology these rocks may be considered as belonging to an ancient floodplain. There, the sedimentation progressed by fallout from suspension, during periodic floods.

Unearthed from these rocks, the following vertebrate taxa can be reported so far from this locality: Anura – *Pelobates* sp.; Reptilia – “*Protestudo*” sp. (extremely frequent), various lizards [*Chalcides* sp., *Lacerta* sp., *Ophisaurus* (s.l.) sp.] and snakes [*Coronella* sp., *Macrovipera* sp. (frequent)]; Aves indet.; Mammalia – Erinaceomorpha: *Schizogalerix* sp.; Sciuridae: *Spermophilinus bredai*; Lagomorpha: ?*Proochozona* sp.; Carnivora – *Adcrocuta eximia* (ROTH & WAGNER, 1848), *Metailurus* sp.; Proboscidea: *Choerolophodon pentelici* (Gaudry & Lartet, 1856); Perissodactyla – “*Hipparion*” sp. (very frequent), *Acerorhinus* sp.; Artiodactyla – *Hippopotamodon* sp., *Tragoportax leskewitschi* (BORISSIAK, 1914), *Paleotragus* sp.

This fauna is typical for the Vallesian in this region of Europe, showing similarities with the ones already reported from Republic of Moldova. There, two Khersonian levels were coined: Katerlezskii (lower, part of the “Keinar complex”) and Mitridatskii (upper, in the “Poleshetskii complex”), the last one dominated by fluvial-lacustrine deposits. Crețești-Dobrina 1 could be related to this upper level. In Republic of Moldova, this level is considered as “Late Vallesian, MN 10” (Lungu & Rzebik-Kowalska, 2011). However, according to Vangengeim & Tesakov (2013), it could belong rather to the Early Vallesian (MN9).

Based on these vertebrates, the Khersonian environment in this locality could be interpreted as a savannah-like one, with open grassy areas, but rare trees could be also present. The forested areas were probably common on the fluvial banks. There is no evidence of swamp areas. The climate was warm temperate, but compared to the Middle Sarmatian (Bessarabian) the rainfall decreased.

The bones were accumulated probably by floods, but they were not carried on too long distances. The anatomical connections are rare and refer only to partial skeletons, excepting turtles, where the limb bones and skulls are often preserved. Large mammal remains occur together with medium and even with small vertebrates, indicating that there was no grading process due to the water streams.

Before the definitive burial, at least part of these bones and teeth were exposed to weathering long enough to suffer damages (numerous teeth enamel fragments were detached and buried at small distance of their initial origin, in skulls and mandibles).

Crețești-Dobrina 1 is a very illustrative, outstanding Khersonian locality in Romania and its richness in terrestrial fossils could be compared only to Reghiu and Bacău (both localities with vertebrate assemblages specific to the Khersonian/Meotian boundary time span).

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