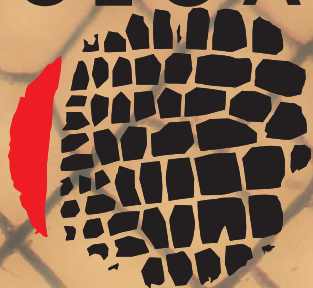


Annual Zoological Congress of “Grigore Antipa” Museum

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of "Grigore Antipa" Museum

**21-23 November 2012
Bucharest - Romania**

Book of Abstracts

Edited by:

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Macro- and micromammal faunas associated with *Mammuthus (Archidiskodon) meridionalis* in the Lower-Middle Pleistocene from Copăceni (Ilfov County, Romania)

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Key words: mammals, mollusks, Lower-Middle Pleistocene.

The fluvio-lacustrine deposits cropping out along the lower course of Argeș River, west of Copăceni, Ilfov County, have yielded a new rich mammalian fauna, as well as numerous mollusk remains, useful for the biostratigraphical assessment of the fossiliferous bed.

The mammal remains can be assigned to proboscideans (*Mammuthus (Archidiskodon) meridionalis* Nesti, 1825), rhinos (*Stephanorhinus etruscus* Falconer, 1868), bovids (*Leptobos vallisarni* Merla, 1949; Antilopinae indet.), cervids (*Psekupsoceros orientalis* Radulesco & Samson, 1967, and another indeterminate smaller cervid), insectivores (*Desmana* cf. *radulescui* Știucă et al., 2003) and rodents (*Trogontherium dacicum* Radulesco & Samson, 1972; *Allactaga* sp.; *Allophaiomys pliocaenicus* van der Meulen, 1974; *Lagurodon arankae* Kretzoi, 1954; *Mimomys savini* Hinton, 1910).

Among the large mammals, the cervids are best represented (more than 22 specimens), most of them being assigned to *P. orientalis* because of the shape and size of the antlers and tibiae. Other cervid remains assigned to the same taxon include a series of cervical, thoracic and lumbar vertebrae.

The proboscidian material assigned to *M. (A.) meridionalis* is also well-represented, including more than 20 specimens (mandible and defense fragments, molars, limb bones and vertebrae).

The rhinocerotid material, belonging to *S. etruscus* is best represented by a right 3rd metacarpus, also including some maxilla fragments.

The bovids include bovine remains assigned to *L. vallisarni* (one horn fragment, a few mandible fragments and one metacarpus), as well as an indeterminate antilopine (one horn).

A rich and diverse microvertebrate assemblage was discovered by the screen-washing of the sediment.

The insectivores are represented by a single P_4 , comparable in size to the species *D. radulescui*.

T. dacicum is represented by a P_4 , showing features typical to Upper Pliocene – Lower Pleistocene beavers.

Among the other rodents, all adapted to steppe and shrub-steppe environments, the most abundant material (more than 30 specimens) belongs to

M. savini, while *Allactaga* sp., *A. pliocaenicus* and *L. arankae* are represented by only a few specimens (1-3).

The large mammal taxa are indicative for the Biharian Stage (Lower-Middle Pleistocene, MN17-MQ18 Zones). This assemblage is comparable to those discovered at Drăgănești-Olt, Tetoiu 2, and Izvoru.

The *M. savini*, *L. arankae* and *A. pliocaenicus* assemblage is typical for the Lower Pleistocene (Biharian/Menapian) faunal complexes from the Lower Danube, Dniester and Don basins, comparable to MmQ-3 Tamanian Complex. A similar micromammal assemblage was also reported from Betfia VII 1-3, in Romania, and from the Taganrog Bay area (Azov Sea), in Ukraine.

The mollusk fauna belongs to the *Unio apscheronicus* (Ali-Zade, 1936) – *Bogatschevia sturi* (Cepalyga, 1972) QM3-QM4 Zones, supporting the Lower Pleistocene age.