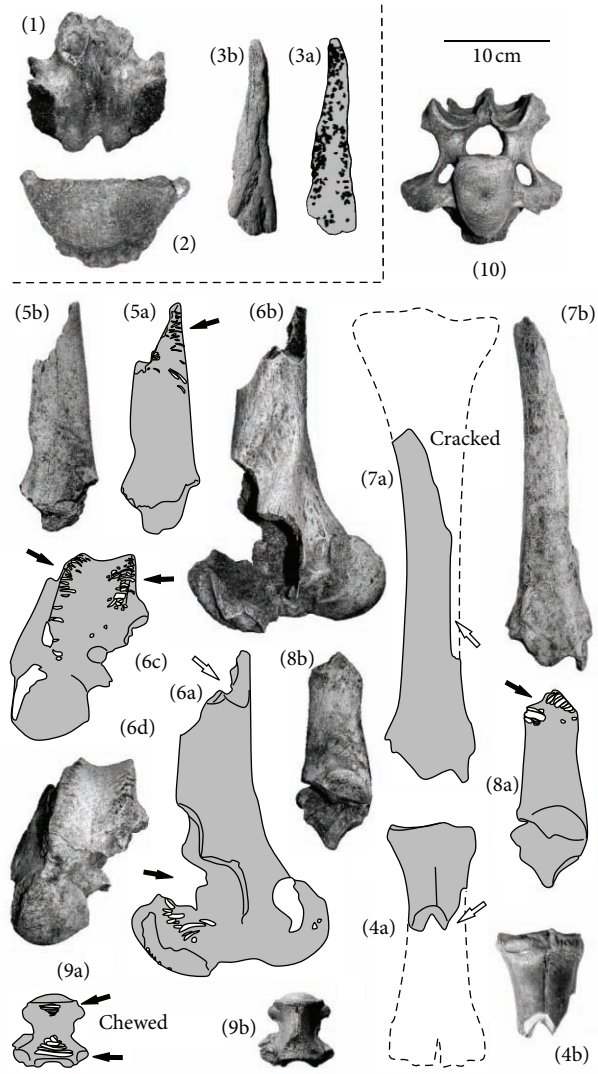


Figure 12: Elephant and bison/bos remains of adult animals from the hyena open air prey deposit site Bad Wildungen-Biedensteg near Hesse (NW-Germany). (a) Redrawing, (b) photo. (1)–(3) *Mammuthus primigenius*. (1) Dorsal vertebra neural arch (no. Bi-52/116), ventral. (2) Thoracic vertebra centrum (no. Bi-52/149), cranial. (3) Long bone fragment nibbling stick (no. Bi-52/222). (4)–(10) *Bos/Bison*. (4) Left metacarpal (no. Bi-10af), cranial. (5) Right femur shaft (no. Bi-10o), lateral. (6) Left distal femur (no. Bi-52/205), lateral, ventral. (7) Right tibia (no. Bi-52/236), cranial. (8) Right calcaneus (no. Bi-52/12), lateral. (9) Thoracic vertebra centrum (no. Bi-52/17), ventral. (10) Middle cervical vertebra (no. Bi without no.).

and one proximally chewed calcaneus (Figure 12(8)) and two femur fragments seem to originate of the rigth hind limb of one animal. Finally, there is one thoracic vertebra centrum (Figure 12(9)) and one cervical vertebra (Figure 12(10)). The processes were chewed, and also some deep scratch bite marks can be found ventrally. All bones belonged to one, or possibly a few adult individuals.

Equus caballus przewalskii Poljakoff 1881 (Figure 13(4)–(15)) consists of 19 bones, of which two are mandible fragments, one cranial fragment and a single tooth, although mainly leg remains are represented (Table 10). The one metacarpus is 236 mm in length and distally 50 mm in width (Figure 13(8)) and falls within the small Przewalskii horse metapodial osteometry (cf. [9–11, 18, 37–44]). The same is for one complete metatarsus (Figure 13(15)) with its 257 mm length and 53 mm distal width. Also, there is the nearly complete lower jaw of a male horse (Figure 13(4)), as well as other small-sized bones from the smaller Przewalskii horse. There are bones from young horses (21%), with all others being from adult individuals (79%).

Megaloceros giganteus (Blumenbach 1799) (Figure 13(1)) was found with only seven bones, including one mandible fragment and three teeth, all from adult animals (Table 11). The material described and figured from Jacobshagen [34] is lost.

Cervus elaphus Linné 1758 (Figure 13(2)-(3)) is present with only two remains (Table 13). From the cranium, a right maxillary fragment with two $M^{1\text{-}2}$ shows the M^2 not in a developed state, although, the M^3 alveolar is opened and the tooth is in change. Another remain is a metatarsus

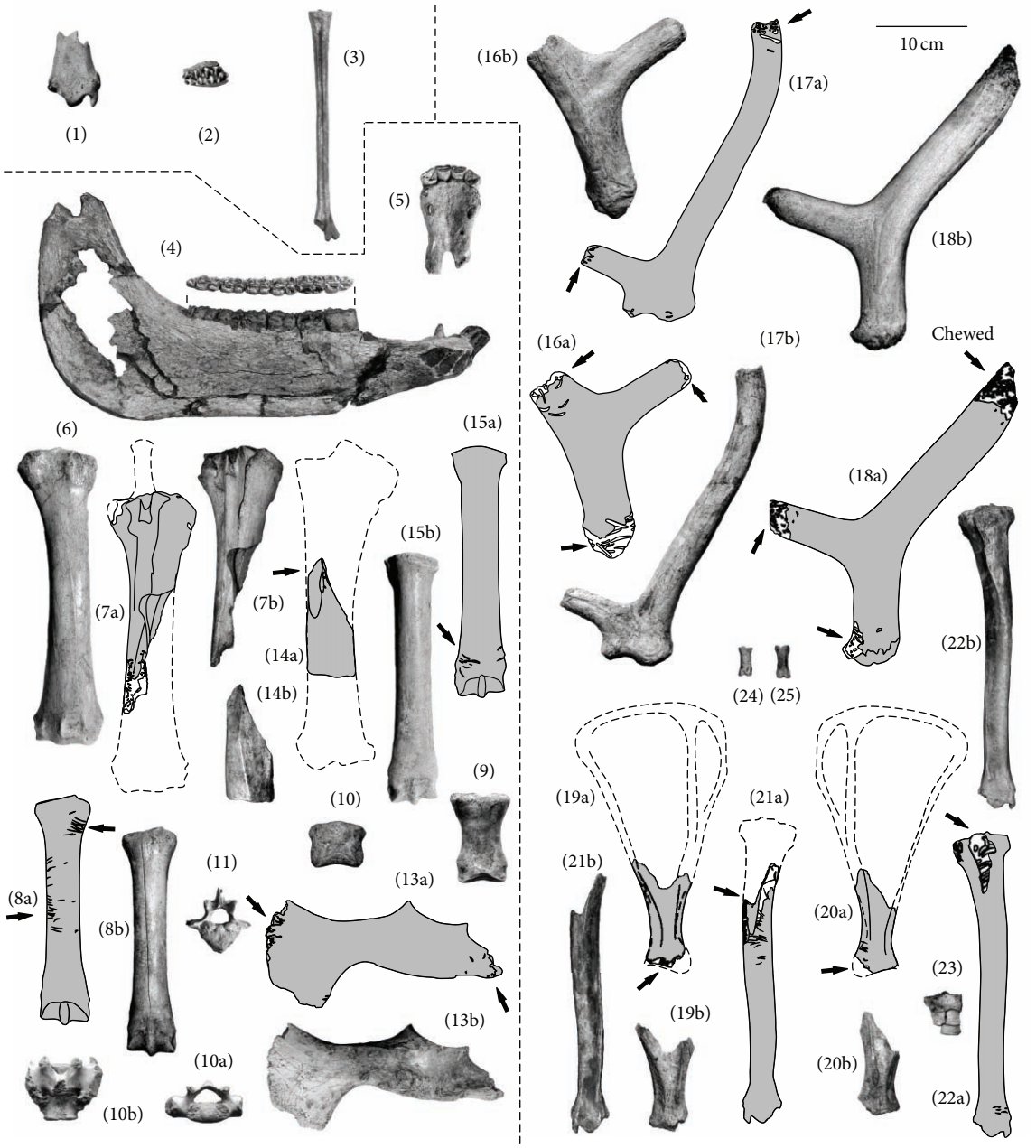


Figure 13: (1)-(2) Cervid and Equiid remains from the hyena open air den site Bad Wildungen-Biedensteg (Hesse, NW-Germany). (a) Redrawing, (b) photo. (1) *Megaloceros giganteus* tibia fragment (no. Bi-52/32), cranial. (2)-(3) *Cervus elaphus*. (2) Maxillary of a young animal (no. Bi-10ep), ventral. (3) Metatarsus of a young animal (no. Bi-52-113-1), cranial. (4)–(15) *Equus caballus przewalskii*. (4) Nearly complete lower jaw with both mandibles from an adult male. This jaw was broken into some pieces as a result of sediment pressure and not of hyena cracking activities (no. Bi-52/204), (a) lateral right mandibula, (b) dentition dorsal. (5) Anterior symphyseal part of a lower jaw from a juvenile less than one-year-old male (no. Bi-52-27), dorsal. (6) Radius/ulna of an adult animal (no. Bi-10aa), cranial. (7) Radius/ulna of an adult animal (no. Bi-52/50), caudal. (8) Metacarpus of an adult animal (no. Bi-52/112), cranial. (9) Phalanx 1 of an adult animal (no. Bi-52/14), cranial. (10) Phalanx 2 of an adult animal (no. Bi-52/78), cranial. (11) Lumbar vertebra no. 4 of a juvenile animal (no. Bi-10eq), cranial. (12) Anterior part of the sacrum of a juvenile animal, belonging to the vertebra of Figure 9 (no. Bi-10ad), dorsal. (13) Right pelvis remain (ileum, ischium) of an adult animal (no. Bi-10i), lateral. (14) Tibia fragment (no. Bi-52/51), caudal. (15) Metatarsus of an adult animal (no. Bi-10lt), cranial. (16)–(25) *Rangifer tarandus*. (16) Antler base of an adult animal (no. Bi-52/41). (17) Antler base of an adult animal (no. Bi-52/40). (18) Antler base of an adult animal (no. Bi-52/33), all craniolateral. (19) Right scapula (no. Bi-52/132), lateral. (20) Left scapula (no. Bi-52/126), lateral. (21) Left tibia (no. BI-52/10), cranial. (22) Right tibia (no. BI-52/151), cranial. (23) Articulated metatarsalia bones (no. Bi-52/115-4, 5, 7, 8), cranial. (24) Forelimb phalanx II of a juvenile (no. BI-52/246), dorsal. (25) Hind limb phalanx II (BI-52/246), dorsal.

Table 5: Bones of *Meles meles* Linné 1758 from the open air site Bad Wildungen-Biedensteg (Hesse, NW-Germany).

No.	Coll.-No.	Bone type	Commentary	Left	Right	Age	Bite marks	Collection
1	10ah	Cranium	Skull with lower jaws			Senile		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
2	BadW-1	Cranium	Skull with lower jaws			Juvenile		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
3	64/1	Humerus	Without joints			Juvenile		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
4	10ap	Humerus	Without proximal joint	x		Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
5	10ao	Ulna	Incomplete	x		Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
6	10av	Ulna	complete		x	Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
7	10aw	Radius	Complete	x		Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
8	52/84	Radius	Without joints			Juvenile		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
9	10ao	Radius	complete		x	Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
10	52/87	Radius	Without joints			Juvenile		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
11	10bd	Pisiform	Complete			Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
12	52/86	Femur	Without joints		x	Juvenile		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
13	52/85	Tibia	Without joints, half	x		Juvenile		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
14	10aq	Tibia	Fragment			Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
15	10at	Calcaneus	Complete	x		Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
16	10an	Calcaneus	Complete		x	Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
17	10ay	Astragal	Complete	x		Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
18	BadW-2	Astragal	Complete		x	Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
19	10qr	Astragal	Complete		x	Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
20	10lm	Intermedium	Complete			Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
21	10bf	Metatarsus	III, complete	x		Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
22	10bb	Metatarsus	V, complete	x		Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
23	BadW-5	Metatarsus	IV, complete		x	Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
24	BadW-6	Metatarsus	III, complete		x	Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
25	BadW-7	Metatarsus	II, complete		x	Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
26	BadW-8	Metatarsus	I, complete		x	Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
27	BadW-2	Phalanx II	Complete			Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
28	BadW-3	Phalanx II	Complete			Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
29	BadW-4	Phalanx II	Complete			Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung

Table 6: Bones of *Mustela putorius* Linnaeus 1758 from the open air prey deposit site Bad Wildungen-Biedensteg (Hesse, NW-Germany).

No.	Coll.-No.	Bone type	Commentary	Left	Right	Age	Bite marks	Collection
1	10bs	Cranium	Nearly complete			Senile		Stadtmuseum Bad Wildungen
2	52/247	Pelvis	Fragment			Adult		University of Marburg

(Figure 13(3)). All remains are from possibly a single calf, approximately 1.5 years old.

Rangifer tarandus Linné 1758 (Figure 13(16)–(25), Table 12) is more common, with 24 remains. The rest of the bone material, such as a right metatarsus, a phalanx 1 and phalanx 2 proximal joint disc, and a right radius distal joint fit in the nonfusing of the joints to one young animal. The dropped antlers are from males and are all from sheds, which must have been collected by hyenas. Similar damages are present on the distal ends where large triangular-oval bite impact marks and elongated scratches indicate large carnivore damage (Figure 13(15)–(17)).

7. Discussion

7.1. The Badger/Fox Types and Den Micromammals and Pellet Accumulators. At open air badger den sites, typically, most skulls and massive long bones were found, although such long-term used badger loess den systems are described [45]. In those, bone accumulations are dominated by skull remains, being figured, for example, for the Schneehalle Cave (South Germany, [46]). Commonly, badgers die in their dens [46–48], explaining their bone accumulations in burrows and caves. The amount of bones, mainly of senile and very young badgers of Bad Wildungen, fit into such a scheme. Bite marks

Table 7: Bones of *Mammuthus primigenius* (Blumenbach 1799) from the open air site Bad Wildungen-Biedensteg (Hesse, NW-Germany).

No.	Coll.-No.	Bone type	Commentary	Left	Right	Age	Bite marks	Collection
1	10ex	Dens	Fragment of lamella			Early juvenile		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
2	52/116	Thoracic vertebra	Neural arch			? Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
3	52/149	Thoracic vertebra	Centrum			? Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
4	52/222	Long bone	Fragment, "nibbling stick"	x		Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung

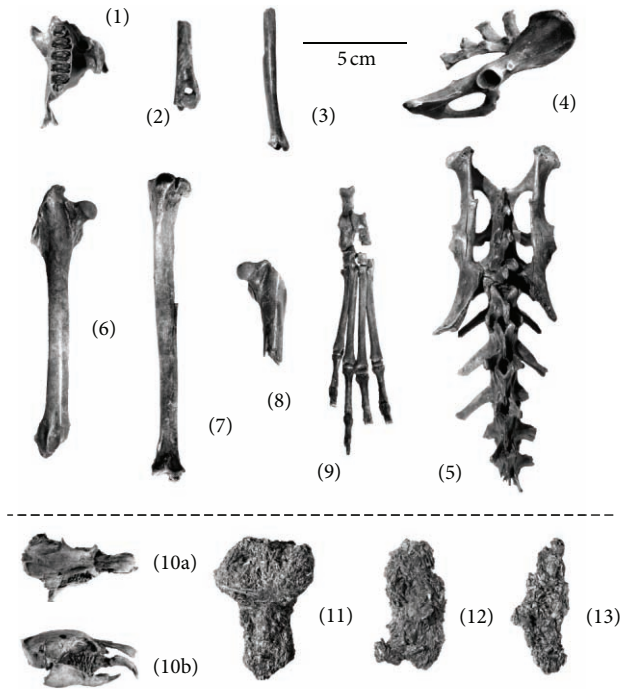


Figure 14: (1)–(9). *Lepus europaeus/timidus* remains from the hyena open air prey deposit site Bad Wildungen-Biedensteg (Hesse, NW-Germany) possibly belonging to one individual. (1) Left maxillary with dentition (no. Bi-63h), ventral. (2) Right humerus fragment (no. Bi-63g), cranial. (3) Right radius fragment (no. Bi-63f), cranial. (4) Pelvis (no. Bi-63a), lateral. (5) Pelvis of Figure 4 with five articulated lumbar vertebrae (no. Bi-63a), dorsal. (6) Right femur (no. Bi-63b), cranial. (7) Right tibia (no. Bi-63d), cranial. (8) Left femur fragment (no. Bi-63c), cranial. (9) Right incomplete pedal skeleton (no. Bi-63e), cranial. (10) *Spermophilus rufescens*, skull with lower jaw (52/257), (a) dorsal, (b) lateral. (11)–(13) Pellets with frog and micromammal remains (Bi-52/243, 52/244, 52/245).

and missing joints in a humerus and tibia might be the result of badger cannibalism [47] or even hyena activities. The skull and postcranial material can be referred to the Asian species *Meles meles* cf. *leucurus* (cf. [49, 50]), and the skull seems to be of male origin (cranial sexual dimorphism; see [51]). This is so far important, because this subspecies seem to have immigrated to Europe from Asia during the Late Pleistocene, where it is nowaday's extinct [50]. The badger, with its diet (cf. [52]), was not responsible for the bone accumulations of medium-sized mammals and anures, or reptiles, but of micromammals (cf. [53]), also at the Bad Wildungen-Biedensteg open sir site.

Foxes (*V. lagopus* and *V. vulpes*) might have reused the badger burrows [48]. Fox bones and skulls are typically found at those fox den sites and would explain, additionally, the presence of smaller mammal fox prey remains, especially hares and the micromammal pellets generally found at modern fox dens (cf. [48]).

Quaternary small mustelids in central Europe are rare in the fossil record outside caves (cf. [54, 55]). Their pellets can contain anure or fish bones. Frog or fish remains from Bad Wildungen seem to be partly of prey deposits of *Mustela putorius*. The small marten type is storing along small rivers or lakes, fishes, frogs, and other animals [48].

A especially high amount of frog bones must have resulted, additionally, from other large water birds and/or other predators which also left pellets and bone remains at the river and along the lake.

7.2. Hyena Population and Cannibalism. The hyena skulls from Bad Wildungen-Biedensteg are from female hyenas which are similar to many other skulls of central Europe (cf. [17]) and are anatomically interesting in their dentition (partly absence of M^1), but fall into the variability of *C. c. spelaea*. A brain case, two incomplete limb bone shafts, a left radius, and a left femur are fitting for a single cub, which are very small in their proportions. They also have bite marks and must have been chewed, as compared to other cannibalistic damaged hyena long bone finds from Europeans caves (cf. [11, 22, 23, 25, 27, 56]). Their proportions fit best for a very young cub, maybe only of a few days or weeks in age, compared to the cub material from the Srbsko-Chlum-Komin Cave, Czech Republic [11]. The young hyena was possibly eaten cannibalistically, possibly by another cub, due to competition (cf. modern African hyenas in [57–59]). All bones of the Bad Wildungen hyena population and even the skulls have nibbling, chewing, and cracking marks of hyenas. The lack of the jugals and temporal parts of the skulls is the result of cracking the lower jaws from their joints, which is demonstrated for many skull finds in Europe (cf. [17]). The scavenging of their own species leaves dominantly cranial remains at not only den sites, such as the skulls, lower jaws, and teeth, but also the long bones (e.g., modern spotted hyenas, [60, 61]). Scavenging of their own is best documented in the Srbsko-Chlum-Komin Cave [11]. The dominance of cranial material at Bad Wildungen hyena den site is comparable not only to the German Perick Caves and Rösenbeck Cave and other Sauerland Karst hyena dens, but also to other caves, such as the Czech Sloup Cave, Výpustek, in the Bohemian and Moravian Karst regions [7, 17, 56]. Vertebrae and rib bones are underrepresented at most hyena den sites (especially at birthing dens and prey storage den types), the exceptions being where complete articulated skeletons are found at prey storage sites, such as were found

Table 8: Bones of *Coelodonta antiquitatis* (Blumenbach) from the open air site Bad Wildungen-Biedensteg (Hesse, NW-Germany).

No.	Coll.-No.	Bone type	Commentary	Left	Right	Age	Bite marks	Collection
1	10ac	Cranium	Middle part with dm^{1-3}, M^1 dentition			Early juvenile	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
2	52/37	Mandible	Milk dentition, with dm_3, M_1		x	Early juvenile	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
3	52/38	Mandible	Milk dentition, with dm_{1-3}, M_1	x		Early juvenile	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
4	Ma 1	Dens	Milk tooth, upper jaw			Early juvenile		University of Marburg
5	Ma 2	Dens	Milk tooth, upper jaw			Early juvenile		University of Marburg
6	Ma 3	Dens	Milk tooth, upper jaw			Early juvenile		University of Marburg
7	Ma 4	Dens	P3		x	Early adult		University of Marburg
8	Ma 5	Dens	P4		x	Early adult		University of Marburg
9	Ma 6	Dens	M1		x	Early adult		University of Marburg
10	Ma 7	Dens	M2	x		Early adult		University of Marburg
11	Ma 8	Dens	M3	x		Early adult		University of Marburg
12	10l	Scapula	Fragment	x		? Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
13	52/20	Scapula	Without distal joint	x		Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
14	52/200	Scapula	Incomplete		x	? Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
15	52/88	Scapula	Fragment			? Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
16	180c	Humerus	Incomplete		x	Adult	x	(Mentioned in [34], missing)
17	10v	Humerus	Incomplete	x		Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
18	52/47, 42	Ulna/radius	Shafts, articulated	x		Juvenile	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
19	52/116, 111	Ulna/radius	Shafts, articulated		x	Early adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
20	52/143	Ulna	Shaft		x	? Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
21	10p	Ulna	Shaft		x	? Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
22	52/53	Ulna	Shaft		x	Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
23	10a	Ulna	Shaft		x	Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
24	52/49	Radius	Without distal joint	x		Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
25	52/44	Radius	Shaft		x	Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
26	52/30	Radius	Proximal joint	x		Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
27	52/224	Radius	Distal joint		x	Early adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
28	10a	Radius	Proximal joint		x	Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
29	52/235	Intermedium	Nearly complete		x	Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
30	52/34	Carpale 3	Nearly complete		x	Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
31	Ma 11	Metacarpale 3	Nearly complete			Adult		University of Marburg
32	Ma 12	Metacarpale 3	Nearly complete			Adult		University of Marburg
33	52/101	Phalanx	Complete			Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
34	52/43	Femur	Shaft	x		Juvenile	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
35	52/153	Femur	Shaft, fragment	x				Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
36	10ab	Femur	Incomplete		x	Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
37	10ea	Femur	Shaft	x		Early adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
38	10aya	Femur	Shaft	x		Early adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
39	52/228	Patella	Complete		x	Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
40	52/7	Tibia	Incomplete		x	Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
41	52/201	Tibia	Without proximal joint		x	Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
42	10c	Tibia	Incomplete	x		Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
43	52/9	Tibia	Without proximal joint		x	Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
44	10t	Tibia	Without proximal joint		x	Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
45	52/4	Fibula	Distal joint	x		Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
46	52/16	Fibula	Shaft	x		Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung

Table 8: Continued.

No.	Coll.-No.	Bone type	Commentary	Left	Right	Age	Bite marks	Collection
47	10f	Calcaneus	Incomplete		x	Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
48	10g	Astragalus	Incomplete		x	Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
49	52/140b	Metatarsus	III, complete		x	Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
50	Ma 13	Metatarsale 2	Proximal joint			Adult		University of Marburg
51	Ma 14	Metatarsale 3	Nearly complete			Adult		University of Marburg
52	Ma 15	Metatarsale 4	Nearly complete			Adult		University of Marburg
53	52/48	Pelvis	Incomplete	x		Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
54	52/82	Pelvis	Incomplete		x	Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
55	52/13	Pelvis	Ilium, fragment	x		Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
56	10e	Pelvis	Incomplete	x		Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
57	52/9	Cervical vertebra	Atlas			Early adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
58	52/1	Cervical vertebra	Axes			Early adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
59	52/11	Cervical vertebra	No. 3			Early adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
60	52/18	Cervical vertebra	No. 5			Early adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
61	52/107-1	Cervical vertebra	No. 6			Early adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
62	52/107-2	Cervical vertebra	No. 7			Early adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
63	52/107-3	Thoracic vertebra	No. 1			Early adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
64	10m	Thoracic vertebra	No. 2			Early adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
65	10j	Thoracic vertebra	No. 3			Early adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
66	52/152	Thoracic vertebra	Centrum, No. 4			Early adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
67	52/108-1	Thoracic vertebra	No. 6			Early adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
68	52/1808-2	Thoracic vertebra	No. 7			Early adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
69	52/108-3	Thoracic vertebra	No. 8			Early adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
70	52/108-4	Thoracic vertebra	No. 9			Early adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
71	10l	Thoracic vertebra	No. 18			Early adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
72	10h	Lumbar vertebra	No. 1			Early adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
73	10r	Lumbar vertebra	Neural arch			Early adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
74	52/3	Costa	Fragment			?	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
75	52/5	Costa	Fragment			?		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
76	52/156	Costa	Fragment			Early adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
77	52/58	Costa	Anterior, 2, distally incomplete	x		Early adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
78	52/57	Costa	Middle, approx. 6 to 8	x		Early adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
79	52/52	Costa	Middle, approx. 4–6		x	Early adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
80	52/15	Costa	Middle, approx. 7–9	x		Early adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
81	52/100	Costa	Anterior, approx. 2–3		x	Early adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
82	52/3a	Costa	Anterior, approx. 3-4		x	Early adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
83	10q	Costa	Anterior, approx. 4–6	x		Early adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
84	10v	Costa	Anterior, approx. 3-4	x		Early adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
85	10ad	Costa	Posterior		x	Early adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung

at the Czech Výpustek Cave, Koněprusy Cave and Srbsko-Chlum-Komin Cave [9, 40].

7.3. Hyena Den Type and Recycling of Badger/Fox Dens. Hyena dens are identified starting in the Pliocene to Middle Pleistocene (e.g., [12, 62, 63]). In the Late Pleistocene the hyena den site record is much higher (e.g., [3–6, 8, 17, 64–66]) and more details about the "den type" can be studied. The large bone enrichment at Bad Wildungen was already identified as a product of the activities of *C. c. spelaea* [35]. The comparison of different Late Pleistocene *C. c. spelaea* hyena cave and open air den sites in Europe allows a classification of the den type, by separating three main age classes: (1) cubs, (2) adolescents, and (3) adult-senile individuals (Figure 15). The high presence of cubs indicates, similarly as in modern spotted hyenas [57, 67–69], birthing dens. Other

Table 9: Bones of *Bison priscus* (Bojanus 1827) from the open air site Bad Wildungen-Biedensteg (Hesse, NW-Germany).

No.	Coll.-No.	Bone type	Commentary	Left	Right	Age	Bite marks	Collection
1	/	Dens	M1, upper jaw					(Mentioned in [34], missing)
2	/	Dens	M1, lower jaw					(Mentioned in [34], missing)
3	/	Scapula						(Mentioned in [34], missing)
4	BadW-9	Scapula	Proximal half			Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
5	10af	Metacarpus	Proximal joint	x		Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
6	/	Carpale 3 + 4						(Mentioned in [34], missing)
7	52/205	Femur	Distal joint and shaft fragment	x		Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
8	10o	Femur	Shaft		x	Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
9	10k	Femur	Distal joint, fragment		x	Adult	x	Stadtmuseum Bad Wildungen
10	52/236	Tibia	Without proximal joint		x	Adult	x	Museum Korbach, (Stadtmuseum Bad Wildungen)
11	52/12	Calcaneus	Nearly complete		x	Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
12	52/17	Thoracic vertebra	Centrum			Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung

Table 10: Bone material list of *Equus caballus przewalskii* Poljakoff 1881 from the open air prey deposit site Bad Wildungen-Biedensteg (Hesse, NW-Germany).

No.	Coll.-No.	Bone type	Commentary	Left	Right	Age	Bite marks	Collection
1	52/221	Mandibula	Nearly complete	x		Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
2	52/27	Mandibula	Anterior part, male			Juvenile		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
3	52/203	Cranium	Occipital, fragment					Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
4	52/147	Dens	C, male			Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
5	52/50	Ulna/radius	Incomplete		x	Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
6	10aa	Ulna/radius	Nearly complete		x	Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
7	52/112	Metacarpus, length = 236 mm, distal width = 50 mm	Nearly complete	x		Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
8	52/155	Metacarpus	Distal joint	x		Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
9	52/14	Phalanx 1	Complete					Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
10	52/78	Phalanx 2	Complete					Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
11	10lt	Metatarsus, length = 257 mm, distal width = 53 mm	Complete		x	Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
12	52/51	Tibia	Fragment				x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
13	52/28	Pelvis	Fragment, ilium	x		Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
14	10i	Pelvis	Fragment, ilium		x	Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
15	52/131	Cervical vertebra	Fragment, neural arch			Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
16	52/202	Cervical vertebra	Fragment, neural arch			Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
17	10eq	Lumbar vertebra	No. 4, without processi			Juvenile	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
18	10ad	Pelvis	Sacrum, incomplete			Juvenile	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
19	52/157	Costa	Fragment				x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung

indicators for such birthing dens are "nibbling sticks." At Bad Wildungen there are three such chewed bone fragments: one of a mammoth, whose bone fragments are found at birthing dens [70] for teething purposes of hyena cubs [7]; the other nibbling sticks are from *Coelodonta* and *Ursus* bone fragments. These birthing dens are generally recycled from medium-sized carnivore, such as porcupines, or by hyenas own excavated burrows, which can be situated nearby commuting dens (cf. modern in [71]). Bad Wildungen must have also been this type of den, where higher amounts of prey remains were accumulated, or even stored (prey storage den type). Similar large bone accumulations at commuting den sites have been reported in Africa from *C. c. crocuta* (cf. [61, 68, 71–81]).

Table 11: Bones of *Megaloceros giganteus* (Blumenbach 1799) from the open air site Bad Wildungen-Biedensteg (Hesse, NW-Germany).

No.	Coll.-No.	Bone type	Commentary	Left	Right	Age	Bite marks	Collection
1	/	Mandibula	Fragment with M1–3		x			(Mentioned in [34], missing)
2	/	Dens	P1, upper jaw					(Mentioned in [34], missing)
3	/	Dens	M2, upper jaw	x				(Mentioned in [34], missing)
4	/	Dens	M3, upper jaw	x				(Mentioned in [34], missing)
5	/	Cervical vertebra	Atlas					(Mentioned in [34], missing)
6	/	Cervical vertebra	Axes					(Mentioned in [34], missing)
7	52/32	Tibia	Distal joint		x	Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung

Table 12: Bones of *Rangifer tarandus* Linné 1758 from the open air site Bad Wildungen-Biedensteg (Hesse, NW-Germany).

No.	Coll.-No.	Bone type	Commentary	Left	Right	Age	Bite marks	Collection
1	/	Dens	—					(Mentioned in [34], missing)
2	/	Dens	—					(Mentioned in [34], missing)
3	52/40	Antler	Dropped antler with base, fragment	x		Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
4	52/41	Antler	Dropped antler with base, fragment		x	Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
5	52/33	Antler	Dropped antler with base, fragment	x		Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
6	52/132	Scapula	Incomplete		x	Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
7	52/126	Scapula	Incomplete	x		Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
8	52/115-1	Ulna	Proximal joint			Juvenile		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
9	52/115-3	Radius	Distal joint		x	Juvenile		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
10	52/115-4	Radiale	Complete		x	Juvenile		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
11	52/115-5	Intermedium	Complete		x	Juvenile		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
12	52/115-8	Carpale	Complete		x	Juvenile		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
13	52/115-7	Carpale 4	Complete		x	Juvenile		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
14	52/117	Metacarpus	Distal joint			Juvenile		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
15	52/52	Pelvis	Acetabulum, fragment			Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
16	52/57	Pelvis	Acetabulum, fragment			Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
17	52/115-2	Phalanx 1	Without proximal joint, forelimb			Juvenile		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
18	52/115-6	Phalanx 2	Proximal joint, forelimb			Juvenile		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
19	52/74	Tibia	Fragment, distal			Juvenile		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
20	52/151	Tibia	Nearly complete		x	Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
21	52/10	Tibia	Without proximal joint	x		Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
22	10lz	Phalanx 1	Without proximal joint, hind limb			Juvenile		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
23	52/246	Phalanx 1	Without proximal joint, hind limb			Juvenile		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
24	4.4/54	Phalanx 1	Complete			Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung

7.4. Hyena Den Marking. In most cases, pellets of the Late Pleistocene spotted hyenas have repeating shapes, which were found recently at several reported den sites [3, 5–7, 11, 22, 41, 82]. Exact documented excrement markings on a gypsum karst open air den were recently published at the site Westeregeln, Central Germany [9]. A first terminology was published for the pellet shape types [44]. The hyena pellets from Bad Wildungen fall within the hyena pellet shape types. Several smaller pellets are attached to each other, forming spindle-like, or irregular accumulated aggregations, similar to modern African spotted hyena excrements [9]. Modern spotted hyenas are using faecal pellets to mark their territory, especially their den sites [83]. The Ice Age spotted hyenas must have done the same. Well documented examples are found in Germany at two open air sites: Bad Wildungen-Biedensteg [35] and the gypsum karst site Morschen-Konnefeld [84]. Similar abundant pellets are found in caves of France [6] and Czech Republic [5].

7.5. Bone Assemblage and Fauna Statistics. The high amount (10%) of hyena bone remains is typical for Late Pleistocene hyena dens (e.g., [8, 11, 65, 66]).

A high percentage of hyena prey bone remains at the site Bad Wildungen-Biedensteg (Figure 16) do not represent the real percentages of the prey. It is more demonstrated, for example, at other hyena open air sites, as a result of taphonomy and selection [9]. The bones of the woolly rhinoceros are extremely massive, and, in contrast to nearly all other large

Table 13: Bones of *Cervus elaphus* Linné 1758 from the open air site Bad Wildungen-Biedensteg (Hesse, NW-Germany).

No.	Coll.-No.	Bone type	Commentary	Left	Right	Age	Bite marks	Collection
1	10ep	Cranium	Maxillar, with M1-2		x	Juvenile		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
2	52-113-1	Metatarsus	Without distal joint		x	Juvenile		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung

Table 14: Bones of *Lepus* sp. from the open air site Bad Wildungen-Biedensteg (Hesse, NW-Germany).

No.	Coll.-No.	Bone type	Commentary	Left	Right	Age	Bite marks	Collection
1	98	Cranium	Brain case, frontals, parietals, incomplete			Adult		University Marburg
2	14	Cranium	Maxillar	x		Adult		University Marburg
3	63h	Cranium	Maxillar		x	Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
4	12	Mandibula	Incomplete	x		Adult		University Marburg
5	11	Mandibula	Incomplete		x	Juvenile		University Marburg
6	63g	Humerus	Half, from skeleton		x	Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
7	63f	Radius	Half, from skeleton		x	Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
8	15	Radius/ulna	Without joints		x	Adult	x	University Marburg
9	63b	Femur	Distal joint incomplete, from skeleton		x	Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
10	63c	Femur	Half without distal joint, from skeleton	x		Adult	x	Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
11	10	Femur	Without joints	x		Juvenile		University Marburg
12	63d	Tibia	Proximal joint incomplete, from skeleton		x	Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
13	9	Tibia	Without proximal joint		x	Juvenile		University Marburg
14	13	Tibia	Without middle shaft		x	Adult	x	University Marburg
15	63e	Pes	Nearly complete articulated, from skeleton		x	Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
16	52-105c	Calcaneus	Complete		x	Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
17	3	Pelvis	Fragment, acetabulum	x		Adult		University Marburg
18	5	Pelvis	Fragment, acetabulum	x		Adult		University Marburg
19	52/10	Femur	Incomplete	x		Juvenile		University Marburg
20	52/248	Lumbar vertebra	Incomplete			Juvenile		University Marburg
21	63a	Pelvis and lumbalvertebra	Articulated from skeleton			Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
22	52/249	Calcaneus	Incomplete		x	Juvenile		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
23	52/252	Pes	Incomplete, articulated	x		Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
24	52/253	Metatarsus IV	Complete	x		Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
25	52/254	Astragalus	Complete		x	Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
26	52/251	Metacarpus	3 incomplete			Juvenile		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
27	52/256	Ulnar	2 complete	x	x	Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung
28	52/255	Tarsalia	2 complete		x	Adult		Rudolf-Lorenz-Stiftung

mammal bones, completely filled with the spongiosa. The long bones were difficult or impossible to crack and hyenas always left, in a last stage (stage 3), the bone shaft of long bones or massive bones which are classified in three damage stages [10].

The open air site Bad Wildungen-Biedensteg has delivered only a very few mammoth bones (2% of the prey bones) which are typical at middle high mountainous hyena dens of Europe, where mammoths seem to have been absent or rare [7]. Hyenas specialized there on cave bear scavenging ([42], Figure 16). The amount of Przewalski horse remains (8%) is as usual high. In most open air sites and middle mountainous elevated European caves the small Przewalski horse is the main or second dominant prey (up to 50%; [7, 9–11, 18, 37, 40–44]). If all the small carnivores are excluded from the statistics, then the horse remains represent the second largest prey (cf. [85]). Bones of those horses are recorded with small proportioned forms (see metapod discussion) attributed to *E. c. przewalskii* in Germany or Czech Republic at other hyena den sites of early to middle Late Pleistocene age [7, 85]. Late Palaeolithic archaeological sites have the youngest records from the Late Magdalénian [86] or Epipalaeolithic/Early Mesolithic [87]. Finally, trackways have been described from the German Volcanic ashes of the Laacher Volcano to be of Przewalski horse origin [37, 88]. Additionally, archaeologists have discussed intensive horse figurations in cave and mobile

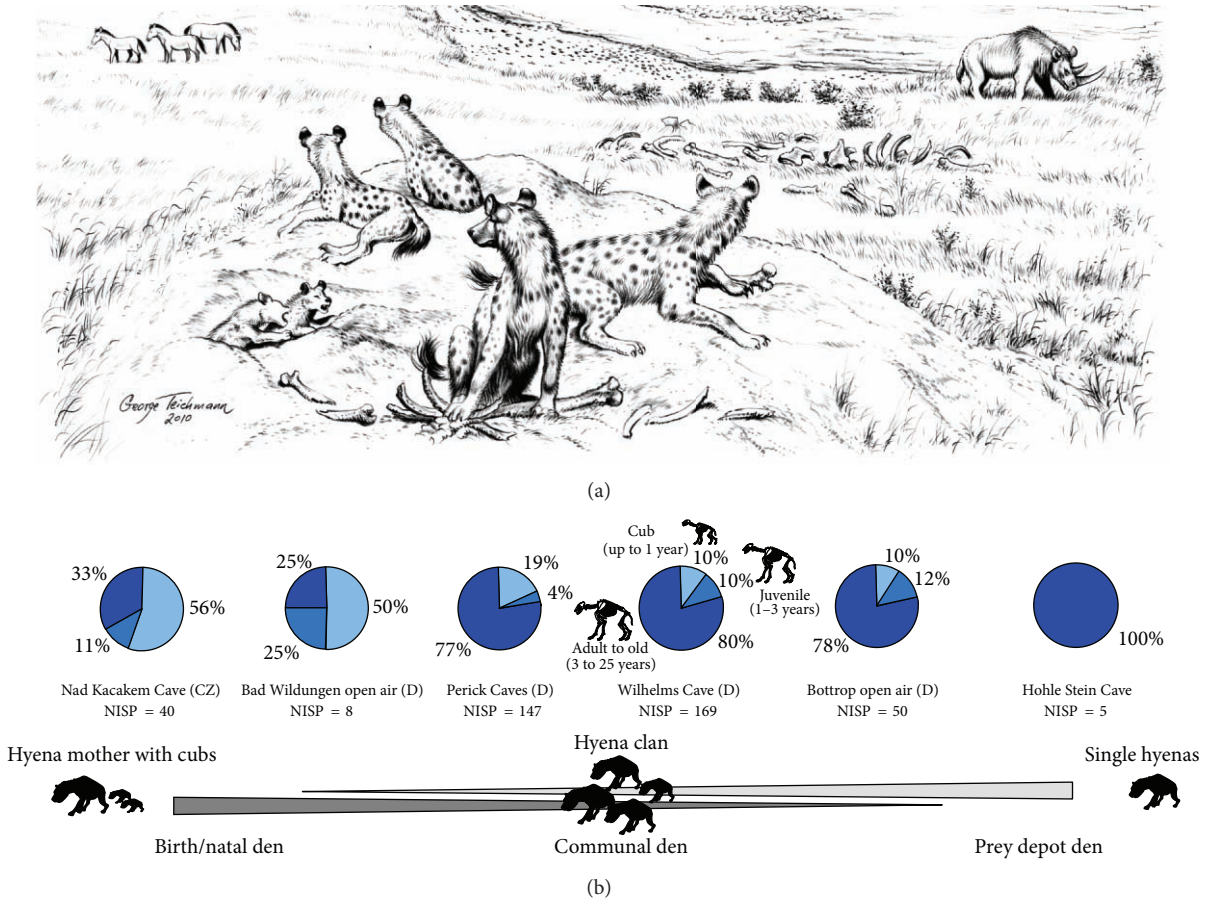
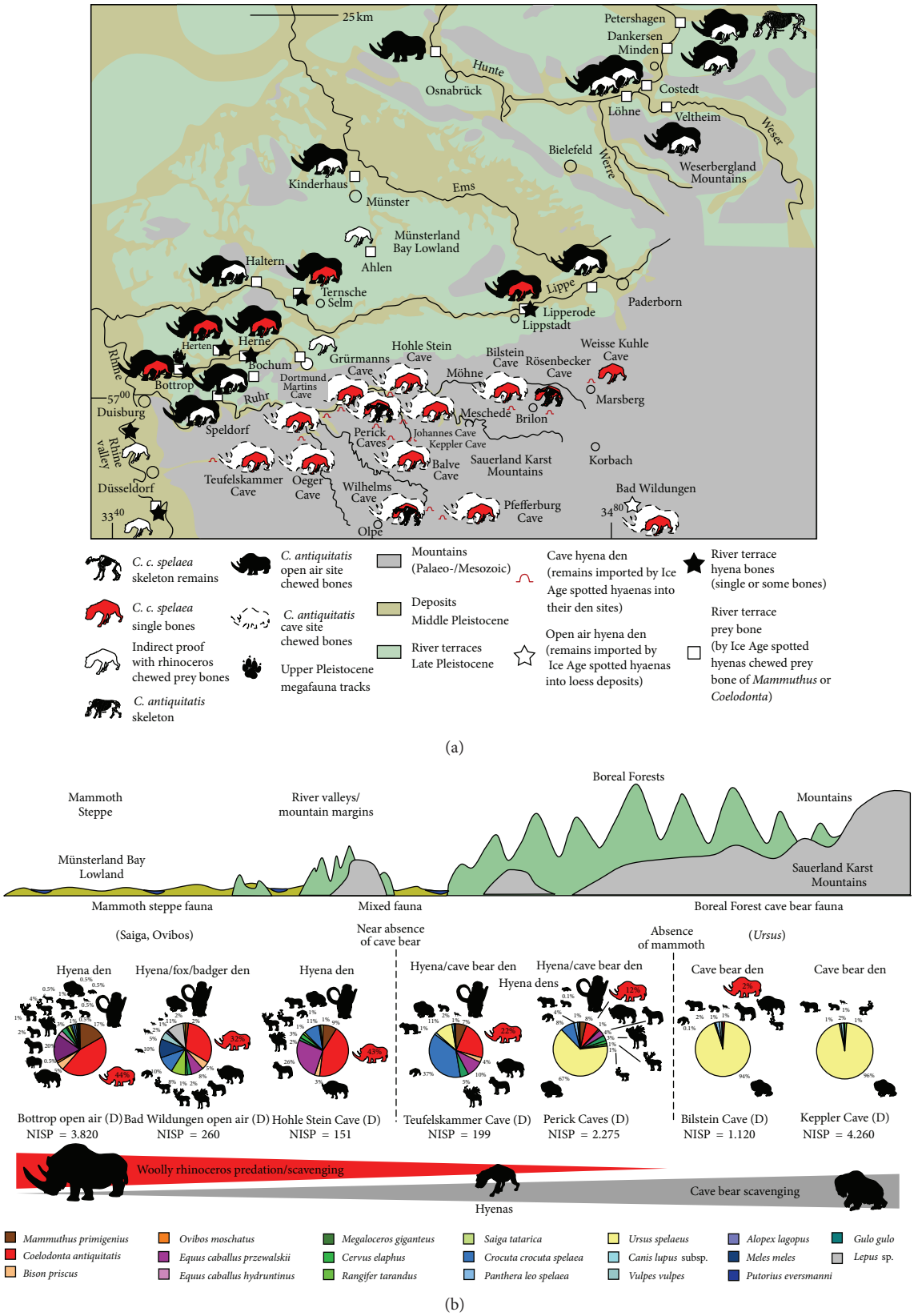


Figure 15: (a) Late Pleistocene spotted hyena clan at the birth/natal den at the open air loess site Bad Wildungen-Biedensteg (Hesse, NW-Germany). (b) Population structure comparisons of hyena den sites of central Europe in which Bad Wildungen falls intermediately within the birth/natal den and communal sites.

art and identified also the horses by the unique "M-sign" (resulting from fur colour and fur change) and "uplifted mane" (only in those horses, not in modern present horses) to represent obviously Przewalski horses within the Late Palaeolithic times (cf. e.g., [86, 89]) and especially within the cold periods of the Late Pleistocene.

7.6. Woolly Rhinoceros as Main Prey for Hyenas. Most remains are from the woolly rhinoceros (32%), which corresponds well to several other northern Germany open air hyena den sites, such as Bottrop, Westeregeln, or cave sites on the mountain slope regions, such as Hohle Stein Cave or Teufelskammer Cave ([9, 10, 22, 82], Figure 16). All bones have medium to massive nibbling, chewing, and gnawing marks, mainly produced by the Ice Age spotted hyenas, as compared to other den sites [10, 91] and modern spotted hyenas [92, 93]. Scratches deep into the spongiosa of the joints are very typical of hyena origin and can be found at many other European open air and cave sites (e.g., [11, 21–23, 25, 29, 40, 41, 82, 94, 95]). The material from Bad Wildungen consists of a few cranial and mainly postcranial bones of at least five woolly rhinoceros individuals. Remains of a young, less than one-year-old calf, a young adult female, and a few remains of a male adult skeleton can be distinguished (Figure 5(b)). Besides those, mainly forelimb bones from some other rhinoceros individuals were found. A comparison to a normal bone proportion relation analyses [10] to the material from Bottrop open air site (Figure 5(a)) shows differences mainly in the thoracic (vertebrae, costae) presence. In Bad Wildungen, those thoracic elements are more abundant, similar to those found on nonscavenged skeletons like the Petershagen skeleton [90], which indicates the scavenging of a carcass very nearby the den.

The presence of a carcass is also demonstrated by the articulated vertebral column (Figure 5(b)). To this, most probably, other elements belong. An originally articulated right hind limb (femur and tibia, astragalus, and calcaneus) or forelimb bones, such an ulna and radius, support the original presence of one animal carcass which was decomposed in parts. Such decompositions could have taken days, such as what is known for Late Pleistocene elephant carcasses [43]. The carcass of the most probable female *C. antiquitatis* must have laid on the right side of her body during main carcass feeding activities, because more bones from that side are preserved. The skull is lacking, but it seems as if all isolated teeth found from the lower jaw indicate the complete destruction of the mandibles by the hyenas. Isolated teeth of woolly rhinoceros are typically at hyena den sites (e.g., [10]).



(a)

(b)

FIGURE 16: (a) Late Pleistocene spotted hyena sites and dens and woolly rhinoceros remains in NW-Germany. (b) "Cross-section" through the mountain boreal forest cave bear dominated bone assemblages to the mammoth steppe lowland faunal assemblages (composed after [9, 10, 22, 82, 90] and new results).

Maybe the skull was cut off by the hyenas or at least destroyed. A few ribs were only cracked, and nearly all are lacking their joints. The long bone joints were not chewed off completely, because of their articulation. This indicates a fresh carcass that was not completely used by the hyenas and was left in an intermediate stage of carcass destruction (cf. Figure 5(a)). After the bone destruction stages, those are in stage 2 sensu Diedrich [10]. The spongiosa remains of woolly rhinoceros were quite often found in the hyena coprolites at the Bad Wildungen-Biedensteg site [35]. The brain case opening of a calf is similarly figured as an adolescent rhinoceros skull from Selm-Ternsche [10], as figured from rhinoceros skull damages from other sites [96].

The finds of juveniles, such as the few-weeks-old rhinoceros (Figures 5(b) and 6), hyena, or the neonate cave bear, fit for the hunting and main activity time of the hyenas at Biedensteg in the late spring and early summer. Other remains of at least four more rhinoceros individuals and other prey remains were imported, possibly from the Ice Age spotted hyenas.

7.7. Hyenas as Cave Bear Scavengers. The cave bear bones might belong to one skeleton of a mature female cave bear [35]. The small diameter, 75 mm, of the scapula glenoid fits for cave bears of the smaller subspecies *U. spelaeus* subsp. of the early/middle Late Pleistocene, compared, for example, to the cave bear population of the Perick Caves in the Sauerland Karst (Figure 1; [97]) or the newer studied cave bear populations and subspecies of the Rübeland Caves [98]. Also, the other bones and femur fragments were compared to some hundred bones from the Perick and Rübeland Caves, all having again smaller proportions, excluding a *U. ingressus* cave bear type of the latest Late Pleistocene. Finally, similarly as figured with the "nibbling stick" in the Perick Caves, some cave bear femora and other bone fragment nibbling sticks are present [70], which only hyenas must have produced by teething cubs (cf. [7]). A scavenging of a cave bear carcass outside a cave is the only clear report of such a scenario [97], but is not exceptional, if compared to the hunting/feeding strategies of the Late Pleistocene spotted hyenas. It is now well known that they scavenged cave bear carcasses in the mountain regions of Europe, such as the Sauerland Caves, the Perick Caves, and Rübeland Caves, and additionally several other cave bear dens all over Europe [42, 70, 98, 99].

7.8. Fauna Biodiversity and Climatic Mammoth Steppe Indicators. The faunal statistics demonstrate (Figure 16(b)) that most megafauna bones from Bad Wildungen are related to be of hyena prey origin. Those represent a mammoth steppe megafauna with *Coelodonta antiquitatis* (cf. [29]), *Mammuthus primigenius*, *Bison/Bos, Megaloceros giganteus*, *Cervus elaphus*, *Rangifer tarandus*, *Equus caballus przewalskii*, and boreal mountain forest fauna of *Ursus spelaeus* subsp. (cf. [35]). Additionally, the pellets include many mammoth steppe environment rodents such as *Lemmus lemmus*, *Dicrostonyx henseli*, *Microtus gregalis*, or *Allactaga saliens* (cf. [33, 34, 100]). Represented are in higher amounts furthermore birds such as *Lagopus lagopus* and other species (cf. [34]).

8. Conclusion

The open air hyena den site Bad Wildungen-Biedensteg (NW-Germany) must have been located at the margin of an ancient small lake and the Wilde River in a mammoth steppe landscape on the eastern slopes of the Sauerland Mountains during the early to middle glaciation (early late Pleistocene or Weichselian, about "65.000–90.000 BP," MIS 5c-d). This shallow lake margin, or at least muddy area, was in the center of a large sinkhole structure, which was caused by subsurface dissolution of Zechstein salt in the underground. The sinkhole received freshwater influence by the early Wilde River, indicated by especially freshwater fish remains, but also some other water related animals such as frogs, which were found accumulated in many pellets. Those are excrements of red/arctic foxes, steppe iltis and large carnivore water birds, or owls. Nearby, a badger/fox den burrow area in loess deposits must have been present, where their bone remains and those of their prey (mainly hare, and micromammals) were accumulated, also in pellets. With Biedensteg, an open air hyena birthing and overlapping communal den with prey deposit can be presented with probably reused badger/red fox burrows for the natal den function. 10% of the NISP are *Crocuta crocuta spelaea* remains, including three grown-up animal skulls, and cranial and postcranial remains of a young cub. Abundant are hyena coprolites (mainly encrusted by caliche), which contain fragments of bones, and most probably quite abundant bone spongiosa fragments from woolly rhinoceros bones. This corresponds to the main hyena prey *Coelodonta antiquitatis* (NISP = 32%). Another main prey is the horse *Equus caballus przewalskii* (8%). This dominance of woolly rhinoceros/horses in the Late Pleistocene bone assemblages in northern Europe was caused solely by those large carnivores and is typical of many hyena open air and cave den bone accumulation sites in northern Germany and Czech Republic (central Europe).

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a newer house construction, where many finds have been destroyed in the late 90s. Finally the author thanks the reviewers, especially Prof. Dr. Müller-Beck, for their supporting critics of the first paper draft. And last, the author would like to thank S. Stevens for the spell check.

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