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K O N I N K L I J K E N E D E R L A N D S E
A K A D E M I E V A N W E T E N S C H A P P E N

**TSIOTRA VRYSSI: A NEW VERTEBRATE LOCALITY FROM
THE EARLY PLEISTOCENE OF MYGDONIA BASIN
(MACEDONIA, GREECE)**

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The Pleistocene vertebrate localities of Mygdonia Basin (Greece) are known since the end of the 1970s. Numerous fieldwork campaigns, carried out by the University of Thessaloniki, led to the discovery of several fossiliferous sites from which a great amount of fossils has been unearthed and studied. During a survey expedition conducted by the University of Thessaloniki and the University of Tübingen in 2014 a new locality –named Tsiotra Vryssi (TSR)– was discovered. The collected material includes the corvid *Corvus pliocaenus* (Aves), the hyaenid *Pachycrocuta brevirostris*, the canid *Canis etruscus*, the rhinocerotid *Stephanorhinus* sp., two species of *Equus*, the bovid *Bison* sp., the cervid *Metacervoceros rhenanus* and the giraffid *Palaeotragus* sp. The locality was further excavated in 2015 and the fauna was significantly enriched by the mammoth *Mammuthus meridionalis*, the bovid *Leptobos* sp., the antelope *Pontoceros ambiguus* and the giant cervid *Praemegaceros* sp. The presence of *Pachycrocuta brevirostris* clearly indicates a late Villafranchian age for TSR, while the presence of two *Equus* species, *Praemegaceros* sp., *Pontoceros ambiguus*, and the co-occurrence of *Leptobos* and *Bison*, suggest that TSR is chronologically intermediate between Gerakarou-1 and Apollonia-1 (Mygdonia Basin), and therefore it can be preliminary dated to 1.8–1.2 Ma. The TSR fauna will provide additional palaeogeographical and palaeoecological information about a crucial time interval for mammal migrations and turnovers, as well as for the first hominin dispersals from Africa to Europe.

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