



A new vertebrate fossil locality on the Scythian Platform, Vaslui County, Romania

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Abstract

Although previously understudied, the Bârlad Sud outcrop has yielded significant paleontological material through sustained monitoring and collecting efforts. Similar to the fossil vertebrate assemblages from the sites at Zorleni and Simila, the fossil record here comprises two distinct components: a Miocene assemblage, characterised by heavy transport-related abrasion and fragmentation, and a Pleistocene assemblage, distinguished by a comparatively high degree of preservation. The Pleistocene mammal fauna indicates an Upper Pleistocene age (Weichsel/Würm glaciation), and includes taxa such as *Bos primigenius*, *Megaloceros* sp. and, *Mammuthus* sp., whose presence reflects open steppe and semi-open habitat conditions associated with the climatic oscillations of this interval. These findings offer valuable insights into the paleoenvironmental evolution of the region and the adaptive strategies of large herbivores during the Late Pleistocene.

Keywords: Upper Pleistocene, *Bos primigenius*, *Megaloceros* sp., *Mammuthus* sp., Weichsel/Würm glaciation.
