

Anancus arvernensis (Proboscidea, Mammalia) from Kallíphytos (Dráma, E. Macedonia, Greece), with a revision of existing samples from Greece

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Anancus, an advanced tetralophodont Old-World Gomphotherid, is the most common non-elephantid proboscidean genus in Pliocene and Early Pleistocene localities of Greece (Doukas and Athanassiou, 2003), but it is known mostly from fragmentary or isolated dental specimens. A new site excavated in 2005 near Kallíphytos (Dráma, Eastern Macedonia) yielded an additional *Anancus* specimen, an almost complete mandible (Fig. 1). The find is brevirostrine, without any indication of tusk presence. It preserves both rami, but lacks its rostroventral part, which has been eroded away. The dentition comprises the left and right third molars (m3). Both consist of five lopheids and a talonid, are rather low crowned and very worn anteriorly. The occlusal surface exhibits clear anancoidy, with alternating labial and lingual semilopheids. Based on its morphological and metrical characters the specimen



Fig. 1. *Anancus arvernensis* mandible with both m3s from Kallíphytos, Dráma, Greece; occlusal view. Scale bar equals 100 mm.

is referred to the species *A. arvernensis* (Croizet and Jobert, 1828). The specimen belongs to the collections of the Archaeological Museum of Dráma, where it is also exhibited.

A similar find of the same species was discovered in early '70s during quarrying works in the Early Pleistocene locality of Sésklo (Magnesia, Thessaly) (Tataris, 1975). The specimen, a complete mandible with both m3s, was described and figured by Symeonidis and Tataris (1983) and it is redescribed here in comparison to the Kallíphytos find. The two specimens are very similar morphologically and metrically and belong to individuals of about the same ontogenetic age, as inferred by the similar dental wear stage.

The Sésklo mandible was found together with a toothless cranial part, which might belong to the same individual. This latter specimen, reconstructed from several broken parts, preserves the right half of the skull, including part of the occipital region and the right tusk alveolus. It is characterised by vaulted dorsal profile, relatively low position of the orbit, and flat occipital. Its large size, as well as the large diameter of the tusk alveolus, indicate that it belonged to a male individual. Both Sésklo specimens are kept in the Museum of Palaeontology and Geology, University of Athens.

References

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