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ABSTRACTS

Hippopotamus (Artiodactyla, Mammalia) and other vertebrate remains from the Kyparissia-T site, Megalópolis, S. Greece

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The Middle Pleistocene lacustrine basin of Megalopolis (Peloponnese, Greece) has produced many fossil sites since 1902, when the first palaeontological excavations were carried out there (BÜRCHNER 1903, MELENTIS 1961). The discovery of new sites was facilitated by the more recent development of open-cast lignite mines in the area. During a palaeoanthropological survey, conducted in 2012 by a joint team of the Ephorate of Palaeoanthropology-Speleology of Greece and the University of Tübingen in the frame of the ERC project PaGE, a new site –dubbed Kyparissia-T– was tracked down at the SW margin of the Kyparissia mine. A section collapse revealed the presence of fossil bones in three closely situated, but distinct levels. The middle level was by far the richest, and yielded mainly *Hippopotamus* vertebrae, costae, and autopodial bones, which may belong to the same individual; however, there is no direct taphonomic indication of an anatomical association. Other finds from the same site include cervid carpal and tarsal bones, turtle shell fragments, and avian bone fragments. The metrical characters of the hippo and deer are consistent with their attribution to *Hippopotamus antiquus* and *Dama* sp. respectively.

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The fossils were found in organic-rich sediments, stratigraphically adjacent to a lignite seam, indicating that they were deposited during a warm and humid (i.e. interglacial) period (VAN VUGT *et al.* 2000), in a richly vegetated environment.

References

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