

## Preliminary Results on the Recent excavations of the Kerassia Locality (Euboea)

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The preliminary results of the systematic palaeontological excavations carried out by the University of Athens near the village Kerassia (Euboea) are discussed in this paper. The history of the research in the area dates back to 1989, when MADE *et al.* gave some first magnetostratigraphic and biostratigraphic data. The exact location and date of the collection is not given. A collection was carried out also by Dr. DE BRUIN in collaboration with Dr. C DOUCAS from Athens University. This material is still unpublished. A number of fossil has been collected by local people and part of it is stored at the village of Kerassia. In 1992 Prof. E. VELITZELOS showed us some rich outcrops at the area. THEODOROU *et al.* (1995) gave a short report on the excavations from 1992-1994 which revealed a rich Neogene mammalian fauna. A lot of material has been collected during the systematic excavations of the following years, a part of which has already been prepared. The big problem of the field and lab work is the very poor condition of preservation and the fragility of the fossils.

The fauna consists mainly of Perissodactyla (Rhinocerotidae, Equidae) and Artiodactyla (Bovidae, Giraffidae). The Rhinocerotidae are represented by the most important specimens, that is two complete skulls, collected from two different fossiliferous lenses, as well as some limb bones. The Equidae material consists of several *Hipparion* tooth-rows and limb bones (sometimes articulated) that will be the subject of a separate paper. The Bovidae are represented by abundant dental material and bones but, curiously, there is not yet any single horn specimen. The Giraffidae material is assigned to the *Helladotherium*. Some specimens of Carnivora (Hyaenidae, Felidae) and Proboscidea are still under preparation.

The excavations will continue this year with the financial support of the General Secretariat for Research and Technology and the Municipalities of the region.

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