

NEW EVIDENCE FOR THE CASE OF PLEISTOCENE MAN OF SARDINIA

By

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The research project in Corbeddu Cave on Sardinia (Italy) serves as a good example of multi-disciplinary cave-research. What started in 1982 as a pure paleontological fossil-collecting expedition developed into a large-scale excavation with a team of paleontologists, sedimentologists, archaeologists and paleobotanists in close cooperation with 14C lab in Utrecht. Not only the fossils and the influence of man on the taphonomy are studied, but also the evolution of the cave itself with its sediments and the development of the surrounding environment.

The Corbeddu Cave yielded a large collection of fossils of the extinct endemic fauna of Sardinia, consisting mostly of the remains of the deer *Megaloceros cazioti*, the ochotonid *Prolagus sardus* and the canid *Cynotherium sardous*. In addition to these known components of the pleistocene fauna, fossils of *Homo* have been found.

In 1993 a testpit was dug to the bottom of the cave to gain more insight in the sedimentology, stratigraphy of the fossil-bearing layers and to give an opportunity to sample a complete section for further palynological analysis. During this excavation the proximal part of human phalanx was found, securing for the first time beyond doubt the presence of man on Sardinia before the end of the Pleistocene.

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