

On the basis of fossil evidence a Middle Pleistocene age has been proposed for this site. The rodent fauna has been compared with the faunas of some neighbouring countries and it has been concluded that it shows most similarity to the Saalian localities from Hungary (Nagyharsanyhegy-6 and Solymar) and Bulgaria (Morovitsa).

This locality is very interesting because it is the first “fissure filling” site of the Pleistocene age in Serbia with small mammal remains. The second important thing is its Middle Pleistocene age – there are many occurrences of Late Pleistocene mammals in Serbia, but remains of Early and Middle Pleistocene age are rare and usually confined to isolated teeth. Many of the mentioned species are reported in Serbia for the first time. So the investigation of this locality will provide us with a better understanding of this period of Pleistocene.

In the preliminary investigations, the age of the fauna from Venčac has been considered as Late Pleistocene, because of morphological similarity between some extant species and their ancestors. An older age can also be rejected, because there are no *Mimomys* remains, while the genus *Arvicola* – a characteristic element of Middle and Late Pleistocene rodent faunas – is present. Unfortunately, remains of this genus are very scarce and poorly preserved, so they could not be precisely identified and assigned to a species.

The future investigations will hopefully reveal more about this very interesting and rich Middle Pleistocene locality.

Regional geology and correlation of the Eastern Circum-Rhodope Belt, Bulgaria-Greece

Bonev N.¹, Magganas A.² and Klain L.¹

¹Department of Geology-Paleontology-Fossil Fuels, Sofia University “St.Kliment Ohridski”, BG-1504, Sofia, Bulgaria, niki@gea.uni-sofia.bg, laslo@gea.uni-sofia.bg

²Department of Mineralogy and Petrology, Faculty of Geology and Geoenvironment, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Panepistimioupolis 15784, Athens, Greece, amagganas@geol.uoa.gr

We review on a regional-scale the distinct units of the eastern Circum-Rhodope Belt (CRB) in Bulgaria and Greece aiming to provide an up-to-date synthesis and correlation. The eastern CRB consists of Early-Middle Jurassic supra-subduction zone Evros ophiolite, the MORB related Late Jurassic Samorthaki ophiolite and Middle Triassic-Jurassic clastic, pelitic, carbonate and Cretaceous (?) flysch sedimentary successions. The Lower Cretaceous shallow-water Aliko Limestone seals part of these sedimentary successions already metamorphosed in greenschist-facies. Bulk stratigraphy in ascending order comprises a metasedimentary series overlain by a metavolcanic series. The metamorphic grade increases towards the high-grade basement northwards reaching upper greenschist to epidote-amphibolite facies, and decreases to very low-grade (prehnite-pumpellyite facies) and non-metamorphic stratigraphically upwards in the section. Trace element and REE comparison of the ophiolite basalts and underlying greenschist-facies metavolcanics of same composition reveals similar geochemistry within the distinct units, implying a regional-scale chemical continuity. The allochthonous eastern CRB units show N-directed internal shear deformation and thrust emplacement, obviously along rarely preserved thrust contacts, and record tectonic overprint by Tertiary collision and extensional tectonics in the region. Collectively, the onshore eastern CRB is a region-wide (180 km long along strike ×80 km wide along meridian) tectonic zone including correlative units with regard to their coherent and comparable stratigraphy, tectonics and geochemistry. These units testify for three paleogeographic domains that include Triassic-Jurassic near Rhodope continental margin shallow-water environment, adjacent to this margin Early-Middle Jurassic intra-oceanic arc system responsible for the generation of the supra-subduction zone Evros ophiolite and related to the ophiolite Middle-Late Jurassic trench-slope environment. Another MORB-related paleogeographic domain is indicated by the Samothraki back-arc ophiolite offshore.