

chersonensis. *Grus pentelici* is also an accepted name for the Pikermi gruiform, even though it is sometimes referred to the poorly defined *Pliogrus*. Most problems concern the taxonomic status of the galliforms. Gaudry (1862-67) recognized two size groups of galliforms, and referred the smaller specimens to *Gallus aesculapii* and the larger to *Phasianus ? archiaci*. *Gallus aesculapii* was included to *Pavo* by Jánossy and was followed by Boev and Boev and Koufos. Mlíkovský combined *G. aesculapii* and *Phasianus archiaci*, introducing the name *Pavo archiaci* adopted also by Boev and Koufos. The latter, also reported the presence of *Pavo bravardi* in Pikermi. Finally, Mlíkovský and Boev and Koufos also reported *Phoenicopterus* sp. in Pikermi.

The new specimens described herein are tentatively assigned to five species. The species recognized in Pikermi include *Struthio karatheodoris* (lateral tarsometatarsal trochlea), *Grus pentelici* (proximal humerus, two distal ulnae), *Pavo archiaci* (proximal femur, distal tibiotarsus), *Pavo* sp. (distal humerus), and *Gyps* sp. (distal ulna). Within the Pikermi findings, *Pavo* sp. is much larger than *P. archiaci*, approaching the size of *P. bravardi*. The recognized Chomateri palaeoavian remains are assigned to *Pavo archiaci* (proximal humerus, distal humerus). Finally Kerassiá-4 has yielded a tibiotarsus assigned to *Pavo archiaci*.

Extant representatives of *Struthio* are adapted to open environments and a similar ecological adaptation can be inferred for *Struthio karatheodoris*. The presence of *Gyps* sp. in Pikermi is important, as scavenging bird finds are relatively rare. Paleoecologically, an open environment is further supported since vultures depend on a large supply of carcasses, a condition met primarily in such environments. *Grus pentelici*, being a wading bird, requires the presence of bodies of water. Extant *Pavo* species live in open forests, often along watercourses, conditions that would have been preferred by the *Pavo* species found in Pikermi, Chomateri and Kerassiá-4.

Deformation phases and ophiolites emplacement in the Hellenides

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The terms ophiolites, ophiolite nappes and ophiolite bearing sedimentary formations in Greece, refer to outcrops of mainly peridotites, but also of basaltic rocks with eventual sedimentary formations. Based on the present-day scientific knowledge, the ophiolites as a whole are characterized by high variability regarding: a) their petrological signature, from their petrography, their mineral chemistry up to their alterations, b) their deformation pattern ranging from plastic to brittle, including both compression and extension phases, c) their emplacement characteristics, involving extensive nappes, lithostratigraphic alternations and melanges. Detailed analysis of a large number of ophiolite outcrops demonstrated their occurrence in different geotectonic conditions (tectonic windows, nappes and clastic sedimentary complexes), in variable geometric forms (isolated bodies, lenses and interlayers), in various composition and deformation configurations (harzburgites, lherzolites, meta-gabbros and amphibolites, basalts and sedimentary formations). The ophiolites experienced a continuous deformation from the Late Jurassic phase (EoHellenic) up to the Eocene-Oligocene alpine orogeny (HoHellenic). Their evolution involved different emplacement mechanisms, producing a significant thickening in the oceanic and the surrounding environments and an extensive thinning in the continental margin environment.