

Communications :

A NOTE ON THE REMAINS OF FOSSIL  
ELEPHANTS PRESERVED IN THE UNIVERSITY  
OF ANKARA

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Some remains of fossil Elephants of the Pleistocene Age are preserved in the Division of Palaeoanthropology of the Faculty of Languages, History and Geography of the University of Ankara. I have thought that it would be worthwhile to report these remains that I am studying, and the places where they were found in a brief note.

AKDOĞAN (ANKARA) — A broken molar tooth was found in the cutting beside the highway, about 150 meters north of the Primary School of the village of Akdoğan which is located nine kilometers to the south-east of Kızılcahamam. Parts of this molar tooth, found in 1957, were collected by Dr. Oğuz Erol and afterwards by me.<sup>1</sup> In the lower part of this cutting, on the western side of the Ankara-Kızılcahamam highway, is seen a layer of clay, with sand and tuff, and at its top there is a layer of conglomerate. The fossil tooth was found in the lower part of the cutting.

This fossil tooth, which in spite of the wear, is clearly seen to be brachyodont, belongs to the genus *Archidiskodon* Pohlig. In addition to brachyodontism, the thickness of its enamel (5 mm. on the average) and the enamel plate frequency of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  for 10 centimeters bring this tooth close to those of *Archidiskodon planifrons* (Falconer and Cautley). However, the incompleteness of the specimen makes a certain specific determination difficult. This fossil tooth belonging to a primitive Elephant of genus *Archidiskodon* Pohlig shows that this cutting on the side of the highway belongs to the Villafranchian stage, that is, to the Lower Pleistocene.

I carried out excavations at a place about 200 meters to the East of the Primary School of Akdoğan, named Kaypak by the villagers, and found some remains of fossil mammals. The fossils are found in layers of yellowish clay, including some tuff, interbedded with some bands of gravel. These layers of clay, which are somewhat earlier than the section on the side of the highway appear to correspond

<sup>1</sup> The fossiliferous beds in the vicinity of the villages of Akdoğan and Üçbaş were discovered in 1957 by Docent Dr. Oğuz Erol. Upon information received from Dr. Erol, I carried out excavations in this region in 1957, 1958 and 1959. I wish to convey my thanks to Dr. Oğuz Erol for informing me of this fossiliferous terrain. Again, on this occasion, I extend my thanks to the Faculty of Languages, History and Geography of the University of Ankara for the grants for the excavations I conducted in the vicinity of the village of Akdoğan.

either to the very beginning of the Pleistocene or to the end of the Pliocene. As the studies I am doing on the fossils I found at this place are not yet completed, it is not possible to give a more precise date at present.

**SİVRİHİSAR (ESKİŞEHİR)** — A fossil tooth collected in 1954 by Mr. Hasan Ayhaner, Principal of the Primary School of Kaymaz, was transferred to our Division by the General Directorate of Museums and Antiquities of the Ministry of Education. According to the information given to me by Mr. Ayhaner this fossil tooth was found in sands between the villages of Nasriye and Selimiye of the District of Sivrihisar.

The fossil tooth found between the villages of Nasriye and Selimiye is a well-preserved molar tooth and belongs to the species *Archidiskodon meridionalis* (Nesti). This fossil tooth, which belongs to a more advanced species than the specimen unearthed at Akdoğan, also belongs to the Villafranchian stage, that is, to the Lower Pleistocene.

**SARAYKÖY (DENİZLİ)** — Fossil remains found in 1954 on the surface at the village of Demirli of the District of Sarayköy, by Mr. Orhan Zaim, then the District Governor at this place, were sent to the General Directorate of Museums and Antiquities of the Ministry of Education and were transferred by the General Directorate of Museums and Antiquities to our Division.<sup>2</sup> The fossil remains found by Mr. Orhan Zaim are molar fragments and again belong to the species *Archidiskodon meridionalis* (Nesti). Thus, the fossil remains found in this region also belong to the Villafranchian stage, that is, to the Lower Pleistocene.

**ALPU (ESKİŞEHİR)** — In 1959 the office of the Governor of Eskişehir had informed the General Directorate of Museums and Antiquities that some fossil remains had been uncovered at Alpu. Upon notification of our Division by the General Directorate of Museums and Antiquities I went to Eskişehir and from there to Alpu.<sup>3</sup> The fossil remains are found in layers of sand and gravel of running-water origin somewhat north of Alpu. The first remains were collected by Mr. Gazi Yeşil, surveyor for the State Water Works and by Mr. Enver Pazarlıoğlu, topographer-draftsman in the same General Directorate. During the brief visit to Alpu I collected a couple of small fragments.

The remains found at Alpu, now preserved in our Division, are molar fragments of a fossil Elephant. The heights of the unworn enamel plates, relative to their widths, are greater than those of *Archidiskodon meridionalis*.

**GAZİ ORMAN ÇİFTLİĞİ (ANKARA)** — In 1958 Mr. Şevket Yavuz had informed Mr. Raci Temizer, Director of the Archaeological Museum of Ankara,

<sup>2</sup> On this occasion I wish to extend my thanks to the General Directorate of Museums and Antiquities of the Ministry of Education for sending the fossil remains from Sivrihisar and Sarayköy to our Division.

<sup>3</sup> The visit to Eskişehir was made on behalf of the Turkish Historical Society. In this connection I wish to extend my thanks to the Turkish Historical Society for providing the necessary grant.

that some fossil remains were found to the west of Ankara, in the vicinity of the Gazi Orman Farm. Upon being notified by Mr. Temizer I visited this location, together with Docent Dr. E. Bostancı. During this visit I saw that some small fragments of the same fossil animal were still standing *in situ*. The fossil remains were found in the gravels of a terrace (second from the floor of the valley) somewhat to the west of the cartridge factory.<sup>4</sup>

The fossil remains found at this site consist of two well-preserved molars and a small fragment of a tusk of an Elephant. The molars are hypsodont and appertain to genus *Elephas* Linnaeus. These molars approach those of the species *Elephas trogontherii* Pohlig in some respects. The *Elephas* teeth found in the vicinity of the Gazi Orman Farm and their specific status will be discussed in detail later on. However, the stage of evolution displayed by these molars indicates that these teeth and the second terrace probably belong to the Middle Pleistocene.

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<sup>4</sup> For the stream terraces around Ankara see Pfannenstiel, M., 1941. (Translated by T. Tansu). Ankaranın Diluvyal moloz-sekileri ve Avrupanın Quartaer Kronolojisine göre tasnifleri. Ziraat Vekâleti Yüksek Ziraat Enstitüsü çalışmalarından, sayı 120. Ankara.; Erol, O. 1956. Ankara güneydoğusundaki Elma Dağı ve çevresinin jeoloji ve jeomorfolojisi üzerine bir araştırma. Maden Tetkik ve Arama Enstitüsü yayınlarından, series D, No. 9, pp. 74 and 90. Ankara.