



New Miocene faunas of terrestrial mammals in Poland

Kowalski, K. 1993. *Microtocricetus molassicus* Fahlbusch and Mayr, 1975 (Rodentia, Mammalia) from the Miocene of Bełchatów (Poland). *Acta Zoologica Cracoviensia* 36, 2, 251–258, 18 text-figs.

Kowalski, K. 1993. *Neocometes* Schaub and Zapfe, 1953 (Rodentia, Mammalia) from the Miocene of Bełchatów (Poland). *Acta Zoologica Cracoviensia* 36, 2, 259–265, 9 text-figs.

Kowalski, K. 1994. Evolution of *Anomalomys* Gaillard, 1900 (Rodentia, Mammalia) in the Miocene of Poland. *Acta Zoologica Cracoviensia* 37, 1, 163–176, 3 text-figs.

Kowalski, K., & Kubiak, K. 1993. *Gomphotherium angustidens* (Cuvier, 1806) (Proboscidea, Mammalia) from the Miocene of Bełchatów and the Proboscidean Datum in Poland. *Acta Zoologica Cracoviensia* 36, 2, 275–280, 3 text-figs.

Rzebik-Kowalska, B. 1993. Insectivora (Mammalia) from the Miocene of Bełchatów in Poland. I. Metacodontidae: *Plesiosorex* Pomel, 1854. *Acta Zoologica Cracoviensia* 36, 2, 267–274, 3 text-figs.

Rzebik-Kowalska, B. 1994. Insectivora (Mammalia) from the Miocene of Bełchatów in Poland. II. Soricidae Fischer von Waldheim, 1817. *Acta Zoologica Cracoviensia* 37, 1, 137–155, 7 text-figs.

Although more than 100 fossil mammal-bearing sites from Pliocene and Quaternary times have been discovered in the territory of Poland, those of the Miocene age have remained scarce. Until recently, only six localities with remains of Miocene terrestrial mammals have been recorded, including Suszec of Early Miocene age and Sośnicowice, Opole 1 and 2, and Przeworno 1 and 2 of Middle Miocene age, all situated in Silesia, southern Poland.

The six papers present the first descriptions of remains of Miocene terrestrial mammals recently collected in a brown-coal mine at Bełchatów in central Poland. The remains come from three accumulations of mollusc shells and mammal remnants deposited in lacustrine limestones intercalated between coal seams. The faunal assemblages have been referred to as Bełchatów C, Bełchatów B, and Bełchatów A. The locality C is placed in the lower part of the Bełchatów stratigraphic profile, the locality B lies in the middle part of the profile, and the locality A is situated in its upper part. A tuffaceous layer lying above Bełchatów C and below Bełchatów B was dated as 18.1 ± 1.7 Ma old. Another tuffite horizon located between Bełchatów B and A was dated at 16.5 ± 1.3 Ma.

The Miocene faunas of Bełchatów are rich in small mammals; remains of large mammals occur only occasionally. The papers describe isolated teeth of the cricetid rodent *Microtocricetus molassicus* (Bełchatów A), the platanthomyid rodent *Neocometes similis* (Bełchatów C and B), the anomalomyid rodents *Anomalomys minor* (Bełchatów C and B) and *Anomalomys gaudryi* (Bełchatów A), the gomphotheriid proboscidean *Gomphotherium angustidens* (Bełchatów C), the metacodontid insectivoran *Plesiosorex germanicus* (Bełchatów B), as well as some soricid insectivorans, including cf. *Florinia stehlini*, *Heterosorex* sp., and an indeterminate heterosoricine of Bełchatów C, cf. *Miosorex* sp., *Dinosorex* cf. *zapfei*, and an indeterminate soricid of Bełchatów B, and cf. *Crusafontina* sp. and *Dinosorex* sp. of Bełchatów A. In addition, provisional lists of rodent, perissodactyl, and insectivoran taxa are provided for the Bełchatów localities.

In terms of the biochronological zonation of the continental Neogene of Europe, the mammal assemblages of Bełchatów correspond to zones MN 4 of the Orleanian age, late Early Miocene (Bełchatów C), MN 5 to MN 6 of the late Orleanian to early Astaracian age, latest Early Miocene to early Middle Miocene (Bełchatów B), and MN 9 of the early Vallesian age, earliest Late Miocene (Bełchatów A).

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