

The first European pit viper from the Miocene of Ukraine

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The first discoveries of European pit vipers (Crotalinae gen. et sp. indet. A and B) are reported from the Ukrainian Miocene (MN 9a) locality of Gritsev. Based on perfectly preserved maxillaries, two species closely related to pit vipers of the '*Agkistrodon*' complex are represented at the site. It is suggested that the European fossil representatives of the '*Agkistrodon*' complex are Asiatic immigrants. Pit vipers probably never expanded into the broader areas of Europe during their geological history.

Key words: Snakes, Crotalinae, migrations, Miocene, Ukraine.

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