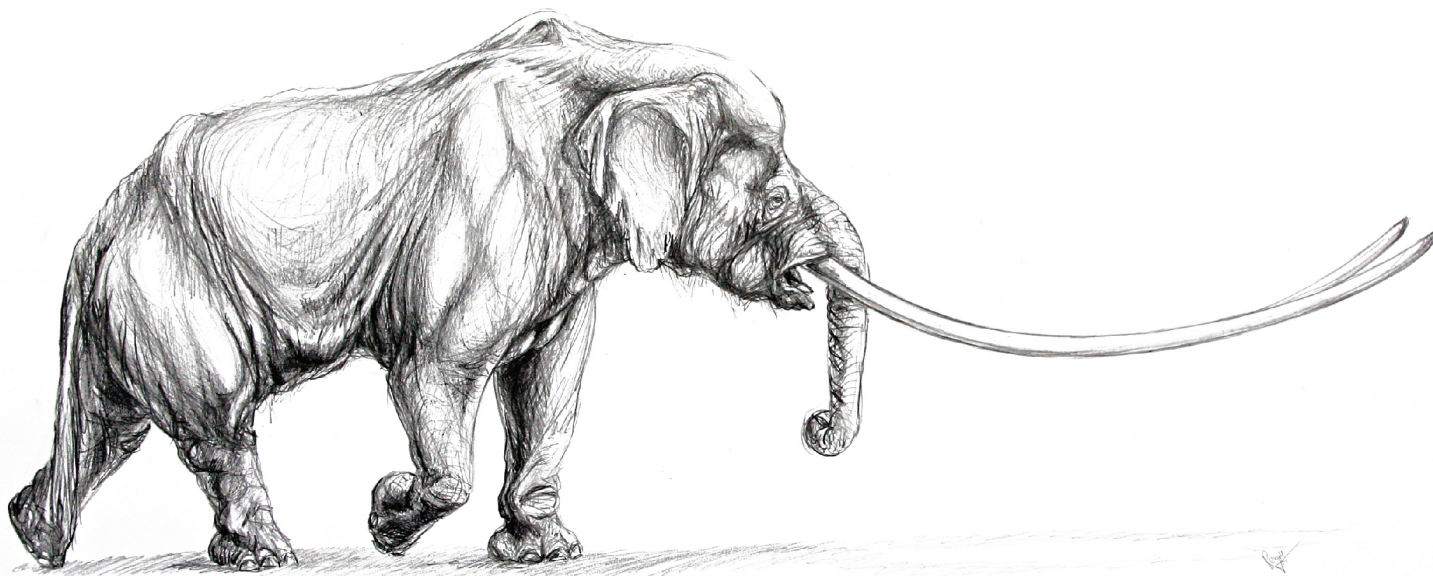




SCIENTIFIC ANNALS of the School of Geology,
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki



SPECIAL VOLUME 102



GREVENA
SIATISTA
GREECE 2014

VIth International
Conference
on Mammoths
and their Relatives

ABSTRACT BOOK

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THESSALONIKI, MAY 2014

Mammoth bone assemblage from Changis-sur-Marne (Paris Basin, France): preliminary results

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In 2012, an accumulation of mammoth bones was discovered in a sand and gravel quarry, located at Changis-sur-Marne (Seine-et-Marne, France), 75 km east of Paris (Bayle et al., 2013). During fieldworks at the Gallo-Roman site at this quarry, first bones were found in a geological test pit. Rescue excavation was conducted during six weeks in order to perform a geological survey, to unearth the bones and record their spatial position, and collect sediment samples. A cast of the surface of the excavated bones was taken.

Bones were found in Pleistocene sandy sediments (late Saalian or Weichselian), within an area of 28 m², most of them were concentrated in 5 m² range. The accumulation occurred in a fluvial environment, on a former bank of the Marne River.



Fig. 1. Central view of the excavated Mammoth bone assemblage, Changis-sur-Marne, France.

Attributed to *Mammuthus primigenius*, the bone assemblage is composed of major skeletal parts: the rostral part of a skull with two molars, the left tusk, the disassociated right tusk and a mandible; vertebrae and ribs; two scapulae; one left hip bone, seven long bones from the fore and rear limbs; and small bones (notably sesamoids) from the distal limbs.

They mainly belong to an adult individual. At least three bones come from another adult.

The thorax and the upper right forelimb were partly found in anatomic position (Fig. 1).

The bone surface is mostly well preserved. Nevertheless, the material was very fragmented by post-depositional taphonomic processes.

In addition, three Palaeolithic flint flakes were found around the mammoth bone assemblage, one of them found very close to the skull remain.

Sediment and bone dating (OSL, ESR and Ur/Th), palaeo-environmental analyses (malacology, palynology, sedimentology, biogeochemistry) and bone conservation are in process.

Current zooarchaeological studies address two issues: the woolly mammoth population in the Marne valley, in regards to the evolution of *Mammuthus primigenius* in Western Europe, and the taphonomic history of the mammoth bone accumulation in a fluvial context with possible human action.

Reference

Bayle, G., Blaser, F., Girod, F., Péan, S., Raymond, P., Wuscher, P., 2013. Le site paléolithique à ossements de mammoth de Changis-sur-Marne (Seine-et-Marne). Actes de la Journée archéologique d'Île-de-France 2012, Cergy-Pontoise, France, 26 janvier 2013. Service Régional de l'Archéologie, Direction Régionale des Affaires Culturelles d'Île-de-France, 17-28.

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Citation:

Péan, S., Bayle, G., Demay, L., Blaser, F., Wuscher, P., 2014. Mammoth bone assemblage from Changis-sur-Marne (Paris Basin, France): preliminary results. Abstract Book of the VIth International Conference on Mammoths and their Relatives. S.A.S.G., Special Volume 102: 154.