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Abstract Book

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Woolly mammoth tusks with abnormal proliferative growth are extremely rare – even more rare than descriptions of them in the scientific literature. From the territory of Yakutia, only two mammoth tusks with such abnormalities have been reported previously; one (ZIN, Nr. 30) is from Bolshoi Lyakhovsky Island, and the other is from from Kotelnyi Island, collected on 02.16.1916 by V.V. Artamonov and now exhibited in the Yakutsk State Museum of History and Culture of the People of the North, named after Em. Yaroslavsky (MYar, Nr. KP 7433, P 167).

Both discoveries were briefly described in prior articles (Vereschagin, 1960; Vereschagin and Tikhonov, 1986; Boeskorov, 2010). The specimen in the Yaroslavsky Museum in Yakutsk is probably a left tusk. Wear that developed during the life of the animal is present on the tip of this tusk, and several convex areas of nodular growths occur on both upper and lower sides of the tusk. On the lateral side, near the base, there is a “digi-form-microtusk” with length 38.9 mm and width 15.7 mm. Surface colors range from beige to brown, and are mostly pale. Virtually the entire surface is smooth and covered with micro-cracks.

In 2013, on the middle branch of the Kolyma River near Irilyah-Siene, a Museum of Mammoth employee found a third abnormal woolly mammoth tusk (MM, Nr 1662) associated with remains of the mammoth fauna. Compared to the other tusks, this one is intermediate in mass and shorter in length, but its maximum width and height are greater (Table 1).

Table 1. Size and weight of abnormal tusks from the territory of Yakutia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specimen</th>
<th>Weight (gm)</th>
<th>Straight Length (mm)</th>
<th>Maximal width at the base (mm)</th>
<th>Height of the tusk (mm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ZIN, Nr. 30</td>
<td>2100</td>
<td>370.0</td>
<td>140.0</td>
<td>75.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MYar, Nr. KP 7433, P 167</td>
<td>4280</td>
<td>401.7</td>
<td>200.0</td>
<td>109.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM, Nr.1662</td>
<td>2920</td>
<td>245.4</td>
<td>216.9</td>
<td>113.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 1. 3D scans of abnormal tusks. A: MYar, Nr. KP 7433, P 167; B: MM, Nr.1662.
References


