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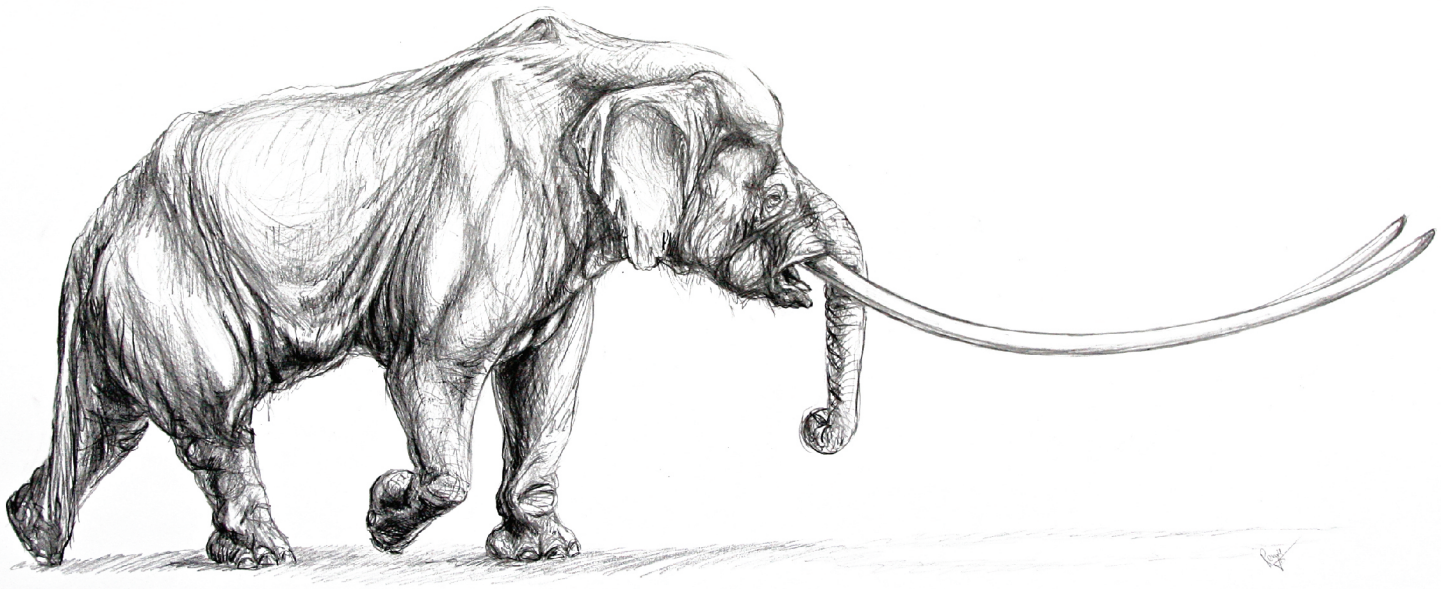

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ABSTRACT BOOK

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Bovidae and Cervidae of the Early Villafranchian site of Milia (Grevena, Macedonia, Greece)

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Since 1996 a large number of isolated skeletal elements of artiodactyls has been excavated from the Aliakmon River sand deposits in Milia fossil site (Grevena, Western Macedonia, Greece), known for the longest tusks of *Mammut borsoni* in the world (4.39 m and 5.02 m) (Tsoukala and Mol, 2010).

Two different families of Early Villafranchian artiodactyls are studied here: the Bovidae with large and small sized species, and the Cervidae. The preliminary study allows us to give a faunal list comprising nine taxa: a new large Boselaphini, *Alephis* sp., Bovini indet., cf. *Procamptoceras*, *Gazella borbonica, Gazella* sp. *Croizetoceros ramosus, Procapreolus cusanus* and a medium sized cervid.

The bovids are more abundant than cervids. The Milia new large Boselaphini is well-distinguished from *Alephis/ Parabos* group (Gromolard, 1980; 1981). The fossil material consists of 234 specimens, teeth, postcranial bones and substantial portions of the cranium with left and right horn-cores (Fig. 1). The horn cores are long and slender, sub-triangular in cross-section, heavily built, and with bone thickness varying between 11 and 18 mm.

Gazella is a widespread genus in Greece (Koufos, 1986; Athanassiou, 1996; Kostopoulos 1996; Kostopoulos and Athanassiou, 1997). *Gazella borbonica* has been described from the MN15 and MN17 zones (Kostopoulos and Athanassiou, 1997; Koufos 2006).

On the other hand, *Croizetoceros ramosus* has been described from Sesklo (MN17) (Athanassiou, 1996), Volakas (MN17), and with the new subspecies *C.r. gerakarensis* from Gerakarou (MN 18) (Kostopoulos, 1996) .

The Milia bovid and cervid association along with the proboscideans (*Mammut borsoni, Anancus arvernensis*), the tapirid (*Tapirus arvernensis arvernensis*), rhino (*Dicerorhinus jeanvireti*), suine (*Sus arvernensis arvernensis*) (Guérin and Tsoukala, 2013), *Agriotherium* sp., and *Hipparion* of *H. crassum* group allows us to date the site in the biozone MN 16 (Earlymost Villafranchian) and to correlate it with Les Etouaires, Vialette (France), Villaroya (Spain) and Montopoli (Italy) (Crégut-Bonnoure, 2007). It is the first time that this biozone is well-documented in Greece.

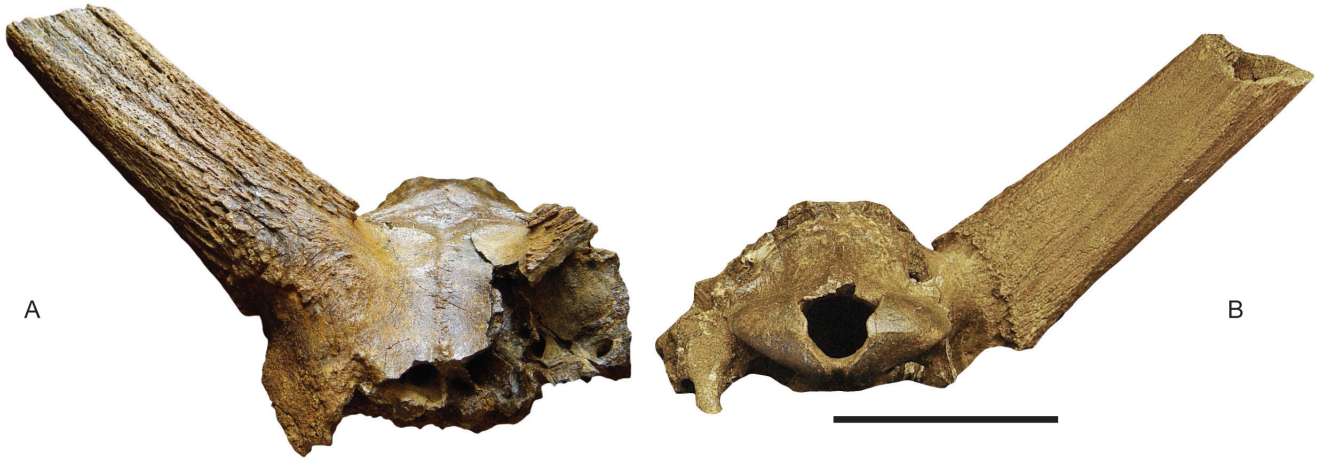

Fig. 1. Milia large boselaphini: Skull MIL 401, **a**, front view; **b**, posterior view. Scale bar equals 50 mm.

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