

Tertiary Avian Localities of Croatia

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Abstract: Only two Tertiary avian localities were found in Croatia thus far.

Key - words: Aves, Tertiary, Miocene, Pliocene, Croatia.

INTRODUCTION

The first Tertiary avian remain found in Croatia was excavated in the 1840s in Radoboj, when that part of Croatia belonged to the Habsburgian Austria. Initially, it was misidentified for a frog, and then described as a finch. It is a bee-eater in fact. The only other record, excavated in the 1960s, is from the Pliocene of Šandalja 1 (see below).

Stratigraphy follows Mein (1990). Museum acronyms are as follows:

IQPGZ: Institute of Quaternary Palaeontology and Geology, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Zagreb, Croatia

NHMW: Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien, Austria.

LIST OF LOCALITIES

(1) RADOBOJ (Radoboj)

Location: near Zagreb, 46.10 N, 15.52 E. Middle Miocene, MN 7 (cf. Bajraktarević 1984, see Mlíkovský 1996).

Avifauna: Partial skeleton of a bee-eater, *Merops* (Mlíkovský 1996), formerly thought to be a passerine bird (Meyer 1850, 1864, 1865). Deposited in NHMW. Type locality of *Fringilla radoboyensis* Meyer 1865.



Fig. 1. Tertiary avian localities of Croatia. 1 – Radoboj, 2 – Šandalja 1. Scale bar = 100 km.

(2) ŠANDALJA 1 – layer 6

Location: near Pula in Istria, 44.52 N, 13.54 E. Late Pliocene, MN 16-17 (cf. Malez 1964, Malez and Malez-Bačić 1974a). Note that layer 9 of the same locality, which is rich in avian remains, is late Pleistocene in age (Malez and Malez-Bačić 1974a,b, Malez-Bačić 1979).

Avifauna: Bones of the Phasianidae (*“Francolinus”*), Columbidae (*Columba*), and Turdidae (*Turdus*) (Malez-Bačić 1979). Deposited in IQPGZ.

DISCUSSION

Croatia is potentially rich in Tertiary birds, but almost no efforts were made to find them so far.

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