

Tertiary Avian Localities of Moldavia

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Abstract: Eleven Tertiary localities are known from Moldavia. They yielded several new avian taxa, mainly of the late Miocene age.

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

INTRODUCTION

The history of Moldavian Tertiary palaeornithology goes back to the 1910s, when V. D. Laskarev (1912) reported on bird bones from the Miocene of Kolkotova Balka near Tiraspol. Much later, V. Ch. Roška (1967) described an avian egg from Varnița near Bendery. Proper research was started only in the 1960s by Leo Chozackij, Ivan Ganea, Evgenij Kuročkin and A. Lungu (Lungu 1966a, b, Chozackij and Kuročkin 1966, Ganea and Kuročkin 1967).

When Moldavia was part of the Soviet Union, Russian alphabet was the official one. However, Latin alphabet was in official use both before and after that period. Hence, I use here Latin spelling of the localities as the standart one. Neogene stratigraphy follows Mein (1990). Museum acronyms are as follows:

GIKM: State Museum of National History, Chișinău, Moldavia

LPUB: Laboratory of Palaeontology, University of București, București, Romania

LPUI: Laboratory of Palaeontology, University of Iași, Iași, Romania

PIN: Palaeontological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moskva, Russia

TGPI: Tiraspol State Pedagogical Institute, Tiraspol, Moldavia

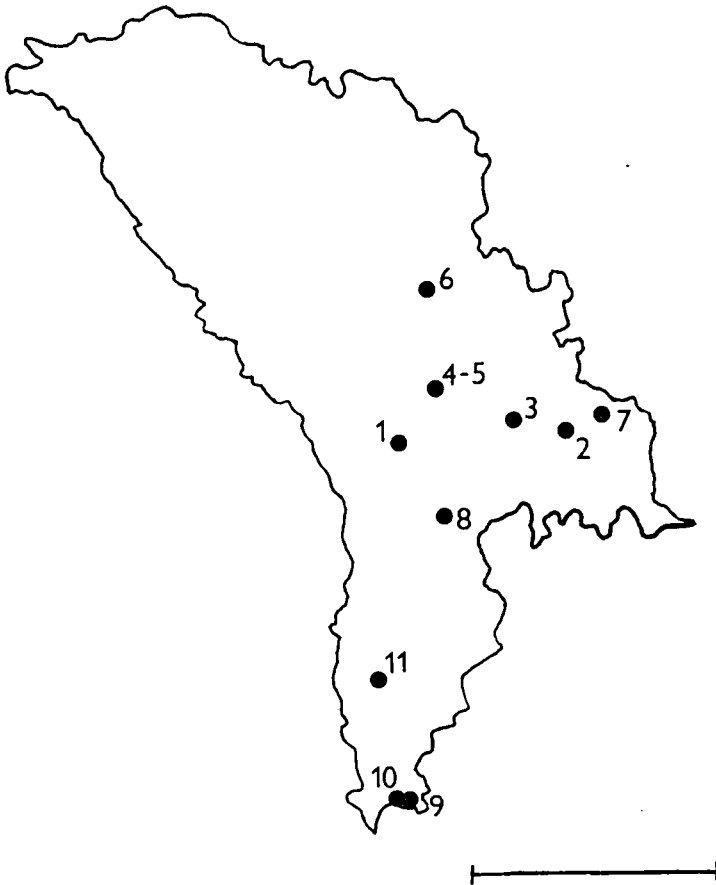


Fig. 1. Tertiary avian localities of Moldavia. The numbering of the localities corresponds with that in the text. Scale bar = 100 km.

LIST OF LOCALITIES

(1) BUJORU (Bužory, Buzhory)

Location: Kotovsk Province. Late Miocene, MN 9 (Mein 1990), or MN 11 (Fejfar and Heinrich 1990).

Avifauna: Bones of the Anatidae (indet.), Accipitridae (*Promilio*), and Rallidae (*Palaeoramides*) (Kuročkin and Ganea 1972, Olson 1977). Deposited in TGPI. Type locality of *Tertiariaporphyryula lungi* Kuročkin and Ganea 1972.

(2) VARNIȚA (Varnica, Varnitsa)

Location: Bendery Province. Late Miocene, MN 9 (cf. Kuročkin and Lungu 1970).

Avifauna: Bones and eggshell remains of an ostrich, *Struthio* (Lungu 1966a, b, Roška 1967, Kuročkin and Lungu 1970). Deposited in TGPI. Type locality of *Struthio orlovi* Kuročkin and Lungu 1970.

(3) KALFA (Novaja Kalfa)

Location: Novye Anceny Province. Late Miocene, MN 9 (Mein 1990).

Avifauna: Bones, attributed to the Ardeidae (*Ardea*), Threskiornithidae (*Plegadis*), Anatidae (indet.), and Laridae (*Larus*) (Ganea 1965, Kuročkin and Ganea 1972). Deposited in TGPI.

(4) GOLBOȚICA (Golbočika)

Location: In Chișinău City, Chișinău Province. Late Miocene, MN ?9 (cf. Kuročkin and Ganea 1972).

Avifauna: Bones of the Phalacrocoracidae (*Phalacrocorax*), Ardeidae (*Ardeagranda*), Anatidae (*Anserobranta*), and Gruidae (*Probalearica*) (Kuročkin and Ganea 1972). Deposited in GIKM (all types), and PIN. Type locality of *Phalacrocorax lautus* Kuročkin and Ganea 1972, *Ardeagranda arborea* Kuročkin and Ganea 1972, and *Probalearica moldavica* Kuročkin and Ganea 1972.

(5) CHIȘINĂU (Kișinev, Kishinev)

Location: Chișinău Province. Late Miocene, MN ?9 (cf. Kessler 1984). It is unknown in which part of the Chișinău City these older collections were excavated. It cannot be excluded that it was at Golboțica (Loc. Nr. 4).

Avifauna: Bones of the Gaviidae (*Gavia*), Podicipedidae (*Podiceps*), Phalacrocoracidae (*Phalacrocorax*), Anatidae (*Anserobranta*, *Dendrochen*), and Laridae (*Larus*) (Macarovici and Oescu 1942, Kuročkin and Ganea 1972, Kessler 1984, 1992). Deposited in LPUB (incl. type of *Gavia moldavica*), LPUI (incl. type of *Podiceps miocaenus*), and PIN (incl. type of *Anserobranta tarabukini*). Type locality of *Gavia moldavica* Kessler 1984, *Podiceps miocaenus* Kessler 1984, and *Anserobranta tarabukini* Kuročkin and Ganea 1972.

(6) POKȘEȘTI (Pokšešty)

Location: Orgeev Province. Late Miocene, MN 9-10 (cf. Michajlov 1988).

Avifauna: Eggshell remains of an ostrich, *Struthio* (Michajlov 1988). Deposited in PIN.

(7) KOLKOTOVA BALKA (Kolkotovskaja balka)

Location: Tiraspol Province. Late Miocene, MN 9-10 (cf. Kuročkin 1981). Michajlov (1988) said that the ostrich eggshell fragments from this locality are Pleistocene in age, which is probably an error in age or in locality.

Avifauna: Eggshell fragments of the Struthionidae (*Struthio*), and bones of the ?Phasianidae (?*Gallus*), and Ergilornithidae (*Amphipelargus*) (Laskarev 1912, Lambrecht 1933: 443, Kuročkin 1981, Michajlov 1988). Deposited in ZINK.

(8) ĆIMIŒLIA (ĆimiŒlija)

Location: ĆimiŒlia Province. Late Miocene, MN 11 (cf. Michajlov and Kuročkin 1988), MN 12 (Fejfar and Heinrich 1990), or MN 13 (Tobien 1981).

Avifauna: Eggshell fragments of an ostrich, *Struthio* (Michajlov 1988, Michajlov and Kuročkin 1988). Deposited in PIN.

(9) ETULIA (Etulija, Etulya)

Location: VulcaneŒti Province. Late Pliocene, MN 16 (Tobien 1981, Fejfar and Heinrich 1990).

Avifauna: Eggshell fragments of the Struthionidae (*Struthio*), and bones of the Phasianidae (*Phasianus*), Gryzajidae (*Gryzaja*), and Otididae (*Otis*) (Kuročkin and Chozackij 1972, Bocheński and Kuročkin 1987a,b, Michajlov and Kuročkin 1988, Michajlov 1988, Mourer-Chauviré 1990). Deposited in PIN. Type locality of *Phasinus etuliensis* Bocheński and Kuročkin 1987a, *Otis khosatzkii* Bocheński and Kuročkin 1987b, and *Otis paratetrax* Bocheński and Kuročkin 1987b.

(10) ĆIŒMIKIOI (ĆiŒmiŒkioj, Chishmikiroy, Tschischmiskioi)

Location: VulcaneŒti Province. Late Pliocene, MN 16 (cf. Bocheński and Kuročkin 1987b).

Avifauna: Bones of a bustard, *Otis* (Bocheński and Kuročkin 1987b). Deposited in PIN.

(11) LUĆEŒTI (LuĆeŒty)

Location: Kagul Province. Late Pliocene, MN 16 (Fejfar and Heinrich 1990).

Avifauna: Bones of a peacock, *Pavo* (Bocheński and Kuročkin 1987a, Mourer-Chauviré 1990). Deposited in PIN. Type locality of *Pavo moldavicus* Bocheński and Kuročkin 1987a.

The Tertiary avian localities of Moldavia belong to two age groups: late Miocene *Hipparion* faunas (Lungu 1966a,b, Kuročkin and Ganea 1972, Ganea 1972), and late Pliocene faunas (Chozackij and Kuročkin 1977, Bocheński and Kuročkin 1987a, b, Michajlov and Kuročkin 1988, Michajlov 1988). None of the localities yielded large numbers of remains, but several new species were described on the basis of them.

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