Greece

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Introduction

The Neogene insectivores from Greece span an interval from Early Miocene to Biharian but certainly do not represent a continuous succession.

The first reference of small mammals in Greece is by Dames (1883), who described Mus [=Parapodemus] gaudryi from the classical locality of Pikermi. The first report of an insectivore is again from Pikermi. Thenius (1952) described a fragmentary mandible with p2-m2 sin., plus an isolated p4 dex. as Galerix exilis. Doukas et al. (1995) referred the specimen to Schizogalerix moeldagensis.

Credit should be given here to Hans de Bruijn (Utrecht University), who was instrumental in promoting small mammal research in Greece. The search and research for small mammals started in earnest in 1970, when De Bruijn started collecting in various localities. This is the reason why part of the Greek material is stored at the small mammal collections of Utrecht University and part at the small mammal collections of the Paleontology Museum of Athens University. De Bruijn, a dedicated ‘rodent man’ himself, recognized the importance of insectivores in the study of small mammal assemblages, and enticed others, including the present author, to work on them.

An effort is made to include here yet unpublished faunas that are in preparation. We feel that this volume is an important work for future references and would be shame not to include faunas that will be published shortly. Therefore provisional fauna lists are given for the localities from Karydia and Komotini (NE Greece), and from the Florina-Ptolemais-Servia basin (NW Greece). The small mammal material of the latter localities, which span from MN13 to MN15, was collected during two campaigns. The first campaign (1976-1977), by a team of Utrecht University, visited only the Ptolemais lignite mines and refers to localities Ptolemais 1, Ptolemais 3 and Kardia. The second one (1994-1998), by the team of the CoMCoM program (Utrecht-Athens), includes except for the localities Vevi and Lava, the Ptolemais lignite field, which is subdivided into the Vorio, Notio, Komanos, and Tomea Eksi mines. Due to unprecedented time control achieved for the study area we can recognize the same strata on these subdivisions. Thus Ptolemais 1 and Kardia (van de Weerd, 1979), correspond to Vorio 1, Komanos 1L, 1H, whereas
Ptolemais 3 (van de Weerd, 1979) corresponds to Vorio 3/3a, Komanos 2 and Tomea Eksi 3. Therefore, the insectivores from the various localities have not been listed separately, but under the heading Ptolemais lignite mines.

The acquisition of the coordinates (GPS) of the small mammal localities was supported by a grant (70/4/6421) of ELKE (Special Research Fund) University of Athens. The acronyms used in this article are:

AMPG University of Athens
CM Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh (PA), United States of America
IVAU Instituut voor Aardwetenschappen (Faculty of Geosciences) Utrecht, The Netherlands
LGPUT University of Thessaloniki.

Insectivore faunas from Greece

MN4

Aliveri

Location – Opencast lignite mine near the village of Aliveri in the Island of Evia [N 38°25’30” E 24°02’20”].

Stratigraphy – Early Miocene.


Taxonomic description – Doukas (1983) described in his thesis (in Greek) all the insectivores. In this paper Plesiodimylus chantrei was described as P. huerzeleri, Heterosorex ruemkeae as Dinosorex huerzeleri and Crocidosoricinae gen. et sp. indet. as Soricidae gen. et sp. indet. Later the emended description was published in English (Doukas, 1986). Reumer (1994) changed the identification of the small shrew to Crocidosoricinae gen. et sp. indet. The shrew was erroneously listed again as a crocidurine in Doukas (2003).

Storage of material – AMPG.

Karydia

Location – Clay pit near (800 m.) the village of Karydia (NE of Komotini, Thrace) [N 40°08’26” E 25°26’].

Stratigraphy – Early Miocene.


Taxonomic descriptions – Doukas (2003) gave a preliminary fauna list, but did not include the small shrew or the dimylid, which is represent by fragmentary material only. Van den Hoek Ostende & Doukas (2003) commented that “the galericine from this locality .... is remarkable in that it has a number of characters in common with Schizogalerix.... Further research is needed to determine in what genus the species should be placed.” A full study of the Karydia insectivores is in preparation by Doukas and Van den Hoek Ostende.

Storage of material – AMPG.

MN 5

Antonios

Location – Macedonia, Chalkidiki Peninsula, 26 km S of Thessaloniki.

Stratigraphy – Karstic fissure in Jurassic-Cretaceous limestones.


Taxonomic descriptions – The material was described by Vassileiadou & Koufos (2005). They listed the mole as Paratalpa/Desmanodon. As Paratalpa is not known any later than MN 2, the identification is here changed into Desmanodon sp.

Storage of material – LGPUT.

Remarks – According to Vassileiadou & Koufos (2005) the locality should be placed near the MN 4/MN 5 transition.

Komotini

Location – Thrace, clay pit 3 km. east of Komotini [N 41°06′37″ E 25°21′30″].

Stratigraphy – Middle Miocene.


Insectivores – Erinaceidae: Schizogalerix sp.

Taxonomic descriptions – The Komotini material will be published together with that of Karydia (Doukas & Van den Hoek Ostende, research in progress).
Remarks – Komotini is, together with Antonios, the only known MN 5 smaller mammal fauna from Greece. The material is, however, scanty and not very well preserved.

Storage of material – AMPG.

MN 7/8

Chrissavgi 1

Location – Clay quarry, 2 km. N. of the village Chrissavgi (N. Greece).

Stratigraphy – Middle Miocene, Late Astaracian.


Taxonomic descriptions – The material was described by Koliadimou (1995) in her PhD thesis.

Storage of material – IGPUT.

MN 10

Kastellios Hill 1

Location – Central Crete, near the village of Kastelliana [N 35°02'42" E 25°15'12"].

Stratigraphy – Marl bed in a section of alternating continental, brackish and marine deposits, Early Tortonian, Late Vallesian.


Insectivores – Erinaceidae: Schizogalerix sp.

Taxonomic descriptions – The presence of this insectivore in Kastellios Hill 1 was never published. It is based on an M2 and M3 in the collections of the IVAU (Van den Hoek Ostende, pers. comm.)

Storage of material – IVAU.

Biodrak

Location – On the left side of the national road Athens-Thessaloniki, 65 km N of Athens [N 38°33'32" E 23°59'59"].
Stratigraphy – Bedded sediments of lignitic clay, Middle Miocene, Vallesian.


Taxonomic descriptions – Rümke (1976) described the fragmentary remains of galericines from Biodrak as Galerix sp. From her description and illustrations it is clear that the material is referable to Schizogalerix. Van Dam (2004) described an m1 of Anourosoricini that fits Crusafontina endemica in size and morphology.

Storage of material – IVAU.

Lefkon

Location – Sand and marls with occasional lignites section, 2 km NW of the Lefkon village (Serrai, N. Greece) [N 41°12’28” E 23°45’57”].

Stratigraphy – Lefkon Formation, Late Vallesian.


Storage of material – IVAU.

MN 12

Pikermi

Location – Attica, lignitic clay pit (Chomateri), about 12 km W of Athens [N 38°01’10” E 23°59’30”]

Stratigraphy – Bedded sediments 12 m above the lens containing large mammals, Late Miocene, Turolian.


Taxonomic descriptions - The first description of an insectivore from Pikermi was by Thenius (1952), who described a galericine mandible as *Galerix exilis*. This specimen was referred to *Schizogalerix moedligensis* by Doukas et al. (1995). All insectivores were described by Rümke (1976), who assigned the galericines to *Galerix moedligensis* and *G. atticus*, for which Pikermi is the type locality. Engesser (1980) transferred the Pikermi species to the new genus *Schizogalerix*, and considered *G. atticus* a junior synonym of *Schizogalerix zapfei*.

It appears that the Greek *Schizogalerix* follow the “Austrian” rather than the “Turkish” lineage (Engesser, 1980; Doukas et al. 1995).

**Storage of material** – AMPG.

**Samos**

**Location** – Silt and clay beds in the Mytilinii formation of the E. Basin of the island of Samos.

**Stratigraphy** – Fossiliferous sediments of the local section S3, Mytilinii formation of the E. Basin, Turolian.

**Literature** – Black et al. (1980).

**Insectivores** – Erinaceidae: *Schizogalerix zapfei* (Bachmayer & Wilson, 1970).

**Taxonomic descriptions** – Black et al. (1980) described and illustrated three galericine molars, and referred them to *Galerix atticus* Rümke, 1976, which is a junior synonym of *Schizogalerix zapfei* (Bachmayer & Wilson, 1970) according to Engesser (1980).

**Storage of material** – CM.

**MN 13**

**Lava**

**Location** – Macedonia (N. Greece), lignite quarry 10 km S of the village of Servia [N 40°14'40" E 22°00'59"][N].

**Stratigraphy** – Open pit lignite mine, Turolian.

**Literature** – Steenbrink et al. (2000).

**Insectivores** – Erinaceidae: Galericini indet. Soricidae: *Amblycoptus* sp.

**Taxonomic descriptions** – The insectivores of the various Florina-Ptolemais-Servia sites are under study by Doukas.

**Storage of material** – AMPG.
**Maramena**

*Location* – Strymon Basin, north of Serrai (Macedonia, N. Greece) [N 41°17'43" E 23°48'38"

*Stratigraphy* – Lignite pit, Turolian.


*Taxonomic descriptions* – Doukas *et al.* (1995) described the whole insectivore assemblage. The desman was already described by Rümke (1985) under the name *Dibolia dekkersi*. Rzebik-Kowalska (2005) argued that the correct name for this species is *Archaeodesmanella* (Terzea, 1980). Meszaros (1997) introduced the genus *Kordosia*, which differs from *Amblycoptus* in the absence of an A3. He suggested that *A. jessiae* should be included in *Kordosia*. However, this character cannot be ascertained in the Maramena *Amblycoptus* material, to our knowledge the largest collection so far available. Therefore, although we do not contest the genus *Kordosia*, we refrain from the suggested generic name change.

*Remarks* – The Maramena insectivore fauna includes the assemblage collected from and referred to as Ano Metochi (Doukas, 1989). The Ano Metochi locality is meters away of the Maramena excavation site and the faunas are considered identical.

*Storage of material* – AMPG.

**Maritsa**

*Location* – Fissure filling in a limestone quarry, 2.5 km. SW of the village of Maritsa (island of Rhodos) [N 36°20' E 28°06'30"

*Stratigraphy* – Deposit in a fissure in Mesozoic limestone.


*Insectivores* – Soricidae: *Asoriculus gibberodon* (Petényi, 1864), *Blarinella* sp.

*Taxonomic descriptions* – All insectivores have been described by De Bruijn *et al.* (1970).

*Remarks* – The Maritsa small mammal fauna was originally assigned to the Ruscinian (De Bruijn *et al.*, 1970). However, based on our current knowledge of Late Miocene
faunas, the rodent assemblage (*Calomyscus, Pelomys*) would rather suggest a Late Miocene (Turolian, MN 13) age.

*Storage of material* – IVAU.

**Monasteri**

*Location* – Strymon Basin, north of Serrai (Macedonia, N. Greece).

*Stratigraphy* – Late Turolian.


*Insectivores* – Soricidae: Soricid gen. et sp. indet.

*Taxonomic descriptions* – The presence of a shrew in the Monasteri assemblage was noted by Doukas (1989).

*Storage of material* – IVAU.

**Silata**

*Location* – Fluvial lacustrine sediments, 1.5 km. NE. of the Nea Silata village (Chalkidiki, N. Greece).

*Stratigraphy* – Successive layers of sands, silts, clays and marls of the Silata Member (Gonia Formation), Late Miocene/Early Pliocene (MN 13/14).


*Taxonomic descriptions* – The small mammals from Silita, including the insectivores, were described by Vassileiadou et al. (2003).

*Storage of material* – LGPUT.

**Tomea Eksi Mine 1, 2**

*Location* – Lignite mine Tomea Eksi, within the lignite fields of Ptolemais [N 40°45’16" E 21°78’45’’].

*Literature* – Unpublished.

*Stratigraphy* – Lignite open pit, Turolian.

Taxonomic descriptions – The insectivores of the whole Florina-Ptolemais-Servia, sites, are under study by Doukas. The desman from Pliocene sites in the Ptolemais lignite mines (Kardia, Ptolemais) was described by Rümke (1985) under the name Dibolia dekkersi. Rzebik-Kowalska (2005) argued that the correct name for this species is Archaeodesmana getica.

Storage of material – AMPG.

MN 14

Ptolemais lignite mines

Location – Lignite mines Komanos, Vorio, Ptolemais 1, and Kardia within the lignite fields of Ptolemais [N 40°48'28" E 21°76'59"].

Stratigraphy – Lignite open pit, Ruscinian.


Taxonomic description – Rümke (1985) described Dibolia dekkersi from Kardia (here listed as Archaeodesmana getica, see Rzebik-Kowalska (2005)), and Desmana verestchagini from both Kardia and Ptolemais 1. The rest of the insectivores are under study by Doukas.

Remarks – The material from several different sites in the Ptolemais lignitic fields is here listed under one heading. The unprecedented time control achieved for the study area makes it clear that all this material is derived from the same stratum.

Storage of the material – The material from Komanos and Voria is stored at AMPG, that from Ptolemais 1 and Kardia at IVAU.

Spilia 0, 1

Locality – Vertical exposure of the Spilia Formation sediments in a stream 10 km. NW of the city of Serres (N.Greece) [N 41°15'10" E 23°46'54"].

Stratigraphy – Succession of sands, marls and occasional lignites in the Pliocene sediments of the Spilia Formation, Ruscinian.


**Taxonomic description** – The small Spilia desman assemblage was described by Rümke (1985). Doukas (1989) noted the presence of a shrew in Spilia 0.

**Storage of the material** – IVAU.

**MN 15**

**Apolakkia**

*Location* – Neogene sediments of the Apolakkia Formation with the site APO2, 5 km. SE. of the Apolakkia village (S. island of Rhodes).

*Stratigraphy* – Succession of clays, marls, lignites, lignitic clays and thin intercalations of siltstone and sandstone of the Apolakkia Formation.

*Literature* – Meulenkamp et al. (1972), Van de Weerd et al. (1982).


**Taxonomic description** – Van de Weerd et al. (1982) described the large and small mammals fauna from Apolakkia.

**Storage of material** – IVAU.

**Vevi**

*Location* – Road cut 300 m. E of the village of Vevi (Florina, N. Greece) [N 40°15’29” E 23°46’59”].

*Stratigraphy* – Clay sediments in a road cut, Ruscinian.


**Taxonomic descriptions** – The insectivores are currently under study by the present author.

**Storage of the material** – AMPG.

**Ptolemais lignite mines**

*Location* – Lignite mines Tomea Eksi 3, Vorio 3/3a, Komanos 2, Notio 1, and Ptolemais 3 within the lignite fields of Ptolemais [N 40°48’28” E 21°76’59”].
Stratigraphy – Open lignite pit, Ruscinian.


Taxonomic description – Rümke (1985) described the desman from Ptolemais 3 as Dibolia dekkersi, which is here listed as Archaeodesmana getica for reasons given in Rzebik-Kowalska (2005). The rest of the insectivores are under study by Doukas.

Remarks – The material listed here comes from several sites in the Ptolemais lignitic mine fields. The unprecedented time control achieved for the study area shows, however, that it is all derived from the same stratum.

Storage of the material – The material from Ptolemais 3 is stored at IVAU; that from all of the other localities listed here at AMPG.

MN 16

Limni 6

Location – Isle of Euobea (Evia), Limni-Istiea Basin.

Stratigraphy – Lacustrine sediments, Early Villanyian.

Literature – Katsikatsos et al. (1981).


Taxonomic descriptions – The only insectivore published from Limni 6 is the desman, which Rümke (1985) described as Dibolia bifida. The remainder of the fauna is unpublished and the listing here is based on the collection in the IVAU.

Storage of material – IVAU.

Tourkobounia 1

Location – Karstic fissures in limestone quarry in the Tourkovounia hill of Athens [N 38°01’05” E 23°58’45”].

Stratigraphy – Fissure filling in Mesozoic limestone.


Insectivores – Erinaceidae: Erinaceus sp. Soricidae: Crocidura sp., Asoriculus gibberodon (Petényi, 1864), Beremendia fissidens (Petényi, 1864).
**Taxonomic description** – Reumer & Doukas (1985) described the insectivore assemblages from the fissures at Tourkobounia.

**Remarks** – Five different fissures from Tourkobounia have been studied, numbered from one (TB1) to five (TB5). The fissure TB1 is in De Bruijn & Van der Meulen (1975) and Reumer & Doukas (1985) listed as Early Pleistocene. Today we consider TB1 as Late Pliocene (MN16). The other fissures are all of Pleistocene age.

**Storage of the material** – AMPG.

**References**


