The rodents of the Pirro Nord fauna
(Foggia, Southern Italy)

by

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with 5 text-figures, 3 tables and 1 plate

Introduction

The fossiliferous karstic fissures outcropping in the Apricena quarrying district are known since the early seventies thanks to a Dutch team led by M. Freudenthal. Later on, during the years, Dutch researchers concentrated mainly on the fauna coming from the Mio-Pliocene infillings, while the microfauna from Pleistocene fissures were investigated by Italian researchers, chiefly a Florence team led by D. Torre and the late C. De Giuli. Small mammals studies were carried out during the eighties (De Giuli & Torre 1984, De Giuli et al. 1987) and provided a preliminary faunal list for rodents. A few years later a detailed paper by Masini & Santini (1991) focused on Microtus (Allophaiomys), the most common arvicolid recovered in the Pirro Nord fissures and allowed a more precise biochronological framing of the associated faunal assemblage. Further data on Microtus (Allophaiomys) from the same location have been presented by Maul et al. (1998), Lippi et al. (1998) and Masini et al. (1998), that revised all the Microtus (Allophaiomys) species at the time available in Italy.