New Neogene and Lower Quaternary vertebrate faunas in Turkey

by

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With 1 Figure and 1 Table


Abstract: During the last few years several localities of fossil vertebrates (macro- and micromammals) were discovered in Anatolia. There are faunas of different ages: Upper Miocene, Pliocene and Lower Pleistocene. The faunal association and their ecologic interpretation is discussed.

Introduction

A successful exploration of the lignite deposits in Turkey was dependent upon elucidating the stratigraphy in the Cenozoic basins of this region. During the reconnaissances made for this purpose within the framework of the lignite programme the field geologists of the working teams paid particular attention to fossil occurrences of all kind. Apart from the lithostratigraphic subdivision of the various basin fills the biostratigraphic one was looked upon as of main interest. The discovery of a great number of hitherto unknown localities of vertebrate faunas was one result of these endeavours. Considering the localities already known to and explored by the Turkish part the positive statement can be made that, according to present knowledge, in the Anatolian part at least the greatest density of localities exists of all Asia. The sorting-out of the material necessary for the age determination of the occurrences was so promising that it was decided to make the recovery an evaluation of further vertebrate remains object of an independent research programme to be executed by quite a great number of experts. Pursuing the programme has been enabled by the generous sponsorship by the "Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft" (DFG), to

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