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# OSTEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION ON SKELETON MATERIAL OF RHINOCEROSSES FROM THE MIDDLE PLEISTOCENE LOCALITY OF MAUER NEAR HEIDELBERG (GERMANY)

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**Key-words** : Rhinocerotidae, *Stephanorhinus hundsheimensis*, *S. kirchbergensis*, Mauer (Germany), Osteology, Middle Pleistocene

The early Middle Pleistocene locality of Mauer near Heidelberg has yielded a rich and diverse faunal assemblage of fossil mammals. About a quarter of disarticulated finds are material of rhinoceroses. Generally, complete and articulate skeleton of European Pleistocene rhinoceroses are rare. In that context, the fossil remains of the nearly 20 m thick fluvial deposits of the Mauer locality gives the opportunity to work on a relatively great number of fossil remains of rhinoceroses, which represents a relatively short geological time span. By using morphological and metric characters of skull, dentition and postcranial bones it is possible to assign the fossil remains of rhinoceroses mainly to *Stephanorhinus hundsheimensis* (TOULA, 1902). The variability of characters in context to the other European Pleistocene rhinoceroses is also analysed. Additionally it is possible to identify – in the case of some specimens of radius, II metacarpal, astragalus and III metatarsal – the species *S. kirchbergensis* (JÄGER, 1839) in Mauer.

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Abstract in:

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