
UPPER PLEISTOCENE CHRONOSTRATIGRAPHY AND PALAEO-HUMAN-OECOLOGY OF THE B'UKK MTS, HUNGARY

Arpad Ringer*¹ and Laszlo Kordos*

¹University of Miskolc – Hongrie

Résumé

Due to the regular cave excavations started in 1906, Northeast Hungary and the B'ukk Mts. within this region became the birthplace of the Hungarian prehistory studies, and additionally of the litho-, bio- and archaeostratigraphy based on cave sediments as well. The first (in the sense of that time) complex chronostratigraphic summary was published in the monography describing the Suba-lyuk Cave from the South B'ukk, and it can be considered as modern up to the turn of the 1960's and 70's years.

László Vértes published in 1959 a paper titled "Untersuchungen an H'ohlensedimenten in Ungarn", distinguishing 15 stratigraphic and climatologic periods in the Late Pleistocene of the B'ukk Mts.

Based on the vertebrate palaeontological studies of Dénes Jánossy (1979), in 1991 László Kordos and Árpád Ringer started to evaluate a modern Upper Pleistocene chronostratigraphy of the mountains.

The correlation of the cave and subaerial sediments was carried on with nearly 25 years of cave and open field excavations made in the B'ukk Mts. region, also revising earlier records mainly from cave explorations. The key site was the Diósgy'or-tapolca Cave in Miskolc with the infill of the cave and the surrounding surface, where subaerial palaeosoils and loess beds were laterally connected with the cave soil beds (H'ohlenb'oden) and the sediments of cooling periods with a loess matrix.

Our presentation introduces a generalized column of the Upper Pleistocene cave and subaerial sedimentary succession of the B'ukk Mts, the characteristics of the palaeosoils and sediments of the 22 warming and cooling climatic periods, fauna and flora of these periods and the coexisting archaeological cultures and their landscape use.

The chronostratigraphy is supported by recently measured radiocarbon-14 dating in collaboration of Marcel Otte, Brian Adams, William Davis and J'urgen Richter.

Mots-Clés: B'ukk Mts., Upper Pleistocene, chronostratigraphy, environment, prehistoric economy

*Intervenant