

PLEISTOCENE RODENTS OF EUROPE

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A b s t r a c t. Fossil remains of rodents are very important for the study of the Quaternary, particularly for indicating the stratigraphic position of the sediments in which they were preserved. They are also useful for the reconstruction of the palaeoenvironment in successive stages of the Pleistocene. In spite of the great progress in the study of fossil rodents in many European countries their distribution in the entire continent was never presented. The paper contains the description of about 700 fossil rodent localities situated between the Atlantic in the west and the Ural and Caucasus Mts. in the east. Besides the continent, British Islands and the islands of the Mediterranean Sea were also included. The faunal assemblages cover the period of about three last million years of the history of the Earth, including – besides the Pleistocene – also the Late Pliocene. For each fossil locality basic data on geology, faunal remains, archaeological material and history of the investigations are given. The list of rodent taxa is given for each locality, as well as a list of references. Taphonomical factors which could be responsible for the changes of the composition of faunal remains were discussed. The list of Late Pliocene and Pleistocene rodent taxa known from Europe contains the data on the distribution of particular species in space and time.

Key words: Rodents, Pleistocene, Europe

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