

ABSTRACT

RECENT DATA ON PALAEOLITHIC HUNTER-GATHERER COMMUNITIES FROM THE CURVATURE CARPATHIANS AREA

This habilitation paper presents the main data resulting from personally coordinated archaeological researches in Palaeolithic sites within the Curvature Carpathians area, since the defending of my doctoral thesis in 2007, until the present day. The paper has three main parts.

First, it presents the *scientific achievements* resulted from my participation to archaeological campaigns, as a member of several research teams on sites such as Poiana Cireşului – Piatra Neamţ, Gura Cheii Cave – Râşnoavei Gorges, Prihodişte Cave – Vaţa de Sus, or as team coordinator on sites such as Malu Dinu Buzea – Întorsura Buzăului Depression, Abri 122, Calului Cave, Ursului Cave – Vârghiş Gorges. All researches benefited both from collaborating with Romanian and European Union museums, universities and institutions, as well as from the involvement of foreign researchers and the participation at national and international scientific symposia. Also, History undergraduate and MA students from the "Valahia" University of Târgovişte contributed heavily to the archaeological researches, through participating in field campaigns and in drafting of the annual research reports and presenting the significant results at national student presentation sessions, thus shaping their future archaeological specialization.

Next, the paper presents personally coordinated archaeological researches and their *results*, concerning Palaeolithic sites such as Malu Dinu Buzea, Costanda Lădăuţi, Chichirău – Întorsura Buzăului Depression, Abri 122, Calului Cave, Ursului Cave – Vârghiş Gorges.

Researches in Buzăului Depression aimed at interpreting the archaeological results through geomorphological data. Within the Malu Dinu Buzea site, we were able to document a significant, horizontal and vertical displacement of the lithic material, which led to previous erroneous interpretation of both occupation layers and cultural framework.

In the Costanda Lădăuţi site ("Borşoşu" point – Barcani), we applied a non-invasive prospection method, namely magnetometry, as a preliminary stage of the archaeological research, with novelty results for a Palaeolithic site.

Researches in the Vârghişului Gorges karst (Harghita Department) provided new significant data concerning Middle Palaeolithic communities in the Carpathians region. C14, IRSL and OSL dating methods outlined a particular timeframe for the human activity in the area, coupled with climatic data derived from macro and microfaunal analysis. Even though

Calului Cave failed in providing new information on Palaeolithic human activity, Ursului Cave offered an important stratigraphic sequence for paleoclimatic evolution. Within the stratigraphical column, we identified a unique (so far) volcanic ash deposit, originating from the one of the MIS 3, 40-45 ka massive eruptions of a Ciomatu Massif volcano.

Finally, the paper includes a *career development plan*, including current scientific and didactic projects, as well as their intended growth through the involvement of future PhD students.