

פרופ' רבקה רבינוביץ
פליאונטולוגיה וארכיאוזואולוגיה

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Paleontology and
Archaeozoology

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Review of the official self-report of RANJAN Pranav Banshidhar thesis, the title: "BIOSTRATIGRAPHIC CORRELATION OF THE PLIO-PLEISTOCENE OF THE SOUTH OF EASTERN EUROPE AND THE UPPER SIWALIKS OF INDIA BASED ON PROBOSCIDEAN FAUNA (FAMILY ELEPHANTIDAE)".

The research on Proboscidean fauna resulting in biostratigraphic correlations never seized to be important and relevant to the evolution of mammals. In particular the Plio-Pleistocene is of great interest as better analytic tools exist, combined with better localities allow a more reliable reconstruction of the biota and its surroundings. In addition, the occurrence of various hominin species makes this era even a more targeted research candidate.

However, the knowledge is not worldwide distributed, due to various historic, political and other reason, same areas are more studied then others. Coupled with language barrier it makes it even less evenly distributed. In this regards this work is of great importance by delving south and eastern Europe in comparison with the Upper Siwaliks of India.

Every student and researcher are familiar with the Siwalik material, as it has remains in many museums and collections in particular in the UK. Though, as the scale of the area is enormous and the stratigraphical sequence is long, we actually know relatively very little. Accordingly, each modern faunal research taking into consideration in detail precise localities in the Siwalik is of great importance.

Including unpublished material from the eastern and south Europe in detailed description is another contribution of this thesis.

The attempt to correlate faunal stages and give them tentatively newer dates is of course a necessity that should be challenged with newer dates and material.

The methods seem adequate and detailed as quite common used by the community working on Proboscideans.

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Following the above I found this work very important and once published, essential to the Plio-Pleistocene faunal studies.

Saying this I must admit that I am afraid that it was difficult for me in the short summary to follow the novel methods that were applied on the tusk and teeth enamel. Due to the shortage of the summary, technical details, photos and etc., were not included, but I have faith that this will be soon publish so it will be possible to apply these new methods to other materials.

I have not seen – again in the summary any consideration to the more recent studies on the genetic data. I assume that in a detailed review of the thesis, this will be taken into consideration.

To sum up, nowadays the articles resulting from a doctoral thesis in per reviewed journals are the way to spread science and I am confident that RANJAN Pranav Banshidhar will do so.

Sincerely yours,

Rivka



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