



9th EAVP meeting – Heraklion, Crete, Greece 14 – 19 June 2011

Organized by:

The Natural History Museum of Crete
& the Netherlands Centre for Biodiversity Naturalis

Host committee: George Iliopoulos, Charalampos Fassoulas, John de Vos, George Lyras, Giannis Zidianakis, Alexandra van der Geer, Dimitris Kostopoulos, Olga Tzortzakaki, Athanassios Athanassiou, Socrates Roussiakis

First circular

Dear Colleagues,

We would like to invite you all to the 9th meeting of the European Association of Vertebrate Palaeontologists (EAVP) that will be held in Heraklion, Crete, Greece from June 14 to June 19, 2011. The venue of the meeting will be the new building of the Natural History Museum of Crete located west of the port of Heraklion (<http://www.nhmc.uoc.gr/portal/eavp/>).

The Natural History Museum of Crete (<http://www.nhmc.uoc.gr/en>) is a relatively new museum that has been operating under the auspices of the University of Crete since 1980. The aim of the Museum is to study, protect and promote the special natural history heritage of the Eastern Mediterranean. The Museum hosts zoological, botanical, palaeontological, geological and mineralogical collections mainly from Crete but also from Greece and the Eastern Mediterranean. Although the vertebrate palaeontology collections are not large and diverse they contain a significant number of Cretan Neogene and Quaternary findings. Among the most outstanding are the specimens of the endemic Middle and Late Pleistocene island fauna of Crete that consisted of dwarf hippos, mammoths (*Mammuthus creticus*) and deer (such as *Candiacervus ropalophorus*), small sized elephants, giant mice (*Kritimys catreus* and *Mus minotaurus*) and several raptors, most of which are part of the Kuss collection recently given to the museum by the Natural History Museum of Karlsruhe. However, the most outstanding finding and central exhibit of the museum is the almost complete skeleton of one of the largest *Deinotherium giganteum* that has been found to date from the early Turolian of Eastern Crete which bears the longest ever found deinotherium tusks (1.5 m long).

Heraklion is the capital of Crete Island and the 4th largest city of Greece. It has a long history ranging back to Neolithic times, but it is mostly known for the ancient Minoan Palace of Knossos that is situated in close proximity to the city. Important features of the city are also the Venetian walls that surround the old city and the city centre. The Island of Crete is a well known summer destination, famous for the beautiful beaches, the impressive high mountain peaks, the numerous

canyons, the good Cretan food, the Folk music, the local alcoholic beverage raki, and of course for the Cretan hospitality.

If you need more information about Heraklion and Crete you may check the following links:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heraklion>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crete>

Topics

This meeting, as all the previous EAVP meetings, follows the general objectives of the association to promote and encourage communication and collaboration as well as to bring together the Vertebrate Palaeontology community of Europe with the organization of such a meeting in a different country every year. Delegates are invited to provide oral and poster presentations that cover all aspects of Vertebrate Palaeontology. In addition, we welcome suggestions for one or two workshops that would take place during the meeting.

General assembly

The annual meeting of the EAVP members will take place on Thursday 16th of June and the participation of all members is considered essential as a new board has to be elected in 2011.

Preliminary Programme

Tue June 14th: Arrival, registration and icebreaker party at the museum

Wed June 15th: Registration, scientific presentations, poster session, board meeting

Thu June 16th: Scientific presentations, general assembly, auction

Fri June 17th: Scientific presentations, poster session, conference dinner

Sat June 18th: Field trip to Katharo Plateau

Sun June 19th: Visit to the archaeological site of Knossos

Field Trips

1. Sat June 18th: Katharo Plateau (8:00 – 20:00)

The fieldtrip will start with a visit at the Prassas section. The site is known for the abundance of Late Pliocene fishes. Then we will drive all the way up to Katharo Plateau.

The Katharo Plateau is situated at a height of 1,100 m above sea level. There are no permanent residents on the plateau and only a few scattered buildings are found. The plateau is marginally cultivated and extensively used by shepherds. During the winter, however, the plateau is uninhabited and mostly unused as it is covered by snow. Katharo is the most famous locality of the Cretan dwarf hippos. The site, due to its location, is not exactly the place where one would expect to find hippos. The fossils are found all over the plateau, but at a particular site (Digenis Anaspa) a very rich assemblage with articulated elements has been found. Apart from the hippos, sporadic remains of deer and elephants have been found as well. The fossiliferous deposits have been dated from 850,000 to 375,000 years B.P.. After our visit to the actual fossil sites we will have lunch in one of the three small tavernas on Katharo, which serve mainly to the local farmers and shepherds. The menu will include: stew of feral goat with potatoes, grilled lamb chops, paximadia (twice-baked bread, softened with water and seasoned with olive oil and herbs), local hard cheese and Cretan olives.

2. Sun June 19th : Archaeological site of Knossos palace (9:00 – early afternoon)

If you are interested you may join us to a visit at the archaeological site of Knossos palace. The site is situated just outside the city of Heraklion, 15 minutes drive from the city centre. Knossos was the biggest and richest city of the Minoan civilisation and the palace of Knossos is considered as the cultural centre of the Minoans. The Bronze Age Minoan civilization flourished from approximately the 27th to the 15th centuries BC. The downfall of the Minoan civilization is connected with the eruption of the Santorini volcano around 1450 BC. For more information check <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knossos>. A visit to the local archaeological museum could follow.

Technical information

Posters size should not exceed 84 cm wide x 118 cm high (A0 portrait format). Presenters are requested to hang their poster at the beginning of the meeting, or during coffee breaks, so that the posters will be available during talks, coffee and lunch breaks. There will be two formal poster sessions of one hour, for which the presenting authors are asked to be present. Specific instruction for preparation of posters will be given in the second circular.

Oral presentations must be given using MS-Office Power Point or Open Office Impress. If you are using an Apple Mac, then please bring your own adapter. The duration of each presentation is scheduled for 20 minutes, including 5 minutes for discussion.

Abstracts

Talks and poster offers should be accompanied by a short abstract (no more than 250 words). Abstracts will be published in a conference book, which will be printed for distribution to all participants during the meeting. The abstract volume will also be available later on the EAVP homepage. Abstracts should be sent electronically to George Iliopoulos (iliopoulosg@upatras.gr) as a .rtf or .doc file.

All abstracts must be submitted in English. Each abstract should describe the content of the presentation and should be concise, technically accurate, and well written. The maximum length of the abstract text is one A4 page and must include the abstract title, authors' names and affiliations. Grayscale figures with captions, diagrams, tables, and graphs are possible, but must fit on the same A4 page as the rest of the abstract.

Abstracts will be proofread by the meeting organizers, and in case of necessary changes, will be sent back to the authors for approval.

Further instructions will be sent with the 2nd Circular.

Proceedings Volume

The managing editor of "Palaeobiodiversity and Palaeoenvironments" offered to the EAVP the possibility to publish contributions of the meeting in a special issue of the journal. All participants are invited to submit papers related to their talks or posters. Further instructions will be sent with the 3rd Circular. Please indicate in your registration form whether you wish to provide short papers for such a conference proceedings volume or not.

Important dates

February 2011: 1st Circular and registrations opening

March 2011: 2nd Circular and call for conference abstracts

April 30th 2011: End of registrations

May 15th 2011: Deadline for abstract submission

June 1st 2011: 3rd Circular and final conference program

Registration fees

It is required to pay the 9th meeting fee in order to attend the conference. The field trip and the conference dinner are optional.

| | Student EAVP members | EAVP members and non EAVP students | Non EAVP members |
|--|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 9th EAVP meeting (incl. abstract volume) | 30€ | 40€ | 60€ |
| Conference dinner | 30€ | | |
| Fieldtrip to Katharo (incl. Field guide book and lunch in tavern) | 55€ | | |

Payment

Two payment modes are possible:

- 1) Cash payment during registration at the entrance of the museum.
- 2) Bank check to the following account:

ATE Bank

IBAN: GR33 0430 8340 0031 9010 5176 783

BIC: ABGRGRA

Transport

You can reach Heraklion either via Athens International Airport or by a direct flight from most European countries' main airports. Tickets for these flights can be easily obtained from online booking sites or local travel agents.

Heraklion Airport access

The airport of Heraklion is situated about 4 km from the city centre. There is a regular bus service between the airport and the city centre; a ticket should be bought before entering the bus and costs about 1 €. A taxi to Heraklion takes 10-15 minutes and costs approximately 15 euros.

Ferries to Heraklion

Nowadays most visitors come to Crete directly by plane. There is, however, the alternative option to take a ferry. From Athens Airport you get the respective bus service or the underground that will take you to the port of Piraeus. Regular ferryboat services are provided between the port of Piraeus (Athens) and Heraklion. In addition, ferries are operated between Heraklion and Santorini, Ios, Paros, Mykonos, Peloponnesus and Rhodes.

Hotels and Accomodation

There are more than 15 hotels near the Natural History Museum of Crete. Their rates range from 40 to 200 euros per day. A list with specific hotels and their rates will be provided with the 2nd circular and will be announced soon on the webpage of the meeting.

Check the web page of the meeting for more information and updates (you can find it at the bottom of every page)

Web page: <http://www.nhmc.uoc.gr/portal/eavp/>

Registration Form
9th EAVP Meeting – Heraklion, Crete, Greece
14 – 19 June 2011

Please return this registration form before the 30th of April to: iliopoulosg@upatras.gr

Name

Institution

Postal address

Email

1. Status/Payment for:

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Student EAVP member | 30€ |
| EAVP member/Non-EAVP student | 40€ |
| Non EAVP member | 60€ |

2. Do you want to provide a presentation? Y/N

Oral presentation, Title:

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Poster, Title:

.....

3. Do you intend to join us at the Icebreaker party? Y/N

4. Do you plan to attend the conference dinner? (30€) Y/N

Any special dietary requirements or preferences.....

5. Do you plan to attend the field trip on Saturday? (55€) Y/N

6. Do you plan to attend the visit to the archaeological site of Knossos on Sunday? Y/N

7. Do you plan to provide a short paper of your presentation for a separate conference proceedings volume that will be published in a special issue of Palaeobiodiversity and Palaeoenvironments? Y/N

Finally, do you wish to pay by bank transfer or cash?

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The bank account details are:

ATE Bank

IBAN: GR33 0430 8340 0031 9010 5176 783

BIC: ABGRGRA

Web page: <http://www.nhmc.uoc.gr/portal/eavp/>