

Early Pliocene arvicolid faunas from Eastern Europe

ALEXEY S. TESAKOV

Geological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, Pyzhevsky per. 7, Moscow 119017, Russia
tesak@ginras.ru

The Lower Pliocene (Ruscinian) vole record of Eastern Europe is limited in comparison to that of the later Pliocene interval, the Villanyian. Most Ruscinian arvicolid finds come from the southwestern part of Eastern Europe. The materials at my disposal, which had already been briefly reviewed (VANGENGHEIM et al. 1995; PEVZNER et al. 1996), indicate a succession of arvicolids with an increasing

degree of hypsodonty and morphological differentiation. The detailed analysis of this material documents the early radiation and gradual evolution of mainly endemic lineages of *Pliomys* and *Dolomys*.

The studied succession can be divided into several intervals, separated by considerable temporal gaps, as presented in the following table:

Biostratigraphical interval	relevant sites (palaeomagn. interval)	significant taxa
Early Ruscinian (MN14a)	Novaya Andriashevka	<i>Promimomys insuliferus</i>
second half of the Early Ruscinian	Grebeniki 2	<i>Promimomys ex gr. antiquus</i>
early Late Ruscinian (MN15a)	Budej	<i>Promimomys moldavicus</i>
Late Ruscinian (MN15b)	Lucheshty 7 and Etulya/lower levels (both Late Gilbert Chron)	advanced forms of <i>Promimomys moldavicus</i> (in transition to <i>Pliomys kowalskii</i>) and large <i>Promimomys</i> sp.
terminal Ruscinian	Odessa Catacombs (Late Gilbert Chron)	<i>Pliomys kowalskii</i>

Fig. 1
Early Pliocene Arvicolid succession in Eastern Europe.

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