

A micromammalian fauna from the Bartonian (Eocene) of Les Alleveys, Mormont, Switzerland

Jerry Hooker* & Marc Weidmann**

*Dept of Palaeontology, Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, UK; j.hooker@nhm.ac.uk

** Sentier du Molard 3, CH-1805 Jongny, Switzerland; weidmann-dutoit@bluewin.ch

A fossiliferous fissure fill at Les Alleveys, Mormont, Canton de Vaud, discovered and collected by one of us (MW) in 1986 and probably representing part of the same fissure system as that excavated by Chavannes and Morlot in 1852, contains a mammal fauna of 25 species that is dominated by micromammals. Unlike the 1852 collection, thanks to screenwashing techniques, there is an abundance of theridomyoid rodents, which provide new information on the early radiation of the superfamily. The 1852 collection suggested mixed ages for the fauna, nearly all the taxa indicating early Bartonian (Robiacian European Land Mammal Age) and only one, a semihypsodont theridomyine indicating late Priabonian (Headonian ELMA) (Hooker & Weidmann 2000). The 1986 collection in contrast contains only one theridomyine specimen, a lower fourth deciduous premolar of primitive aspect, and quite unlike those of the 1852 collection. This suggests that the Les Alleveys fauna is entirely Bartonian in age and that the Priabonian elements are from a different Mormont fissure and are mislabelled. Bartonian faunas rich in a diversity of micromammals are relatively uncommon in Europe outside the Quercy region of France and this is the first such fauna from Mormont and from Switzerland.

REFERENCE

Hooker, J.J. & Weidmann, M. 2000: The Eocene mammal faunas of Mormont, Switzerland. Systematic revision and resolution of dating problems. *Mémoires Suisses de Paléontologie* 120, 1-141.