

Holocene history of the mammalian fauna in the Northern Bohemian sandstone region (Czech Republic)

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Introduction

The recent fauna of the Central Europe is composed of three chorologic units: (i) paleochoric elements of the interglacial communities which invaded their current ranges during the Holocene from glacial refugia, (ii) paleochoric elements of the glacial communities which survived the Holocene environmental changes, and (iii) the apochoric elements of the Holocene which did not appear in Central Europe prior to the Holocene interglacial and/or the post-Neolithic period (Horáček and Ložek 1988). Although that statement is apparently valid for all regions of central Europe, in general, the particular regions differ quite a lot in the actual contribution of the respective chorologic units to local faunas as well as in the history by which the recent faunal structures were established. The fossil record available from various regions of Central Europe (Koenigswald and Taute 1979, Kordos 1982, Nadachowski 1989, Storch 1995, Horáček 2000) show considerable local differences in (a) the tempo and mode of reappearance of individual species of the groups (i) and (iii) as well as in (b) the patterns of postglacial survival in the (ii) elements, and in that (c) the individual species often differ in the timing of their postglacial range changes. The recent results of molecular phylogeography (Avice 2000, Bilton et al. 1998, Hewitt 1999) suggest, moreover, that individual species differ also in localisation of expected glacial refugia (Steward and Lister 2001, Horáček 2000). For these and other reasons, contemporary biogeography turns its attention to the specificities of local conditions and local biotic histories as important sources of global biodiversity (Brown and Lomolino 1998).

The most relevant way to trace these local faunal histories is to examine them by means of a direct fossil record. For that purpose, the record provided by the continuous sedimentary series covering a period from the Late Pleistocene glacial

maximum to the recent time are of greatest significance. During the last few decades a considerable amount of this kind of record was obtained, and thus from the Czech Republic and Slovakia about 90 continuous sequences are available (cf. e.g. Horáček and Ložek 1988). Of course, in most instances, direct information on the vertebrate faunal past, as revealed by the continuous fossil record, is limited to karst regions. This is due to the karst environment providing all of the essential preconditions for a vertebrate fossil record: (a) depositional traps exposed to continuous sedimentation, appearing at the source places of (b) continuous accumulation of bone remains and – first of all – (c) the calcareous sediments necessary for

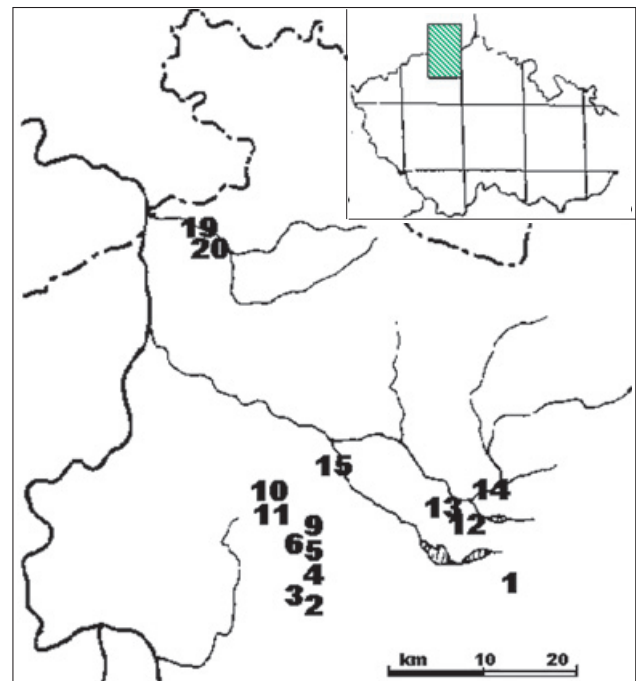


Figure 1: Geographic position of the fossiliferous sites discussed in the text. For key to numbers see Table 1.

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preserving the calcareous vertebrate remains. The cave entrances or debris deposits under cliff faces (i.e. the frequent nesting places of various avian predators) are typically the best places for such purpose and most of the series come from just such a context.

Unfortunately, not all the karstic regions in Central Europe meet all the prerequisites, and, moreover, the overall extent of karst areas is quite small. They form a minute part of Central Europe – in Czech Republic it is only 0.7 % of the total area (Bosák et al. 1989). Consequently, for most regions of Central Europe, almost no information on faunal development is available which significantly limits actual comprehension of the geographic variation in faunal history and its local specificities. At least for that reason, any data obtained from a non-karstic region is to be looked upon as information of considerable significance. This is the case for the extensive set of records that we obtained during recent decades from the Northern Bohemian sandstone area.

The recent sediments and soils appearing in sandstone regions of Bohemia are deficient in carbonates and thus, at first sight, are quite inappropriate for the preservation of bones. Nevertheless,

as demonstrated elsewhere (Cílek 2000a and this volume), this was not the case during most of the middle and early Holocene, at least in some regions. The first series demonstrating this fact was investigated in the 1950s and was published under the name Zátyní near Dubá (Prošek and Ložek 1952). Amongst others, it provided clear proof of a Mesolithic occupancy and, moreover, one of few Holocene records of *Emys orbicularis* in Central Europe. Most of the data surveyed in this paper resulted from an interdisciplinary research project inspired by that record. The research began in 1992 under the leadership of V. Cílek and J. Svoboda. Since then, about 50 sites have been excavated and 29 of them have provided vertebrate remains along with numerous archaeological and sedimentological records.

Material and methods

A detailed list of sites, excavation history and techniques, lithologic data and other information is published elsewhere (Svoboda et al. 2003). In most instances the respective sections

| Locality | Reference number (Figure 1) | Year of excavation | Further data |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Bezděz – západ | 01 | 2000 | Table 6 |
| Dolský mlýn A | 19 | 2001 | Table 7 |
| Dolský mlýn B | 19 | 2001 | Table 8 |
| Dřevčice – Pod Černou louží | 08 | 1998 | Table 4 |
| Dřevčice: Pod kamennou hlavou | | 1997 | |
| Dřevčice: Srní převis | | 1997 | |
| Heřmánky: Žlutá skála | 11 | 1997 | |
| Holany: U kameného mostu | | 1997 | |
| Hradčany – Donbas | 14 | 2000 | |
| Hradčany – U obory | 13 | 2000 | |
| Hradčany – Uhelná rokle A | 12a | 2000 | |
| Hradčany – Uhelná rokle B | 12b | 2000 | |
| Labské pískovce: Studený: Sojčí převis | 22 | 1999 | |
| Lakota | | 1998 | Table 10 |
| Lhota near Dubá – Butterberg 1 | 06 | 1995 | |
| Lhota near Dubá – Butterberg 2 | 06 | 1995 | |
| Lhota near Dubá – Butterberg: převis u jeskyně | 06 | 1997 | |
| Lhota near Dubá – Šídelník A | 09a | 1998 | Table 3 |
| Lhota near Dubá – Šídelník B | 09b | 1998 | Table 3 |
| Lhota near Dubá – převis nad Máselníkem | 06 | 1997 | |
| Nížká Lešnice | 03 | 1998 | Table 5 |
| Okrouhlík | 20 | 2001 | |
| Zahrádky – Pod Zubem (Sosnová) | 15 | 1996 | Table 10 |
| Zahrádky-Peklo | 16 | 1996 | |
| Zámecký převis | | 1997 | |
| Zátyní u Dubé | Ložek and Prošek 1952 | | |

Table 1. List of sites yielding the vertebrate remains as excavated in particular years of the project. Bold print indicates sites with a significant amount of vertebrate fossils

Table 2. Assumptive stratigraphic allocation of particular layers in the most significant series. For respective archaeological context and C14 data see Svoboda (2003)

| Locality | Šídelník | Pod Černou Louží | Nízká Lešnice | Bezděz | Uhelná rokle | Zahrádky, Pod zubem |
|----------------|----------|------------------|---------------|---------|--------------|---------------------|
| Further data | Table 3 | Table 4 | Table 5 | Table 6 | | |
| Upper Holocene | | | | 4 | | |
| | | | | 5 | | |
| Eneolithic | | 3 | | 6 | | |
| | | | | 7 | | |
| Neolithic | 3 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 5 | |
| | | 4 | | | 5 | |
| Boreal | | 6 | 2 | 9 | | |
| | | 5 | | x | 7 | 7 |
| Preboreal | 6 | 8 | 3 | | 9 | |
| | | 9 | 4 | | 10 | |
| Late Wistulian | | | 5 | | | |

Table 3. Vertebrate record (MNI) in series Lhota u Dubé – Šídelník A a B (1998). C14 dating: Šídelník A 76–79 cm: 7941 cal. BP; Šídelník A 90 cm: 8596 cal. BP

| layer (cm) | Šídelník A | | | | Šídelník B | | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|----------|----------|----------|------------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| | 30–80 | 80–100 | 90–100 | 100 | 70 | 70–75 | 80 | 178–191 | 237 |
| Anura, indet. | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | |
| <i>Talpa europaea</i> | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | 1 | | |
| <i>Erinaceus</i> sp. | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| <i>Castor fiber</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Apodemus (Sylvaemus)</i> sp. | | 1 | | | | 1 | | 2 | |
| <i>Clethrionomys glareolus</i> | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | | 2 | |
| <i>Arvicola terrestris</i> | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| <i>Microtus</i> cf. <i>arvalis</i> | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| <i>Microtus subterraneus</i> | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| <i>Lepus europaeus</i> | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | |
| <i>Sus scrofa</i> | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| <i>Alces alces</i> | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| cf. <i>Cervus elaphus</i> | 1 | 1 | | | | | | 1 | |
| <i>Capreolus capreolus</i> | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| <i>Martes martes</i> | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | |
| Total: individuals | 3 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 11 | 1 |
| Total: spp. | 3 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 1 |

represent a series of sandy loams deposited under rocky overhangs in shallow but steep slopes of sandstone gorges, often including apparent traces of human activity (fire-places, artifacts etc.).

Table 1 lists sites which provided a relevant vertebrate sample from four sandstone regions in Northern Bohemia near Dubá, Česká Lípa, Bezděz and Hřensko (Figure 1). Their altitude varies from 188 m a.s.l. (Dolský mlýn near Hřensko) to 370 m a.s.l. (Bezděz). The stratigraphical span of the series covers mostly the period from the early Holocene to the post-Neolithic. The lowermost (supposedly Late Vistulian) and uppermost horizons (from the late Bronze Age onwards) are non-calcareous and do not yield vertebrate fossil remains as a rule (for further details see Cílek 2000a). A stratigraphic synopsis of the most significant

series and a list of C 14 data (after Svoboda et al. 2003) are in Table 2.

The osteological material was obtained by means of either (i) continuous sampling during the excavation (the fragments were picked up directly from the section or from a coarse sample separated by sieving with a 3–5 mm mesh), and (ii) stratigraphical sampling from a completed section (20–100 kg per layer) and washing sediments with a 0.5 mm mesh and mechanical extraction of fossils. Most of the macrofossils were obtained by technique (i), while nearly all material of small vertebrates (which was the major source of the following paleoenvironmental and paleobiogeographic inferences) are of the source (ii). The faunal lists (including the respective

| layer (cm) | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|---------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| | 45–60 | 60–75 | 75–95 | 100–120 | 125–150 | 150–165 | 165–190 | 210–225 |
| <i>Anura Bufo bufo</i> | | 1 | | 3 | 2 | 2 | | |
| <i>Rana cf. temporaria</i> | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Aves, Passeriformes | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | | |
| <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i> | | | | | 1 | | | |
| <i>Plecotus auritus</i> | | | | | | 1 | | |
| <i>Talpa europaea</i> | | | | 1 | 5 | 2 | | |
| <i>Sorex araneus</i> | | | | | 1 | | | |
| <i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i> | | | | | 1 | | | |
| <i>Eliomys quercinus</i> | | | | 1 | | | | |
| <i>Sicista</i> sp. | | | | | | | 1 | |
| <i>Apodemus (Sylvaemus)</i> sp. | | 2 | 4 | 13 | 2 | | | |
| <i>Clethrionomys glareolus</i> | | | 2 | 3 | 18 | 7 | 1 | |
| <i>Arvicola terrestris</i> | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| <i>Lepus europaeus</i> | | | | 1 | | | | |
| <i>Sus scrofa</i> | | | | | 1 | | | |
| <i>Capreolus capreolus</i> | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Total: individuals (85) | 3 | 2 | 4 | 13 | 44 | 16 | 3 | 0 |
| Total: spp. (16) | 3 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 10 | 7 | 3 | 0 |

Table 4. Vertebrate record (MNI) in a series Dřevčice – Pod Černou louží. C14 dating: 120–125 cm: 8405 cal.BP.

| sample/layer | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|------------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| layer | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| depth (cm) | 0–20 | 20–40 | 40–50 | 60–80 | 90 | 90–110 | 110–140 |
| Anura | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| Aves | 2 | | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| <i>Talpa europaea</i> | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | |
| <i>Sorex araneus</i> | | | | | | 1 | |
| <i>Sorex minutus</i> | | | | | | 1 | |
| cf. <i>Myotis bechsteini</i> | | | | 1 | | | |
| <i>Eptesicus serotinus</i> | | | | 1 | | | |
| <i>Plecotus</i> cf. <i>auritus</i> | | | 1 | | | | |
| <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i> | | | 2 | | 2 | | |
| <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i> | | | 1 | | | 1 | |
| <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> | | | 1 | | 1 | | |
| <i>Sicista</i> sp. | | | | 1 | | | |
| <i>Castor fiber</i> | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| <i>Apodemus (Sylvaemus)</i> sp. | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 | |
| <i>Clethrionomys glareolus</i> | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| <i>Arvicola terrestris</i> | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| <i>Microtus</i> cf. <i>arvalis</i> | | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | |
| <i>Microtus agrestis</i> | | | | | | 2 | |
| <i>Microtus subterraneus</i> | | | | 1 | | | |
| <i>Lepus europaeus</i> | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | |
| <i>Sus scrofa</i> | 1 | | | | | | |
| <i>Capreolus capreolus</i> | | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| cf. <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> | | | | 1 | | | |
| Total: individuals | 5 | 4 | 15 | 17 | 13 | 10 | 3 |
| Total: spp. | 4 | 4 | 12 | 13 | 8 | 9 | 3 |

Table 5. Vertebrate record (MNI) in a series Nížká Lešnice. C14 dating: 120 cm: 11901 cal. BP

Table 6. Vertebrate record (MNI) in a series Bezděz – západ. C14 dating: 140 cm: 7719 cal. BP

| Bezděz | layer | 4 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 9 |
|----------------------------------|-------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|-------------------|-----------------|----------|----------|
| | depth | 40–50 | 50–60 | 60–70 | 70–80 | 80–90 | 90 | 100 | 110 | 110–120 center | 110–115 left | 120–125 | 130 |
| <i>Aves: Aquila cf. pomarina</i> | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| <i>Aves</i> indet. | | | | 1 | | | | 2 | | | | | |
| <i>Aves: Passeriformes</i> | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | |
| <i>Talpa europaea</i> | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | |
| <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i> | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | |
| <i>Castor fiber</i> | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| <i>Apodemus (Sylvaemus) sp.</i> | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | |
| <i>Clethrionomys glareolus</i> | | 2 | | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| <i>Arvicola terrestris</i> | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 2 | |
| <i>Microtus sp.</i> | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Lepus europaeus</i> | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | | | |
| <i>Sus scrofa</i> | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | |
| <i>Alces alces</i> | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | ? | |
| cf. <i>Cervus elaphus</i> | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Capreolus capreolus</i> | | | 1 | | 2 | | | 2 | 1 | | ? | | ? |
| <i>Martes martes</i> | | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | | |
| <i>Canis lupus</i> | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| Total: individuals (65) | | 5 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 11 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 1 |
| Total: spp. (20) | | 4 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 1 |

tables) and all subsequent analyses discussed in this paper operated with minimum number of individuals (MNI).

The relevant (i.e., determinable) material was obtained from 60 layer-samples in 16 sections (Table 1). In total, the material covers at least 420 individuals (MNI) belonging to 40 species of vertebrates, mostly tetrapods: 14 spp. of small ground mammals, 5 bats, 3 birds, 3 reptiles and 2 amphibians. Although in most instances the record was rather fragmentary and heterogeneous, in three sites, namely Nížká Lešnice, Dřevčice – Pod Černou louží, Lhota near Dubá – Šídelník it was sufficiently rich and regular. There, the highest concentration of fossils was about 40 individuals (MNI) per 100 kg of sediment.

Results

At no site was the record particularly rich, of course. However, a comparison of the faunal development in the individual series (compare Tables 2–9 for details) allows some general remarks. First, it suggests that all the faunal series have several characteristics in common:

(1) A remarkable characteristic of the record is a high contribution of woodland elements or those demanding a dense forest understorey, viz. *Clethrionomys*, *Sylvaemus*, *Sciurus*, in

almost all samples. In few sites the core of the woodland elements is supplemented also with *Microtus subterraneus* (Nížká Lešnice 3), a form demanding structurally varied relief with forest vegetation and a thick soil layer. Also the record of large mammals fits quite a well into that picture: the woodland species such as *Capreolus capreolus*, *Cervus elaphus*, *Martes martes*, *Alces alces*, *Sus scrofa*, *Vulpes vulpes*, *Meles meles* appear in almost every site.

- (2) In contrast, the open-ground elements, such as *Microtus arvalis*, are apparently not dominant at any site. They are frequent in the uppermost horizons only. In the lowermost layers, they do not form the essential component of the community as is common in most of other series both in Bohemia and Moravia until the Atlantic period. The glacial index fossils such as *Microtus gregalis* or *Dicrostonyx gulielmi* were not found at all.
- (3) The species demanding marshy or semi-aquatic habitats are regular in most community samples. In particular, *Arvicola terrestris* and *Microtus agrestis*, at three localities (Stará skála, Nížká Lešnice, Pod zubem) and *Microtus oeconomus*. Beaver, *Castor fiber*, occurred in 7 community samples in 5 localities, typically in the close vicinity of streams (3 individuals at Pod zubem).

Sicista betulina was recorded at two sites. This species has been locally extinct in most regions since the middle Holocene. It is a light demanding species of semi-open biotopes, typically with a birch cover and a rich, dense and varied herb vegetation. It is a very characteristic element of the early Boreal when its distribution was almost continuous throughout Central Europe. Today it is a rare relic surviving in a few mountain localities. *Muscardinus avellanarius* was also recorded. This species prefers shrubby and low forests with mesic conditions and habitats rich in elements of the forest ecotone, such as *Corylus*, *Rubus* etc. Both *Sicista* and *Muscardinus* appeared in the basal layers of particular series, i.e. at the earlier stages of the Mesolithic occupancy of the sites. In contrast to *Sicista*, *Muscardinus* has inhabited these habitats in the sandstone regions until recently (cf. Anděra 1986).

Worth mentioning is that no records of *Glis glis* are available. Apparently, the habitat conditions available in the studied region did not fit the requirement of that species, i.e. for a warm subxerothermic broad-leaved woodland. Despite the apparent dense wood-land cover throughout most of the Holocene, the xerothermic broadleaved forest (supposedly in contrast to xerothermic pine vegetation) did not appear in the region under study.

From the viewpoint of faunal development, the record of *Eliomys quercinus* (Pod Černou louží) is particularly important. The recent distribution of this species in the Czech Republic is now limited to a few localities in sandstone regions (Anděra 1986). In Central Europe, *Eliomys quercinus* is apparently an apochoric element of the Holocene interglacial (no records are available in the Middle and Early Pleistocene). Together with a few other records, this one provides clear support for a spread of this species prior to Neolithic deforestation. Exactly the same

holds true for another species that was recorded at two sites of the present series, *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* (cf. Nížká Lešnice, Bezděz). This is a lithophilous element of a warm open country which is common in the Holocene fossil record (particularly the post-Neolithic) but in Central Europe it is absent from any record prior to the Holocene. It contrasts with the other bat species of the same habitat requirements, *Eptesicus serotinus*, which appeared at two sites (Nížká Lešnice, Okrouhlík). Out of the bats, *Barbastella barbastellus* is the most common in the sample. This species is typical of cooler woodland habitats with exposed rocks which it often uses for roosting and hibernation. The dendrophilous species, *Plecotus auritus* and *Myotis bechsteini* are represented by one record each. Worth mentioning is the appearance of a mole (*Talpa europaea*) at one site (Pod Černou louží) which indicates a deep soil layer and structurally stabilised valley bottom.

The osteological material collected during archaeological excavations provided extensive information on the large mammals supposedly hunted by Mesolithic people. In that respect (cf. Table 8) we have demonstrated preferential hunting for medium-sized game (hare and roe deer) supplemented with occasional large ungulates (red deer, elk and wild boar). Specialised hunting for fur (marder, wild cat and squirrel) is apparent at least at two sites (Pod Zubem, Bezděz) as well as specialised fishing in another site (Dolský mlýn).

Discussion and conclusions

These records provide good information on the local faunal history during the early Holocene, roughly speaking from the

| Dolský mlýn A | layer | 4a | 4 | 4-5 | 5 | 6 | |
|---------------------------------|-------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | depth | 40–50 | 70–80 | 80–90 | 90–105 | 105–110 | 130 |
| Pisces | | 1 | 3 | 4 | | | |
| Aves indet. | | | | 1 | | | |
| Aves: Passeriformes | | | | 1 | | | |
| <i>Talpa europaea</i> | | | | | 1 | | |
| <i>Erinaceus</i> sp. | | | | | | | |
| <i>Eptesicus serotinus</i> | | | | | 1 | | |
| <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> | | | | 1 | | | |
| <i>Apodemus (Sylvaemus)</i> sp. | | | 2 | | | | |
| <i>Clethrionomys glareolus</i> | | | 1 | | | | |
| <i>Arvicola terrestris</i> | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| <i>Lepus europaeus</i> | | | 1 | | | 1 | |
| cf. <i>Cervus elaphus</i> | | | | 1 | | | |
| <i>Capreolus capreolus</i> | | | 1 | 1 | | | |
| <i>Canis lupus</i> | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | |
| Total: individuals | | 1 | 9 | 10 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| Total: spp. | | 1 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 1 |

Table 7. Vertebrate record (MNI) in a series Dolský mlýn A.

Table 8. Vertebrate record (MNI) in a series Dolský mlýn B

| Dolský mlýn B | layer | 4 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 9 | 9 |
|---------------------------------|------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|
| | depth (cm) | 55 | 85-90 | 110 | 110-120 | 130-135 | „objekt 9“ |
| Pisces | | | | | | 2 | 2 |
| Anura, indet. | | | | | | 1 | |
| Ophidia indet. | | | | | | 1 | |
| Aves indet. | | | | 1 | | | |
| <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i> | | | | | | | 1 |
| <i>Castor fiber</i> | | | | 1 | | | |
| <i>Apodemus (Sylvaemus) sp.</i> | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| <i>Clethrionomys glareolus</i> | | | | | 1 | | |
| <i>Arvicola terrestris</i> | | | | | 1 | | |
| <i>Lepus europaeus</i> | | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | |
| <i>Alces alces</i> | | | | ? | | | |
| cf. <i>Cervus elaphus</i> | | | | | | 1 | |
| <i>Capreolus capreolus</i> | | | | | | | |
| cf. <i>Meles meles</i> | | | | | | 1 | |
| <i>Martes martes</i> | | | | | | 1 | |
| <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> | | | | | 1 | | |
| Total: individuals | | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 4 |

Table 9. List of taxa supposedly hunted by Mesolithic people in the total samples obtained from the Northern Bohemian sandstone region

| | Number of sites | Community samples | MNI |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----|
| <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> | 6 | 12 | 18 |
| <i>Castor fiber</i> | 5 | 7 | 9 |
| <i>Lepus europaeus</i> | 13 | 24 | 35 |
| <i>Capreolus capreolus</i> et cf. | 10 | 17 | 20 |
| cf. <i>Cervus elaphus</i> | 5 | 8 | 9 |
| <i>Alces alces</i> | 7 | 10 | 10 |
| <i>Sus scrofa</i> | 5 | 6 | 8 |
| <i>Bos/Bison</i> | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| <i>Meles meles</i> | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| <i>Martes martes</i> | 5 | 14 | 26 |
| <i>Felis sylvestris</i> | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| cf. <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| <i>Canis lupus</i> | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Aves, Passeriformes | 5 | 15 | 23 |
| Aves, non Passeriformes | 5 | 6 | 8 |
| Pisces 15 cm | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Pisces 25 cm | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Pisces 50 cm | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Pisces 100 cm | 1 | 1 | 1 |

Preboreal to the early post-Neolithic period (10 to 5 ky BP). Unfortunately, we did not succeed in obtaining any direct evidence on the structure of the glacial fauna of this region and thus are also unable to discuss the topical question of whether, and to what degree, the varied landscape of the Northern Bohemian sandstone region may have served as a glacial refugium (cf. Steward and Lister 2001, Horáček 2000). In any case, the beginning of the Holocene, as evidenced by the bottom members of the investigated series, is characterized

here by greatly diversified communities with considerably diverse habitat preferences with major roles for both the woodland elements and those demanding mesic semi-covered habitats. Worth mentioning is that such a community pattern is retained almost continuously until beginning of the late Holocene (i.e., including the early post-Neolithic period). The same holds for the other constitutional specificities of the respective communities: appearance of wetland elements (including rare relic species such as *Microtus oeconomus*,

M. agrestis or *Castor fiber*) and those inhabiting rocky habitats (particularly the lithophilous bats).

In comparison with the data from karstic regions, the studied series in the sandstone regions are remarkable also for the absence of a xerothermic stage with reexpansion of the open ground elements. Most of the open ground elements that soon reappeared with the Neolithic deforestation in other regions do not appear here at all, e.g. *Cricetus cricetus*, *Spermophilus citellus*, *Crocidura* spp. The early appearance of the garden dormouse (*Eliomys quercinus*), accompanied by the locally extinct *Sicista betulina*, suggests that the Northern Bohemian sandstone region has served as a refugium for this species

since the beginning of its Holocene immigration and a centre for its mid-European appearance. For this and other reasons, this region is quite specific and worthy of further study.

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Table 10. List of vertebrate records in the sites not presented in Tables 3–8. ¹⁾ high concentration of small bone fragments in all layers

| Locality | Depth | Records (numbers indicate numbers of items) | C14 dating |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---|--------------------|
| Pod Zubem | | 1 <i>Bufo bufo</i> , 7 <i>Rana temporaria</i> , 6 Aves Passeriformes indet., 7 Aves, non Passeriformes, 2 <i>Talpa europaea</i> , 2 <i>Spermophilus</i> cf. <i>citellus</i> , 1 <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> , 7 <i>Arvicola terrestris</i> , 1 <i>Microtus arvalis</i> , 1 <i>Microtus agrestis</i> , 1 <i>Microtus oeconomus</i> , 1 <i>Microtus</i> indet., 2 <i>Clethrionomys glareolus</i> , 10 <i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i> , 3 <i>Castor fiber</i> , 4 <i>Felis sylvestris</i> , 10 <i>Martes martes</i> , 2 <i>Putorius putorius</i> , 5 <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> , 2 <i>Canis lupus</i> , 6 <i>Lepus europaeus</i> , 2 <i>Cervus elaphus</i> , 2 <i>Capreolus capreolus</i> , 1 cf. <i>Alces alces</i> , 1 <i>Bos</i> sp., 3 <i>Sus scrofa</i> , 2 cf. <i>Capra</i> . | 7461–9124 cal. BP. |
| Zahrádky, Peklo | | 1 <i>Clethrionomys glareolus</i> | |
| Zámecký Rockshelter | | 1 <i>Lepus europaeus</i> , 1 cf. <i>Capreolus capreolus</i> | |
| Holany: U kamenného mostku | | indet. fragments | |
| Pustý kámen, Velký převis | | 1 cf. <i>Capra</i> | |
| Děvčice: Pod kamennou hlavou | | indet. fragments cf. <i>Lepus</i> (juv.) | |
| Heřmánky: Žlutá skála | | | |
| Děvčice: Srní převis | | | |
| Převis Pod Máselníkem | | <i>Felis</i> cf. <i>lybica dom.</i> , cf. <i>Capreolus</i> | |
| Butterberg, převis u jeskyně | | <i>Bufo bufo</i> , indet. fragments | |
| Labské pískovce, Sojčí převis | | <i>Rana temporaria</i> | |
| Uhelná rokle 2A | 35–50 | <i>Lepus europaeus</i> , cf. Cervidae, gr. <i>Alces alces</i> – md. and long bone fragments | |
| | 45–50 | <i>Alces alces</i> | |
| | 55–60 | <i>Capreolus capreolus</i> juv. ex. | |
| | 100–115 | cf. <i>Capreolus capreolus</i> | |
| | base | 1 <i>Anguis fragilis</i> , 1 <i>Microtus</i> cf. <i>arvalis</i> , 3 <i>Vallonia</i> sp. | |
| Uhelná rokle, U obory | loess horizon | 1 fragment – tibia Arvicolidae | |
| Okrouhлік ¹⁾ | 40–50 | Aves gr. <i>Pica</i> , cf. <i>Cervus</i> fragments | |
| | 50–60 | <i>Capreolus capreolus</i> juv. a ad. ex. | |
| Lakota | 40–70: | <i>Alces alces</i> tip of an antler | |
| | 80–100 | <i>Lepus europeus</i> , <i>Castor fiber</i> , <i>Castor fiber</i> 1M1, <i>Clethrionomys glareolus</i> , <i>Apodemus (Sylvaemus)</i> sp., <i>epus europaeus</i> , <i>LArvicola terrestris</i> , <i>Sus scrofa</i> , <i>Meles meles</i> | |
| | 120–130 | <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> , cf. <i>Lepus europaeus</i> | |
| | 130–140 | Aves indet. | |