

## The Evolutionary History of Western Eurasia: A Synthesis of Regional Faunas, Their Geochronology and Paleoenvironments, 15-5 m. y. a. -- The Schloss Reisenburg '92 Database

Dear Colleague!

Please forgive this rather impersonal message, but there are many of us and time flies!

You may recall that in conjunction with the 1992 Schloss Reisenburg meeting participants were asked to provide updated faunal lists for localities, and lists of updated age and other information about the localities. The idea was to compile a common database which would then be distributed back to all participants. Although the details of compilation and the nature of the database turned out in the end to be quite different from the original intention, a database does in fact now exist. With the publication of the symposium proceedings approaching, the time has come to allow all contributors one last look at "their" data, before the whole set is distributed among the symposium participants.

**WE ARE NOT ASKING YOU TO DO ANYTHING.** We do, however, wish to give everybody the opportunity to correct errors or otherwise amend the data, should they feel so inclined. Some of the data have passed through many hands on their way to these lists, and it will be much more difficult to make corrections once the database has been distributed. (The possibility of having it included as an appendix to the book is also being investigated, and will depend in part on the feedback we receive to this circular). An earlier version of this database was used for the analyses of the synthetic chapters of the symposium volume. We have seen the wonderful potential of these data, and encourage everybody to make use of it in their research. We will continue to curate and update the Helsinki database (NOW = the Neogene of the Old World), and will be happy to consider all kinds of collaborative research ideas.

There are three types of lists (of which you probably will have one or two): taxon listings, locality listings, and taxon-locality occurrence listings. **Boldface** indicates that the data originated (at least potentially) within the Schloss Reisenburg context. Normal text indicates data that were added by us at Helsinki (morphology, paleoecology etc. for vertebrates, geographic coordinates and type of vertebrate preservation for the localities). You do not need to pay any attention to this distinction; we have just made it for clarity. Only "boldface data" will be routinely distributed to the contributors, but any individual interested in the complete data

should get in touch with us. (We know that much of it is shaky and will be happy to hear your sarcastic comments and objections!)

A few words about the history of the data are in order. The list here have a dual background. All small mammal taxa (with a few exceptions) are directly from the database compiled by Walter Mittmann at Karlsruhe, based on listings provided the meeting participants. None of the large mammal taxa are from the Karlsruhe database. Most of them were extracted from the manuscripts submitted for publication in the symposium volume, by us here in Helsinki, and some have been added by us from the literature. Thus, you may find taxa or localities you did not list or mention. We will happily remove any mistaken attributions. Some localities are outside the Schloss Reisenburg context (e.g., African) -- they were included because we felt that listing the entire database contents would be the easiest and most useful solution.

Taxon-occurrence lists (faunal list) have been broken down by taxonomy. Hopefully the lists enclosed here correspond with the taxa for which you are responsible. Please note that many localities have woefully incomplete faunal lists. Especially common are localities with one or a few large mammal taxa. This reflects the history of the database: only taxon occurrences mentioned by the chapter authors were entered, and the coverage of localities by the different authors varied widely. Any additions will be enthusiastically received. With one or two exceptions, the taxon-specific lists have only gone to the first authors of contributions concerning each group. Please consult with your co-authors as you deem appropriate.

The locality list is complete, but has been arranged by country so that you will be able to find "your" localities easily. Please do not feel obliged to comment on everything. Please note that the country is unknown for one locality (at the head of the listing), and occasional misattributions are certainly possible. The ages are given as a range of "basis for age" (Bfa-max and Bfa\_min), i.e., a range in MN units (very occasionally other units).

We have enclosed photocopies from the ETE database manual, explaining what the listed entries mean. The ETE (Evolution of Terrestrial Ecosystems) is based at the Smithsonian Institution (Washington, D. C.) and maintained by an organisation called the ETE Consortium. The Helsinki (NOW) database resides at the Finnish Museum of Natural History, and was constructed to conform to the ETE structure and standards.

With very best regards,

Helsinki, September 15, 1995

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