AUTHOR’S REPLY

Correct dating of *Equus hydruntinus* from the Upper Pleistocene of Le Castella (Calabria, Southern Italy)

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KEY WORDS - Equidae, Upper Pleistocene, Southern Italy.

ABSTRACT - The age of 62 ky B.P. previously attributed to Equus hydruntinus from Le Castella (Calabria, Southern Italy) results incongruent and is here revised to 104±1.2 ky B.P. The recovered teeth (a third lower molar of Equus hydruntinus; an upper premolar and an upper molar of bovid) come from a marine terrace, considered of 3rd rank in the Crotone peninsula and related to MIS 5c. The first finding of Equus hydruntinus in Calabria can confidently be attributed to MIS 5c and dated 104±1.2 ky B.P.

The older age of *Equus hydruntinus* from Le Castella does not invalidate my considerations on mammal fauna provided in Marra & Bellomo (2008). In particular, the record of *E. hydruntinus* in the MIS 5c of Calabria is still in keeping with the spreading of the specie to Sicily, probably occurred after the

CONCLUSIONS

The present revision suggests that the age of 62 ky B.P. (MIS 4) erroneously attributed to *Equus hydruntinus* and bovid teeth (Marra & Bellomo, 2008) can be overhauled to 104±1.2 ky B.P. (MIS 5c, Edwards et al., 1997).

The older age of *Equus hydruntinus* from Le Castella does not invalidate my considerations on mammal fauna provided in Marra & Bellomo (2008). In particular, the record of *E. hydruntinus* in the MIS 5c of Calabria is still in keeping with the spreading of the specie to Sicily, probably occurred after the

Fig. 1 - Location of the vertebrate site (circle) at Baia del Tucano (Le Castella, Crotone).
MIS 5e and before the late Glacial (Bonfiglio et al., 2001). The presence of *Equus hydruntinus* on the island is attested for the first time in the "Grotta S. Teodoro – Pianetti Faunal Complex", dated from 70 to 20 ky B.P. (Masini et al., 2008).

By a palaeoecological point of view, the presence of the "European Steppe Ass" in the warm and moist environment with mild winters occurring during the MIS 5c in southern Italy (Allen et al, 2000), should appear incoherent. However, a more temperate-Mediterranean character of *E. hydruntinus* as compared to *Equus caballus* has been supposed (Rustioni, 1996). The occurrence of the species in the MIS 5c of Calabria should be considered in this hypothesis.

Although corrected to an age of 104±1.2 ky B.P. (MIS 5c), the conclusions by Marra & Bellomo (2008) can be confirmed, being *Equus hydruntinus* from Le Castella:
- the first record of the species in Calabria;
- dated 104±1.2 ky B.P. (MIS 5c) by its occurrence in a well-dated marine terrace
- present in the time-span of its supposed dispersal from Calabria to Sicily.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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REFERENCES


Tab. 1 – Ranks and correlation to MIS of the marine terraces of the Crotone peninsula.

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<td>Mauz and Hassler (2000); Zecchin et al. (2004)</td>
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ERRATA CORRIGE of:

Tab. 2, first column, fourth line: Errata: 5e; Corrigge: pre 5e - 5e

Lacking references: