

Poster Session I, (Wednesday)

**THE LARGE MAMMALS OF THE NEW PLIOCENE FOSSIL LOCALITY OF CAMP DELS NINOTS (SPAIN)**

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The new fossiliferous locality of Camp dels Ninots (“field of the puppets” after the opal concretions found there) is in a maar in the town of Caldes de Malavella (Catalonia, Spain). Up to now five articulated skeletons of large mammals were excavated, as well as articulated skeletons of chelonians, amphibians and fishes, and abundant plant remains. A skeleton of a large rhinoceros is assigned to cf. *Stephanorhinus jeanvireti* and a particularly well preserved skeleton belongs to *Tapirus arvernensis*, the last European tapir, which is probably closely related to *Tapirus indicus*. Three skeletons belong to a bovid of the type *Parabos - Alephis*. The specimens from Camp dels Ninots resemble in particular the type material of *Alephis tigrinesi*. The known temporal distributions of *Tapirus arvernensis* (MN13-17), *Stephanorhinus jeanvireti* (MN16) and *Parabos-Alephis* (MN13-15) situate the locality of Camp dels Ninots near the MN15-16 transition or around 3.5 Ma.

*Parabos* and the slightly later and more evolved *Alephis* are known from some 30 European localities, with ages between roughly 6 and 3 Ma, most of which yielded rather poor material. Two generic names and seven specific names were proposed for such bovids, but the group needs revision. These bovids are considered to be close to the origin of the Bovini and are much more primitive than typical Bovini like *Leptobos*, *Bos*, *Bubalus* and *Bison*. The evolution and environmental context of the early Bovini will be briefly discussed.

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