

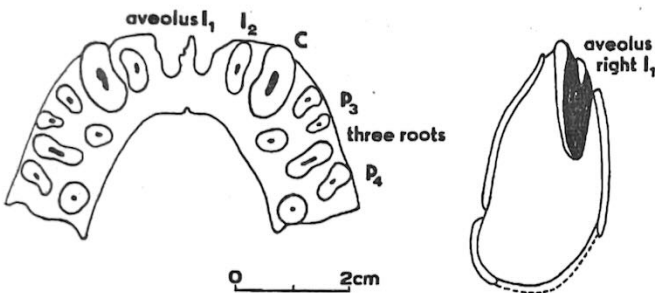


AUSTRALOPITHECUS BAHRELGHAZALI WEST OF THE EAST AFRICAN RIFT

The anterior part of a hominid mandible (KT12/H1) was found in January 1995 in Chad, east of Koro Toro in the Bahr el Ghazal region at site KT12, some 2,500 km west of the East African Rift. A P3 was found in January 1996 (KT12/H2). This is the first *Australopithecus* found west of the East African Rift, and calls for reconsideration of our ideas that plio-pleistocene hominids existed only in East and South Africa.

The animal remains found on the same site (KT12) are similar to the Hadar palaeontological finds, and may be dated to 3.0 – 3.5 million years. The sediments and animal remains demonstrate a fluvio-lacustrine environment with Silur fish, tortoise, crocodile and hippopotamus, and prove by its composition the mosaic character of the landscape: riverine forests (*Kolpochoerus afarensis*), woodland savannah (*Loxodonta*), and prairie (*Ceratotherium*).

The dental arc of the mandible has a parabolic shape of average height and narrow corpus, with the mental foramen situated low on the external side of the mandibular body.



The symphyseal part of the mandible is flat and vertically-oriented and the subvertical internal side of the symphysis has a weak transversal torus. The canines are large and asymmetrical, with a strong lingual crest. Both P3 have two cusps and the P4 are molarized with a small talonid. All the premolars have three roots. Their molarisation and the shape of symphysis are derived characters, but the presence of three roots is evidently a very primitive feature. In all *Australopithecines*, including *Ardipithecus*, the lower premolars have two or even only one root. Three roots are found only in the upper premolars in robust *Australopithecines*. Recent gorilla, chimpanzee and orang-utan have premolars with three or only two roots. A triradicular condition is, therefore, archaic, and the original mono- and biradicularism arises through a fusion of two of the original three roots. It seems that *Australopithecus bahrelghazali* retained the original archaic condition of this character. If this is the case, then *A. bahrelghazali* spread fairly early through the tropical forests of East and Central Africa to West Africa. This poses the question of his geographical origin.

Let us hope that a survey of the promising palaeontological sites in Chad and farther west will bring further discoveries.

Jan Jelínek

10th ANTHROPOLOGY DAYS OF THE CZECH ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

From 22 to 24 October 1996 anthropologists from Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia met at the castle in Liblice (50 km from Prague) to inform

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one another about the results of their work in various areas of anthropology, both at formal sessions and in informal discussions. This meeting was organized by members of the Prague branch of the Czech Anthropological Society, in cooperation with members of the Department of Anthropology of the Faculty of Natural Sciences of Charles University in Prague.

This exceptionally festive meeting was held on the occasion of the jubilee anniversary of Prof. Dr. Jan Jelínek, DrSc., an important Czech anthropologist and long-time chairman of the Czech Anthropological Society.

The working session of the meeting was divided into two days. The first day included numerous papers on osteology and much information on basic research of an interdisciplinary nature or in several areas of applied anthropology:

- The reliability of selected methods of determining age and sex (M. Dobisíková, P. Velemínský, V. Kuželka)
- Examples of burial rites from the Bronze Age (M. Dočkalová)
- The neurocranium of the Old Slavs: a model study (L. Dohnalíková, V. Novotný)
- The Pohansko-Jihozápadní předhradí Old Slav burial site (analysis of bone material) (E. Drozdová, J. Beneš)
- Growth of the splanchnocranium of immature individuals in the 13th – 18th centuries (Z. Hodačová)
- Demography of an Old Bronze Age population from Jelšovice (J. Jakab)
- Post-cranial skeletons from a find at Zlatý kůň u Koněprus (V. Kuželka)
- Metrical and morphological indications on the humerus (E. Loubová)
- Sexual dimorphism of the patella (V. Novotný, J. Brůžek)
- New evidence of malignant tumors in medieval to early modern Moravia (E. Strouhal, L. Horáčková, L. Benešová, L. Vyhnaněk, A. Němečková)
- Sphenoid defects in past centuries (P. Trefný, V. Kuželka)
- Kinship among bone remains (P. Velemínský, M. Dobisíková, V. Kuželka)
- Research on remains attributed to St. Adalbert and molecular biology (E. Vlček, I. Mazura, M. Dobisíková)
- Method of repeated names and isonomes in two isolated locations in Slovakia (D. Siváková)
- Ecological awareness of 16-year-old students (V. Šedivý)
- Cultural anthropology at Charles University yesterday and today (J. Wolf)
- New information on footwear in the Late Stone Age (P. Hlaváček)
- Analysis of footwear of a child population in relation to the corresponding size of shoes (J. Pavlačková, M. Zvončáková)
- The diabetic foot in relation to footwear (P. Štátná)
- Evaluation of the relationship of the anatomical structure of feet and somatotypes (J. Riegrová)
- Fundamental growth trends in *Macaca mulatta* and their importance for the study of human growth and development (V. Vančata, V. Přivratský, H. Zlámalová, Z. Jebavý)
- Teething in laboratory monkeys of the species *Macaca mulatta* (Z. Jebavý, L. Jebavý)
- A guide through life: longitudinal studies (M. Prokopec)

The ceremonial evening session opened with a lecture by Prof. Jan Jelínek, entitled "Czech anthropology – a thirty years' view". Drawing on his long years of experience and the genesis of scientific attitudes which he came to accept in the course of his professional development, Prof. Jelínek defined the decisive moments in his scientific career. He lent his attention to those figures in university education who perceive the work of anthropological science in broad terms and yet with sufficient