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A NEW FIND OF UPPER PALAEOLITHIC SKULL IN SLOVAKIA

Site: Moč by the Danube River, Komárno District, Slovak Republic.
Place of find: In the Danube River, on the 1742.3 riverine km, depth of 3 m, Slovak side of the river that makes the border, 50 m from the riverbank.

In 1990, during excavation of gravel from the Danube river Ladislav Katona excavated the skull of an adult individual. In 1994, palaeontologist Štefan Meszároš donated the skull to the collections of the Department of Anthropology, National Museum in Bratislava.

Dating was made in 1997 at the Research Laboratory for Archaeology and History of Art of the Radiocarbon Department, Oxford University, Great Britain. The dating was supported by the Foundation for the Safeguard of Cultural Heritage in Bratislava, namely thanks to cooperation of Margaréta Musilová and Peter Horanský.

The skull of an adult individual, without mandible, is very well preserved, with traces of fossilization. Dating: $11,225 \pm 80$ yr BP (delta $13\text{C} = -21.7$ per mil, OxA - 7068). It may be estimated that this is the first find of Upper Palaeolithic man from the territory of the Slovak Republic.

Neither animal nor archaeological remains were associated. The skull has a dark colour, possibly due to the long stay in water. No traces of the transport in the river can be observed. Most probably the find comes from its original situation. The braincase is long, belonging to a female aged of 35–45 years. Interesting is the strong dental attrition.

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