The fossil mammal fauna and sedimentological data of the locality Nová Vieska (Villafranchian, Slovakia)

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The presented abstract summarizes basic information from the recent palaeontological and sedimentological research (2004 – 2010) at the important locality Nová Vieska (Slovakia), which is with the neighboring locality Strekov conventionally designated as „base of the Quaternary“ in Slovakia. The village Nová Vieska is situated in the Slovakian part of the Danube Basin, in its geomorphological part Hronská pahorkatina upland. The locality itself is located SW from this village (GPS: 47°52'2.78"N, 18°26'53.34"E) and it's formed by an abandoned sand pit. Based on the study of Plio-Pleistocene geodynamic and tectono-sedimentary evolution of northern peripheral depressions of the Danube Basin, the sand pit at the locality Nová Vieska is located in the basal part of Lower Pleistocene proluvial-fluvial strata, that was designated by the term *Strekov beds* for the area of Hronská pahorkatina upland. The sedimentological data of the locality refer to sedimentation in the conditions of a relatively large braided river (paleo-Žitava, paleo-Nitra or paleo-Hron river?).

The site is rich in fossil remains of mammals. Characteristic taxa from the locality are *"Mammut" borsoni, Anancus arvernensis, Mammuthus meridionalis, Stephanorhinus jeanvireti, Stephanorhinus etruscus, Stephanorhinus* cf. *megarhinus, Hipparion* ex gr. *crassum, Sus strozzii, Eucladoceros* sp., *Metacervoceros rhenanus,* ?*Croizetoceros* sp., *Paradolichopithecus* sp., *Castor ?praefiber* (Tab. 1). Most of the species and genera indicate the Middle Villafranchian age („biozones“ MN16b or MN16b/MN17a). But there also occurs the fossil material of *Stephanorhinus* cf. *megarhinus, Hipparion* ex gr. *crassum* and *Castor ?praefiber*, that should come from older time period (MN15), but precise determination of this material is still uncertain or impossible due to its bad preservation, or stratigraphic occurrence of taxon is disputable. The research at the locality will continue in coming years and hopefully will resolve this issue.

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