

krátké zprávy short notes

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Comments on *Vespertilio majori* Kormos, 1934

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Abstract. A new name, *Vespertilio villanyiensis* nom. n. is proposed for *V. majori* Kormos, 1930 (nec *majori* Ninni, 1878). This fossil species falls, of course, in synonymy of *Vespertilio murinus* Linnaeus, 1758.

Systematics, homonymy, *Vespertilio*, MN17

Vespertilio majori is a fossil taxon that was described based on a relatively well preserved mandible from MN17 Hungarian site Villány-Kalkberg (Villány 3 sensu Kretzoi 1956). The name is a junior homonym of *Vespertilio majori* Ninni, 1878, which was proposed to substitute *Vespertilio blasii* Forsyth-Major, 1877 (nec *Brachyotus blasii* Kolenati, 1860), both synonyms of *Myotis capaccinii* (Bonaparte, 1837), in fact (Ellerman & Morrison-Scott 1951). Following §60c of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, each case of junior homonymy is to be removed by replacing the homonymous name with the oldest of its junior synonymes. Since no synonyme is available for *majori* Kormos, 1934 I proposed for it the name

Vespertilio villanyiensis **nom. n.**

DERIVATIO NOMINIS. Name of a village, Villány, a center of Villány-hegy, the type locality of the species and the biostratigraphic unit corresponding to MN17, the Villányian (cf. Kretzoi 1956).

TYPE LOCALITY. MN17 Villány 3.

TYPE. Left mandible, (I₁)I₂–M₃ without ramus mandibulae – Hungarian Natural History Museum No. V61/1413.

The measurements I took from the type specimens are as follows: CM₃ 6.25, CM₁ 3.33, P₄M₁ 2.16, P₄M₃ 5.04, M₁M₂ 2.29, M₁M₃ 4.37, symphysis 0.945, I₂ 0.55, I₃ 0.56, C 0.88×0.1.02, P₃ 0.59×0.59, P₄ 0.81×0.82, M₁ 1.95×1.04, M₂ 1.15×1.04, M₃ 1.81×0.90 mm. Fig. 23 in Kormos (1934) is quite a realistic and shows well all the major characters.

Kormos (1934) diagnosed this form by that it differs from *Vespertilio murinus* by more robust canine, less robust molars and by differences in shape of I₃. Although these differences may remind also those by which the Oriental species *V. sinensis* (in the sense of Horáček 1997) differs from the European form, they are much less pronounced. The specimen although somewhat larger than an average European *Vespertilio murinus* falls in all characters in generally broad variation range of the recent species in all the diagnostic characters (and, by the way, it is considerably smaller than *sinensis*). I had an opportunity to examine the type in 1975 and did not succeed to discover any substantial difference from the Recent European species (which variation range is generally quite a broad). Consequently, *V. villanyiensis* falls most probably in synonymy of *Vespertilio murinus* Linnaeus, 1758.

In any case, it is worth of mentioning that it is one of very few fossil records of the genus and perhaps the earliest one that represents the present genus undoubtedly. The only earlier record, identified as *Vespertilio* sp. (MN6 Steinberg – Rachl 1983), exhibits an intermediate state of dental characters between *Vespertilio* and *Eptesicus* s. l. (incl. *Amblyotis*, *Rhineptesicus*, etc.). The same concerns, of course, also another fossil bat described as *Eptesicus mossoczyi* from MN14 Podlesice by B. W. Woloszyn (1987). The further fossil records of *Vespertilio* are then available as late as from the late Biharian – Q2 Chlum4S and Koněprusy JK (own records) and from 4 European middle Pleistocene sites, all belonging to *Vespertilio murinus*, of course. In contrast, the Holocene record of this species is quite a rich, mostly from the deposits under rocky walls (viz., e. g. 12 records in Bohemia, 22 in Slovakia, including a mass assemblage in Muráňská cave – Schaefer 1973).

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Souhrn

Poznámky k *Vespertilio majori* Kormos, 1934. Z důvodů homonymie bylo jméno fosilního taxonu *Vespertilio majori* Kormos, 1934, popsaného z mladopliocenní lokality Villany 3, nahrazeno jménem *Vespertilio villanyiensis* nom. n. Tato forma patří velmi pravděpodobně do synonymie recentního druhu *Vespertilio murinus*. Představuje nicméně nejstarší doklad tohoto druhu a spolu s formou *Vespertilio* sp. z miocenu lokality Steinberg, jejíž příslušnost k současnému rodu není navíc zcela jasná (Rachl 1983), jde o jedny předkvartérní doklady rodu. Další dva doklady jsou k dispozici ze závěru staršího pleistocenu a čtyři ze středního pleistocenu. Holocenní nálezy jsou ovšem dosti početné, zejm. z uloženin pod skalními masivy.

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