

The Universities of Florence, Pisa and Chieti,  
the Soprintendenza per i Beni Archeologici dell'Abruzzo  
and the Municipality of Scontrone

invite scientists to the International Scientific Conference



A rich vertebrate fossil fauna (chelonians, crocodiles and land mammals, the latter including the giant insectivore *Deinogalerix* and the problematic genus *Hoplitomeryx*) has been recovered from Tortonian peritidal carbonates cropping out in the outskirts of Scontrone, a charming mountain village located at the southern border of the Abruzzi National Park in the Central Apennines. In Scontrone a small geo-paleontological center (Centro di Documentazione Paleontologico "*Hoplitomeryx*") plays an active didactic role in the region offering an accurate documentation of the fossil vertebrates and a reconstruction of the Tortonian habitat.

The Scontrone vertebrates display close similarities to a well-known fossil assemblage discovered in the Gargano region (Apulia) in the early seventies. The two faunal assemblages share remarkable endemic characters indicative of a common paleobioprovince isolated from the nearest mainland areas. When has colonization took place? How and from where did land vertebrates reach the Gargano and Scontrone areas? The Abruzzo-Apulian finds revive the interest in the movements of vertebrate populations as well as in the colonization of insular setting.

Several modes of past vertebrate migration, especially into islands, have been suggested by paleontologists. Conflicting hypotheses on these topics in the literature highlight the growing need for a new integrated approach in facing these problems.

The conference intends to promote an interdisciplinary discussion between palaeontologists, eco/ethologists, zoologists and geneticists focused on Neogene vertebrate migrations in the Mediterranean and Paratethys and stratigraphers, sedimentologists and regional geologists involved with paleogeographic reconstructions and palinspastic restorations of these regions during the same time span.

More specifically, the goals of the meeting will be: 1) taxonomic assessment of the fossil remains, 2) mammalian biochronology, 3) major dispersal events of the past vertebrate populations, 4) integrated stratigraphy and facies analysis of the vertebrate-bearing depositional sequences, 5) paleobiogeographic studies and paleoecologic reconstructions, 6) movement rates of vertebrates in fragmented landscapes, 7) behavioural mechanisms underlying individual or collective movements and reproductive success of vertebrate in restricted environments, 8) population dynamics/population densities and evolutionary dynamics in settings equivalent to the Mediterranean and Paratethys during the Neogene. Scontrone, with its noteworthy wildlife, nature and human culture, will offer to the participants and enchanting, peaceful atmosphere.

**Duration of the Conference:** 3 days of scientific sessions, including a round table in the afternoon of the third day. Excursions of variable length after the Conference will be organized in the outskirts of Scontrone and in the Gargano area.

**Venue and Accommodation:** the Conference will be held in Scontrone or Castel di Sangro, depending on the number of participants. Various types of accommodation can be arranged in Castel di Sangro (near Scontrone) easily reachable by car, rail and bus from Naples, Pescara and Rome.

**Proceedings:** a volume containing the extended abstracts will be distributed during the Conference, together with the fieldtrip guidebook. The accepted papers will be published within 2011 in an international journal of geosciences.

#### **Organizing Committee**

S. Agostini (Soprintendenza per i Beni Archeologici dell'Abruzzo, Chieti)

G. Carnevale (Department of Earth Sciences, University of Pisa)

U. Crescenti (Dipartimento di Geotecnologie per l'Ambiente ed il Territorio, G. D'Annunzio University, Chieti)

P. Mazza (Department of Earth Sciences and Museum of Natural History, Section of Geology and Palaeontology, University of Florence)

P. Melone (Mayor of Scontrone, L'Aquila)

E. Patacca (Department of Earth Sciences, University of Pisa)

M.A. Rossi (Soprintendenza per i Beni Archeologici dell'Abruzzo, Chieti)

P. Scandone (Department of Earth Sciences, University of Pisa)

#### **Scientific Committee**

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- L. Corda (Department of Earth Sciences, University of Rome "La Sapienza", Italy)
- U. Crescenti (Dipartimento di Geotecnologie per l'Ambiente ed il Territorio, "G. D'Annunzio" University, Chieti, Italy)
- L. de Bonis (Faculté des Sciences et Centre National de Recherche Scientifique, UMR 6046, Université de Poitiers, Poitiers Cedex, France)
- M. Freudenthal (Departamento de Estratigrafía y Paleontología, Universidad de Granada, 18071 Granada, Spain)
- S. Grandić (Zagreb, Croatia)
- T. Kotsakis (Department of Earth Sciences, University of Rome "Roma 3", Italy)
- G. D. Koufos (Laboratory of Geology and Paleontology, Department of Geology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece)
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- W. Piller (Institute of Earth Sciences-Geology and Palaeontology, University of Graz, Austria)
- M. A. Rossi (Soprintendenza per i Beni Archeologici dell'Abruzzo, Chieti)
- P. Scandone (Department of Earth Sciences, University of Pisa, Italy)
- I. Vlahović (Faculty of Mining, Geology and Petroleum Engineering, University of Zagreb, Croatia)

#### **Secretariat and Correspondence**

- G. Carnevale (Department of Earth Sciences, University of Pisa, Italy)
- M. D'Amico (Municipality of Scontrone, L'Aquila)

**Organization and Registration:** a second circular will be distributed in March, 2010. The circular will provide a more complete information on the Conference organization, including registration forms and fees, as well as instructions for submission and preparation of Abstracts.

The following pre-registration form is just aimed at exploring the degree of interest on the Conference and the amount of potential scientific contributions.

#### **Pre-registration form**

Name: .....

Affiliation: .....

e-mail: .....

Topic of a possible scientific contribution

.....

If you are interested in the Conference, please send an e-mail with the informations required in the **Pre-registration form** to dr. G. Carnevale, e-mail: [neogene@dst.unipi.it](mailto:neogene@dst.unipi.it).

Thank you very much for your cooperation, we hope to meet you in Scontrone.