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**SOME DATES ABOUT STUDIES REPRESENTATIVE ORDER  
LAGOMORPHA FROM HIPPARION FAUNA, OF SUPERIOR MIOCEN  
FROM REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**

*REZUMAT*

*Lucrarea include analiza materialelor paleontologice referitoare la ordinul Lagomorpha, cunoscute din siturile faunei de Hipparion de pe teritoriul Republicii Moldova, a Miocenului tardiv. Ele sunt atribuite următoarelor familii: Palaeolagidae, Leporidae, Ochotonidae și Prolagidae. Important este faptul că de prima dată reprezentanții familiei Ochotonidae pătrund pe teritoriul republicii în Basarabianul mediu (zona MN9) din Asia, având o răspândire largă în Basarabian și Hersonian, redusă în Meoșian și mai lărgită în Ponțian. Formele din familia Prolagidae apar în fauna terestră la începutul Hersonianului (zona MN10).*

In sits of Hipparion fauna from the actual territory of Republic of Moldova you can meet now fossils of *Lagomorpha* ordins representatives, but till our day's they are weak studied. Lot's of information's concerning of systematic, phylogeny's, stratigraphic importance of these micro-mammal's are poor known.

From the sits of Hipparion fauna from Republic of Moldova are known rests of fossils of lagomorpha which are ascribe to following families: *Palaeolagidae*, *Leporidae*, *Ochotonidae* and *Prolagidae*.

**Family *Palaeolagidae*.** The remains of representative from this family were described by A. Lungu [3, 4], from the deposits of Bessarabian (Buzhor, Calfa) and are assigned to genus *Eurolagus*, represented by 2 forms: *Eurolagus sp.*, *Eurolagus bujorensis* Lungu. *Eurolagus sp.* Have some similarity with *E. fontanesi* (Deper.) and they are characteristic with an brahiodontal dentition.

*E. bujorensis* have bigger dimensions and are different from the other species of this genus by an higher level of gipsodontie of dentition.

The representatives of *Palaeoginae* family in components of Hipparion's fauna of Bessarabian may be considered as relict forms of *Ancheiterium's* fauna. This way archaic lagomorfa disappear from the components of terofauna at the end of Bessarabian and they can be seen as an characteristic element of Hipparion fauna from lower Vallesian.

The cause of disappearance of *Palaeolagidae* family representatives from the component's of vertebrate fauna, probably was determined by some changes within the natural framework at the beginning of Hersonian's age and setting up of representatives of *Leporidae* and *Prolagidae* families.

**Family *Leporidae*.** First representatives of this family appear in terrestrial fauna at the beginning of Hersonian (Cainari site) and are attributed to *Alilepus* genus. The fosile rests of this genus are the same known from the Hersonian age fauna from the

Pocsesti and from faunist associations of Maeotian (Ciobruciu, Taraclia, Cimislia) and Pontian(?) (Balanesti, Leordoia).

The representatives of *Alilepus* genus from Maeotian fauna are determined as *Alilepus lascarewi* Chom. Hans De Bruijn [1] from Maramena sit (Grece) describing fossil rests of *Alilepus*, and assign them to the *A. turolensis*. But *Alilepus turolensis* from Maramena differ just a little bit from *Alilepus lascarewi* from R.Moldova described since J. Chomenco [2] and unimportant differences from this 2 species may be the result of different level of dentition erodation. Zhuding Qiu [5] suggest an opinion pursuant to that *Alilepus* genus arisen in North America after that together with first representatives of *Hipparion* genus migrate at the begins of Miocen in Eurasia. If we take in count this presumption, that means that the speed of dispersion of *Hipparion* genus was higher in comparison with *Alilepus* genus. First representatives of *Hipparion* genus appear in East European's fauna in the middle of Basarabian but of *Alilepus* at the beginning of Hersonianian.

***Stratigraphic distribution of order Lagomorpha in Superior Miocene  
from the territory of Republic of Moldova***

	MIOCEN					
	Sarmatian		Maeotian		Pontian	
	Bessarabian	Hersonian	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper
Fam. <i>Palaeolagidae</i> : <i>Eurolagus</i> sp.						
<i>Eurolagus bujorensis</i> Lungu						
Fam. <i>Leporidae</i> : <i>Alilepus</i> sp.						
<i>Alilepus lascarewi</i> Chom.						
Fam. <i>Ochotonidae</i> : <i>Proochotona calfense</i> Lungu.						
<i>Proochotona eximia</i> Chom.						
<i>Ochotona</i> sp.						
Fam. <i>Prolagidae</i> : <i>Prolagus</i> sp.						
<i>Prolagus crusafonti</i> (Lopez)						

**Family *Ochotonidae*.** This family in the Superior Miocene are represented by genus *Proochotona*.

*Proochotona* genus appear for the first time in the terrester fauna of Basarabian. In fauna's sites of Hipparion of Bessarabian age (Calfa, Buzhor), the fossil rests of *Proochotona* representatives prevail and belong to an large amount of individuals.

These talk's about high density population of these lagomorfe's. They remains are attributed to the *Proochotona calfense* species Lungu, characteristic for teriofauna from Bessarabian and Hersonian. In Maeotian from this genus an large dispersion have species *Proochotona eximia* Chom. Known from the faunist associations from Cioburci and Taraclia. *P. calfense* – *P. eximia* probably represents an phylogenetic identical line of *Ochotonidae* family. In Pontian *P. eximia* had advanced in parallel with genus *Ochotona*. The representantives of *Proochotona* genus in Miocen did not pervade to west from Carpatians, a probably cause was the presence of some barrier with orographic character, landsafto-climatic, which prevent their dispersion to west.

**Family *Prolagidae*.** This family which rarely meets in the components of Miocen's teriofauna of Eastern Europe is the *Prolagus* genus, the remains of which were tracked down in the sits of Hersonien's fauna (Pitusca) an in the Pontian's fauna (Balanesti, Leordoaia). In the Leordoaia and Balanesti's fauna meets the remains of one of the species of *Prolagus* which is kind a like *P. crusafonti*, known from the Turolian of Western Europe fauna's. *Prolagus* genus represent an characteristic element of Miocen's fauna from the Mediterranean regions. Perhaps in some time intervals before the begins of some changes in fauna, these lagomorphe break trough of Eastern Europe's teriofauna, but could not be considered as an characteristically element of that.

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