

New Eomyidae, Dipodidae, and Cricetidae (Rodentia, Mammalia) of the Lower Freshwater Molasse of Switzerland and Savoy

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New Eomyidae, Dipodidae, and Cricetidae (Rodentia, Mammalia) of the Lower Freshwater Molasse of Switzerland and Savoy

By BURKART ENGESSER¹⁾

CONTENTS

1. Introduction.	945
2. Systematic description	946
Family Eomyidae	946
<i>Eomys molassicus</i> n. sp.	946
<i>Eomys ebnatensis</i> n. sp.	951
<i>Rhodanomys hugueneyae</i> n. sp.	958
Genus <i>Eomyodon</i> n. gen.	967
<i>Eomyodon volkeri</i> n. gen., n. sp.	969
Family Dipodidae	973
<i>Plesiosminthus winistoerferi</i> n. sp.	973
Family Cricetidae	987
Subfamily Pseudocricetodontinae n. subfam.	987
<i>Heterocricetodon hausi</i> n. sp.	987
References	993

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Im Zusammenhang mit einer nächstens erscheinenden Biozonierung der Unteren Süsswassermolasse der Schweiz und Savoyens werden in dieser Arbeit stratigraphisch bedeutsame Säugetiertaxa beschrieben, die in der erwähnten Zonierung Verwendung fanden. Von Oensingen und von Ebnat-Kappel werden unter den Namen *Eomys molassicus* und *E. ebnatensis* je eine neue Art von *Eomys* beschrieben. Die beiden neuen Arten werden miteinander verglichen und ihre Beziehungen zu andern *Eomys*-Arten werden diskutiert. Von Küttigen wird eine neue *Rhodanomys*-Art beschrieben: *Rh. hugueneyae*. Diese Art ist die bisher älteste und ursprünglichste Art der Gattung. Aufgrund von quantitativen Merkmalsanalysen wird die Entwicklungshöhe von *Rh. hugueneyae* ermittelt und mit der anderer *Rhodanomys*-Arten verglichen. Für kleine Eomyiden, welche lange Zeit als *Pseudotheridomys pusillus* bestimmt wurden und die nicht sicher von eigentlichen *Pseudotheridomys*-Arten unterschieden werden konnten, wird die neue Gattung *Eomyodon* aufgestellt. Von dieser Gattung die über 6 Säugetier-Molassezonen des Oberoligozäns und unteren Miozäns belegt ist, wird mit *E. volkeri* eine neue Art beschrieben. *E. volkeri* ist der ursprünglichste und älteste Vertreter dieser Gattung. Für das Niveau von Brochene Fluh 53 (alleroberstes Oligozän) ist eine neue Art von *Plesiosminthus* sehr charakteristisch: *P. winistoerferi*. Es wird gezeigt, dass diese Art, welche die grösste der Gattung *Plesiosminthus* ist, nicht von andern *Plesiosminthus*-Arten abgeleitet werden kann, und dass auch die jüngere Art, *P. myarion* nicht von *P. winistoerferi* abstammen kann. *P. winistoerferi* ist wohl als Immigrant im Gebiet der Molasse anzusehen. In einem speziellen Abschnitt wird eine Liste der *Plesiosminthus*-Vorkommen in der westlichen Molasse gegeben und die Bedeutung der Gattung für die Biostratigraphie diskutiert.

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Die Fundstelle Bumbach 1 hat die älteste und kleinste Art von *Heterocricetodon* geliefert. Diese neue Art, die morphologisch eine Zwischenstellung zwischen *Pseudocricetodon* und *Heterocricetodon* einzunehmen scheint, wird als *H. hausi* beschrieben. Es wird zu zeigen versucht, dass sich *Heterocricetodon* wahrscheinlich aus *Pseudocricetodon* entwickelt hat, oder zumindest dieser Gattung sehr nahe steht. Um dieser Verwandtschaft auch systematisch Ausdruck zu geben, wird eine neue Unterfamilie – die der Pseudocricetodontinae – vorgeschlagen, in welcher die beiden Genera Platz finden sollen.

ABSTRACT

Biostratigraphically important mammal taxa are described in this paper in connection with a recently elaborated biozonation of the Lower Freshwater Molasse of Switzerland and Savoy. Two new species of *Eomys* are described: *E. molassicus* from Oensingen, and *E. ebnatensis* from Ebnat-Kappel. The two new species are compared with each other and their relationships with other species of *Eomys* are discussed. *Rh. hugueneyae*, a new species of *Rhodanomys* from Küttigen is described. This species is the oldest and most primitive species of the genus known. On the basis of a quantitative character analysis, the evolutionary level of *Rh. hugueneyae* is determined and compared with that of other species of *Rhodanomys*. For the small eomyids, which were for a long time identified as *Pseudootheridomys pusillus*, and could not be distinguished safely from true species of *Pseudootheridomys*, the new genus *Eomyodon* is established. Of this genus, which is recorded from six Molasse mammal zones of the Upper Oligocene and the Lower Miocene, a new species is described, *E. volkeri*. *E. volkeri* is the oldest and most primitive species of the genus. For the assemblage zone of Brochene Fluh 53 (Uppermost Oligocene) a new species of *Plesiosminthus*, *P. winistoerferi*, is very characteristic. It is argued that this, the largest species of *Plesiosminthus*, cannot be derived from other species of the genus, and also that the younger species *P. myarion* cannot be descended from *P. winistoerferi*. *P. winistoerferi* seems to be an immigrant into the Molasse region. A list is given of the faunas occurring with *Plesiosminthus* in the western Molasse. The importance of the genus for the biostratigraphy is discussed.

The locality of Bumbach 1 has yielded the oldest and smallest species of *Heterocricetodon*. This new species which morphologically seems to occupy an intermediate position between *Pseudocricetodon* and *Heterocricetodon* probably developed from *Pseudocricetodon*, or is at least closely related to this genus. In order to express this relationship systematically, a new subfamily, the Pseudocricetodontinae, is proposed to accommodate both genera.

RÉSUMÉ

En relation avec une biozonation récemment élaborée de la Molasse d'eau douce inférieure de la Suisse et de la Savoie, des taxons de mammifères utilisés pour cette biozonation et qui sont importants pour la biostratigraphie, sont décrits dans cet article. Deux nouvelles espèces d'*Eomys* sont décrites: *E. molassicus* d'Oensingen et *E. ebnatensis* d'Ebnat-Kappel. Les deux nouvelles espèces sont comparées entre elles et leurs relations avec d'autres espèces d'*Eomys* sont discutées. Une nouvelle espèce de *Rhodanomys* de Küttigen est décrite: *Rh. hugueneyae*. Cette espèce est la plus ancienne et la plus primitive du genre connue à ce jour. Fondé sur l'analyse quantitative des caractères, le niveau d'évolution de *Rh. hugueneyae* est établi et comparé avec celui des autres espèces de *Rhodanomys*. Pour de petits Eomyidés, qui pendant longtemps ont été déterminés comme *Pseudootheridomys pusillus* et qui ne pouvaient pas être différenciés des vraies espèces de *Pseudootheridomys*, le nouveau genre *Eomyodon* a été créé. Dans ce genre, qui s'étend sur six zones de mammifères de la Molasse – de l'Oligocène supérieur au Miocène inférieur – une nouvelle espèce est décrite: *E. volkeri*. *E. volkeri* est le représentant le plus primitif et le plus ancien du genre. Pour le niveau de Brochene Fluh 53 (Oligocène terminal), une nouvelle espèce de *Plesiosminthus* est très caractéristique: *P. winistoerferi*. Il est démontré que cette espèce, la plus grande du genre *Plesiosminthus*, ne peut pas descendre d'autres espèces de *Plesiosminthus*, et que l'espèce la plus récente, *P. myarion*, ne peut pas descendre de *P. winistoerferi*. *P. winistoerferi* doit être regardé comme un immigrant dans la région de la Molasse. Un chapitre spécial est réservé à une liste des gisements de *Plesiosminthus* dans la Molasse occidentale et la signification du genre pour la biostratigraphie est discutée.

Le gisement de Bumbach a livré la plus ancienne et la plus petite espèce d'*Heterocricetodon*. Cette nouvelle espèce, qui semble prendre une position morphologique intermédiaire entre *Pseudocricetodon* et *Heterocricetodon*, est décrite sous le nom de *H. hausi*. On a tenté de démontrer qu'*Heterocricetodon* s'est probablement développé à partir de *Pseudocricetodon*, ou en tout cas qu'il est très proche de ce genre. Pour exprimer cette parenté dans la systématique, une nouvelle sous-famille est proposée, celle des Pseudocricetodontinae, dans laquelle les deux genres devraient trouver place.

on the eomyids of the Swiss Molasse. In this latter publication, which will soon be completed, extensive comparisons and discussions of the relationships will be given. The new species of *Heterocricetodon* and that of *Plesiosminthus* are treated more extensively, because these two genera are small groups to which I will not refer again in the near future.

I am indebted to many persons for their help. The geologists Dr. M. Weidmann, Lausanne, Dr. H. A. Haus, Überlingen, and Dr. A. Breitschmid, Bern, helped me in the field and provided me with lithostratigraphical sections. Prof. Dr. V. Fahlbusch, Munich, Dr. M. Huguency, Lyon, and U. Oberli, St. Gallen, lent me fossil material. P. Hornisberger, Bern, D. Kälin, Balsthal, and H. Winistörfer, Balsthal, provided me with material from localities that they had discovered. Prof. Dr. V. Fahlbusch, Dr. Joh. Hürzeler, N. A. Mayo, and Dr. M. Weidmann discussed problems with me, and provided me with much information and numerous suggestions. Our preparators, D. Oppliger and M. Weick, helped me in the field, washed sediments and made casts. H. Gredig, H. Pouget, P. Schwarz, my wife Wies, and J. Zimmermann did the picking of the washed sediments. Dr. and Mrs. T. Harrison went over the manuscript which was typed by H. Pouget. To all these people I would like to express my thanks.

2. Systematic description

Family *Eomyidae* DEPÉRET & DOUXAMI 1902

Genus *Eomys* SCHLOSSER 1884

Eomys molassicus n. sp.

Fig. 2b–c, 3b, 4b, 5d, 6a, 7–8

Diagnosis. – Small species of *Eomys* with brachyodont, short, and wide lower molars which show a well-developed anterior cingulum (labial and lingual branch) and a medium to long mesolophid. P_4 also with long mesolophid. M_1 and M_2 both with 4th labial syncline, but more reduced in M_2 than in M_1 . M^1 and M^2 mostly with long mesoloph and well-developed 1st labial syncline. Lower incisor relatively large, almost as large as in *Eomys zitteli*.

Derivatio nominis. – molassicus, because this species is so far known only from the Molasse basin.

Type. – Right mandible fragment with I, P_4 – M_3 , U.M. 2926, Basel, Museum of Natural History. Dimensions: P_4 : 0,94 × 0,92 mm, M_1 : 0,98 × 1,00 mm, M_2 : 1,02 × 2,08 mm, M_3 : 0,86 × 0,98 mm. Incisor (cross-section): 0,66 × 1,12 mm, height of the mandible below P_4 : about 3,25 mm; (fig. 2c, 5d).

Referred material from Oensingen. – Right mandible fragment with M_1 – M_2 , right maxillary fragment with P^4 – M^1 , 7 isolated teeth.

Type locality. – Freshwater limestone of Oensingen–Ravellen (Canton of Solothurn, Switzerland), coordinates of the “Schweizer Landeskarte” 1:25 000: 620 850/238 100 (see MAYO 1980, p. 1098 and ENGESSER & MAYO 1987).

Age: Middle Oligocene, assemblage zone of Oensingen (ENGESSER & MAYO 1987).

Stratigraphic range. – Assemblage zones of Oensingen and Mümliswil–Hardberg.

Other localities with *Eomys molassicus*:

Schwendibach (near Steffisburg, Canton of Bern)	} (<i>E. cf. molassicus</i>)
Mümliswil–Hardberg	
Cuennet (Canton of Vaud)	

Differential diagnosis. –

From *Eomys antiquus* (AYMARD 1853), *E. molassicus* differs in:

- its larger dimensions,
- the more strongly developed anterior cingulum on the lower molars,
- the longer mesolophids on the lower molars,
- the less reduced 4th lingual syncline on M_2 ,
- the higher ramus horizontalis of the mandible.

Remark. – *Eomys antiquus* is only poorly known. The species is documented only by the type mandible (with I, M_1 and M_2) and another mandibular fragment with M_1 .

From *Eomys zitelli* SCHLOSSER 1884, *E. molassicus* differs in:

- the smaller dimensions of its molars,
- the smaller lower incisor (despite the similar height of the mandible),
- the longer mesolophid on the lower P and M,
- the longer mesoloph on the upper P and M,
- the more transversely aligned metalophid on the lower P and M,
- the more brachyodont lower P and M,
- the more developed 1st labial syncline on M^1 and M^2 .

From *Eomys major* FREUDENBERG 1941 and *Eomys huerzeleri* ENGESSER 1982, *E. molassicus* differs in:

- its considerably smaller dimensions,
- the longer mesolophid on lower P and M,
- the longer mesolophs on upper P and M.

Differential diagnosis with *Eomys ebnatensis* n. sp. see p. 952

From *Eomys minor* COMTE & VIANEY-LIAUD 1987 (no specimen seen), *E. molassicus* differs in:

- its larger dimensions,
- its less elongated M_1 and M_2 ,
- the presence of a mesolophid on M_1 and M_2 ,
- the less reduced 4th lingual syncline of M_1 and M_2 .

From *Eomys quercyi* COMTE & VIANEY-LIAUD 1987 (no specimen seen), *E. molassicus* differs in:

- its considerably smaller dimensions,
- the longer mesolophid on lower P and M,
- its more transversely metalophid on the lower molars,
- the longer mesoloph on upper P and M,
- its less reduced M^3 .

From *Eomys gigas* COMTE & VIANEY-LIAUD 1987 (no specimen seen) *E. molassicus* differs in:

- its much smaller dimensions,
- the longer mesoloph on upper P and M.
- the less reduced M³.

Description of the type (Fig. 2c). – Of the type mandible only the incisor, P₄–M₃ and the anterior part of the ramus horizontalis are preserved. In front of the anterior root of P₄ a foramen mentale can be recognized.

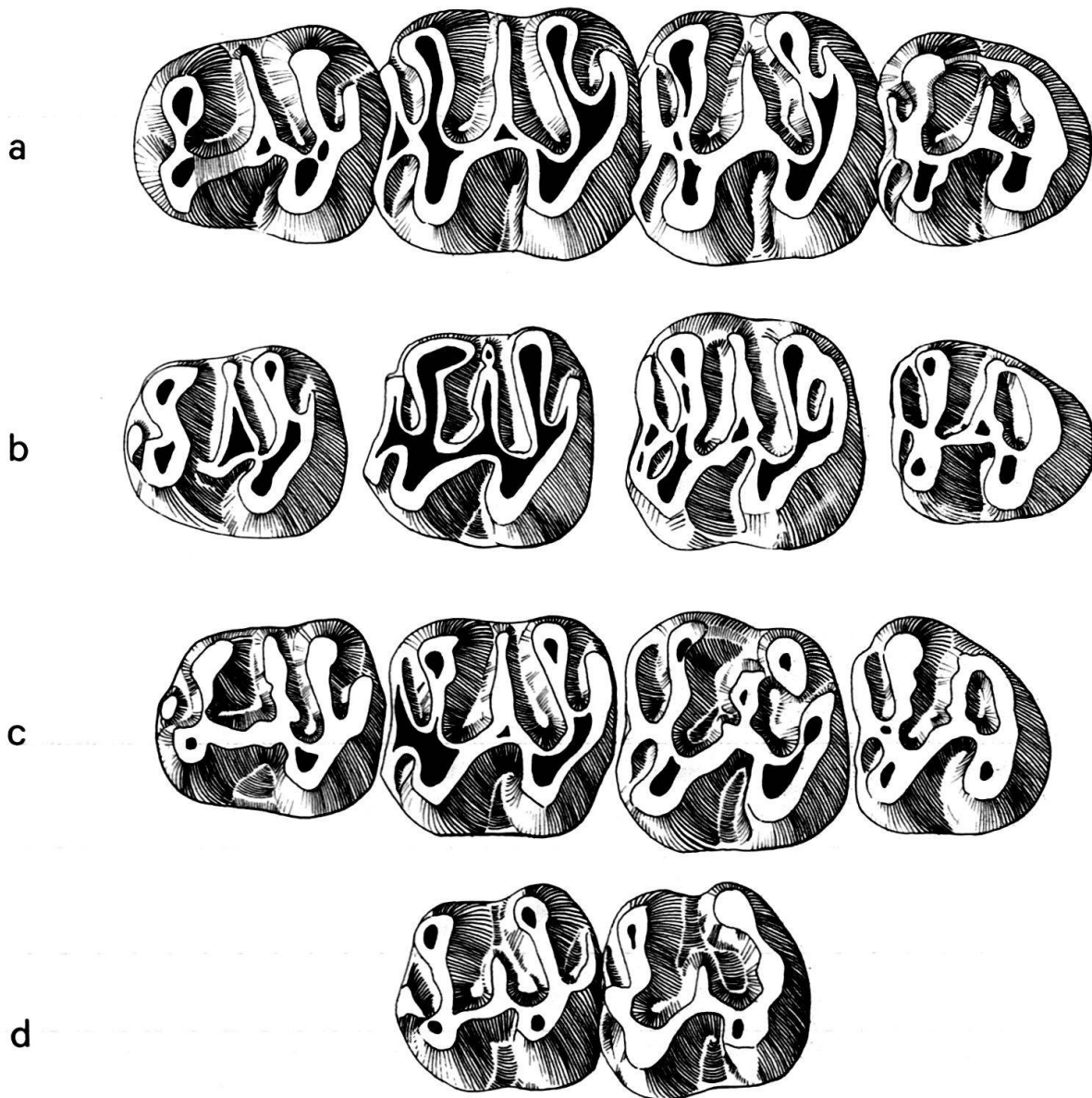


Fig. 2 a) *Eomys ebnatensis* n. sp. from Ebnat-Kappel, right mandible (inverse) with P₄–M₃, type, EKO-1, collection Urs Oberli, St. Gallen.

b) *Eomys molassicus* n. sp. from Schwendibach, P₄–M₃, left P₄: Scb 1, left M₁: Scb 2, right M₂ (inverse): Scb 3, left M₃: Scb 4, Naturhistorisches Museum Basel.

c) *Eomys molassicus* n. sp. from Oensingen, right mandible (inverse) with P₄–M₃, type, U.M. 2926, Naturhistorisches Museum Basel.

d) *Eomys antiquus* (AYMARD) from Ronzon (carrière d'Exbrayat), left mandible with M₁–M₂, type, LP R6, Muséum nat. d'Histoire naturelle Paris.

all figures 25×.

The exterior side of the incisor shows a longitudinal enamel ridge typical of most eomyid incisors (Fig. 6a).

The P_4 shows a relatively low crown, though it is only a little worn. Its very long mesolophid reaches the lingual edge of the tooth. The longitudinal crest is situated labially of the midline. A small anteroconid is developed. A strong posterior cingulum borders the rather shallow 4th lingual syncline.

The M_1 is almost as long as wide and very brachyodont. It also shows a long mesolophid reaching the lingual edge of the tooth. The labial branch of the anterior cingulum is relatively short. The metalophid is transversal, ending in the anterior arm of the protoconid. The longitudinal crest is situated labially of the midline too. The short 4th lingual syncline does not even reach the middle of the tooth.

The M_2 is wider than long, very brachyodont and shows a moderately long mesolophid. The anterior cingulum is better developed than in M_1 . The 4th lingual syncline is very much reduced, but still perceptible. The 3rd, and even more so, the 2nd lingual syncline, extends labially beyond the middle of the tooth. The metalophid is transversely aligned and ends in the anterior arm of the protoconid.

The M_3 is very wide and short. Its mesolophid is connected with the entoconid. The latter is not developed as a cusp, but is merged in the posterior cingulum. The metalophid is transversely aligned, but bends anteriorly and joins the anterior arm of the protoconid.

Description of the dentition. – No other specimens are known of P_4 and M_3 besides those in the type jaw.

Two additional M_1 s correspond well with the M_1 of the type. In both specimens the anterior cingulum is slightly longer. The metalophid is transversely aligned in both

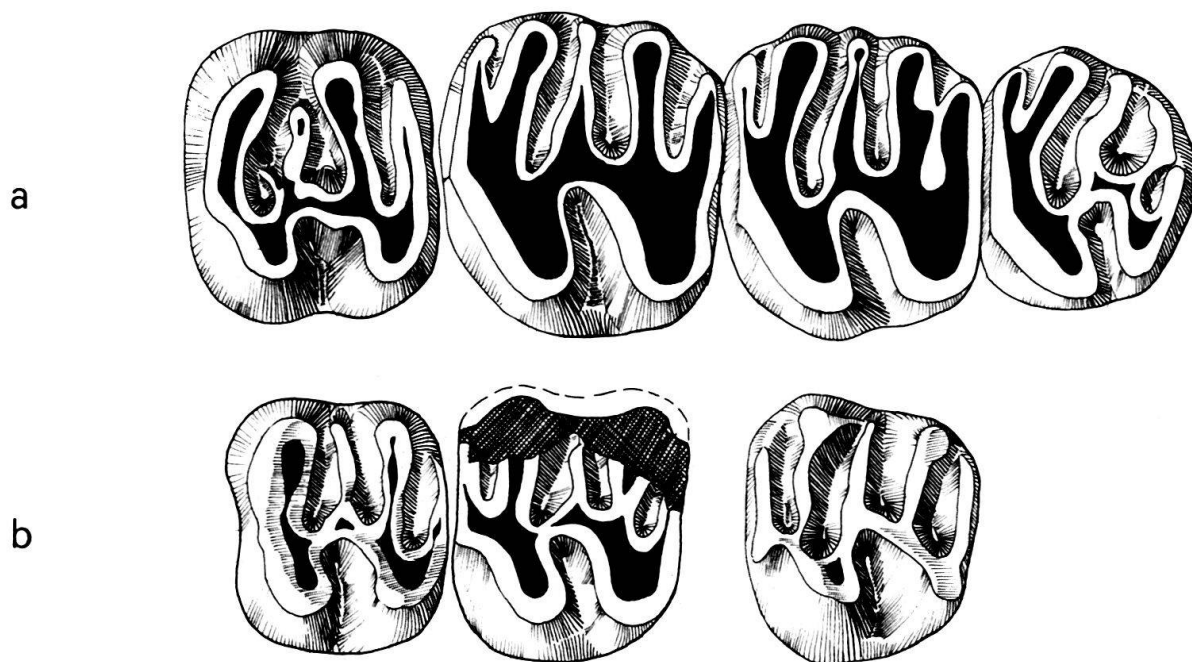


Fig. 3 a) *Eomys ebnatensis* n. sp. from Ebnat-Kappel, left maxillary with P^4 – M^3 , EKO-23, collection Urs Oberli, St. Gallen.

b) *Eomys molassicus* n. sp. from Oensingen, right maxillary fragment (inverse) with P^4 – M^1 , U.M. 2181, left M^2 : U.M. 480, Naturhistorisches Museum Basel. all figures 25 ×.

specimens, but in one of them it joins directly with the protoconid. In the same specimen the mesolophid is shorter than in the M_1 of the type. All three specimens show a great conformity in the long 2nd and 3rd syncline which goes beyond the midline of the crown, and in the development of the 4th syncline.

Two other M_2 s besides the type are present. These two molars correspond in size and morphology very well with the M_2 of the type, except that in one specimen the mesolophid reaches the lingual edge of the tooth.

The P^4 is documented only by one specimen. This tooth is relatively large and shows a very long mesoloph reaching almost the labial edge of the tooth. The 4th labial syncline is longer than the 2nd and the 3rd.

The only known M^1 is damaged on its labial side. It is from the same maxillary as the P^4 described above. Its 1st labial syncline is well developed. The mesolophid is moderately long.

The only M^2 is a little worn, and shows a very long mesoloph and a very long 1st labial syncline extending beyond the middle of the tooth. The 2nd and the 4th syncline also extend far lingually. The paracone shows a posterior crest.

From Oensingen no M^3 of *E. molassicus* is known, but in the locality of Schwendibach two specimens were found. These teeth are little reduced and have a well developed 1st labial syncline and a long mesoloph.

Dimensions (of the type see page 946)

P^4 : 0,96 × 1,10 mm

M^2 : 0,92 × 1,06 mm

M_1 : 1,10 × 1,04 mm

1,08 × 1,04 mm

M_2 : 1,00 × 1,08 mm

1,04 × 0,96 mm

Discussion. – See under *Eomys ebnatensis*.

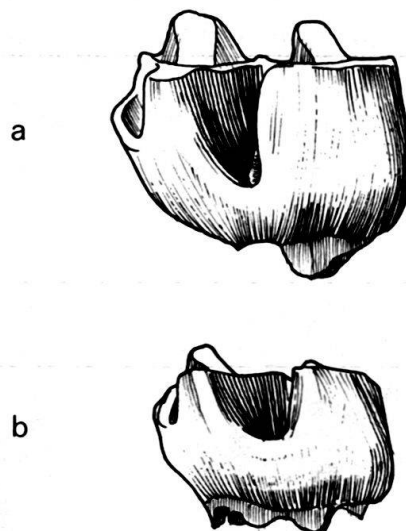


Fig. 4 a) *Eomys ebnatensis* n. sp. from Ebnat-Kappel, left M_2 , slightly worn, view from labial, EKO-40, collection Urs Oberli, St. Gallen.

b) *Eomys molassicus* n. sp. from Oensingen, left M_2 , not worn, view from labial, U.M. 7166, Naturhistorisches Museum Basel.

both figures 25×.

Eomys ebnatensis n. sp.

Fig. 2a, 3a, 4a, 5a–b, 6b, 7–8

- partim 1979 *Eomys zitteli* SCHLOSSER – FREI, p. 141–142.
 1982 *Eomys zitteli* SCHLOSSER – ENGESSER & HUGUENEY, p. 64–67.
 1985 *Eomys* aff. *zitteli* SCHLOSSER – ENGESSER, MAYO & WEIDMANN, p. 21–22, 27–28.
 1985 *Eomys* aff. *zitteli* SCHLOSSER – MOJON et al., p. 640–643, 646.

Diagnosis. – Medium-sized species of *Eomys*, somewhat larger than *E. zitteli* with relatively hypsodont cheek teeth. M_1 and M_2 with long or moderately long mesolophid, mostly transversely aligned metalophid, and well developed 4th lingual syncline. Mesoloph of P^4 short to moderately long, of M^1 very variable, and of M^2 mostly long. Mandible with strong ramus horizontalis and a high condyle.

Derivatio nominis. – After Ebnat-Kappel the type locality.

Type. – Right mandible fragment with I, P_4 – M_3 , EKO 1, collection of Urs Oberli, St. Gallen, (Fig. 2a, 5a).

Dimensions. – P_4 : 1,08 × 1,02 mm, M_1 : 1,24 × 1,16 mm, M_2 : 1,10 × 1,18 mm, M_3 : 0,98 × 1,00 mm, P_4 – M_3 : 4,34 mm, I (width × height): 0,64 × 1,08 mm, height of mandible below P_4 : 3,42 mm.

Referred material from Ebnat-Kappel. – 4 skull fragments with complete dentition; 6 maxillary fragments; 4 mandibles with complete dentition; 5 mandible fragments; 61 isolated teeth.

Type locality. – Grey marls about 11,5 m above the base of the section in the quarry “Schmitt”, 1,5 km NE of Ebnat-Kappel in Toggenburg (Canton of St. Gallen, Switzerland). Coordinates of the “Schweizerische Landeskarte” 1:25 000: 728 870/236 475 (see FREI 1979).

Age. – Upper Oligocene, assemblage zone of Fornant 6 (see ENGESSER & MAYO 1987).

Stratigraphic range. – Assemblage zones of Wynau 1 through Fornant 6. From the zone of Rickenbach a similar form is known, but as only a few isolated teeth of it were recovered, it is listed as *E. cf. ebnatensis*.

Other localities with *E. ebnatensis*

Fornant 6 and 7 (ENGESSER & HUGUENEY 1982)
 Boudry-La-Fabrique (MOJON et al. 1985)
 Bois de Tey 7 (ENGESSER, MAYO & WEIDMANN 1984)
 Wolfwil }
 Wynau 1 } (ENGESSER & MAYO 1987)
 Boningen }
 Gösigen-Kanal (ENGESSER 1982)

With *E. aff. ebnatensis*

Ebnat-Kappel (*Eomys* 1; FREY 1979)

With *E. cf. ebnatensis*

La Cornalle (ENGESSER, MAYO & WEIDMANN 1984)
 Findreuse 18 (ENGESSER & HUGUENEY 1982)
 Rances (HUGUENEY & KISSLING 1972)
 Rickenbach (ENGESSER & MAYO 1987)

Differential diagnosis. –

E. ebnatensis differs from *E. zitteli* SCHLOSSER in:

- its larger dimensions,
- its more hypsodont cheek teeth,
- the longer mesolophid of lower P and M,
- the better developed 4th lingual syncline of P₄ and M₁,
- the more transversely aligned metalophid on P₄, M₁ and M₂,
- the higher ramus horizontalis of the mandible,
- the higher position of the condyle on the mandible.

E. ebnatensis differs from *E. molassicus* n. sp. in:

- its large size,
- its more hypsodont cheek teeth,
- its shorter 2nd and 3rd lingual syncline on M₁ and M₂,
- its relatively longer M₁.

E. ebnatensis differs from *E. antiquus* (AYMARD) in:

- its distinctly larger size,
- its more hypsodont cheek teeth,
- the better developed anterior cingulum on M₁ and M₂,
- the longer mesolophid on the lower molars,
- the more developed 4th lingual syncline on M₂,
- its relatively longer M₁,
- its shorter 2nd and 3rd lingual syncline on M₁ and M₂,
- the higher ramus horizontalis of the mandible.

E. ebnatensis differs from *E. major* FREUDENBERG in:

- its smaller size,
- the longer mesolophid of lower P and M,
- the more transversely aligned metalophid on M₁ and M₂,
- the less reduced M³, having mostly a sinus,
- never developing a 1st labial syncline on P⁴.

E. ebnatensis differs from *E. huerzeleri* in:

- its smaller size,
- the longer mesolophid of P₄ and M₁,

Fig. 5. Comparison of *Eomys*-mandibles in labial view.

a) *Eomys ebnatensis* n. sp. from Ebnat-Kappel, right mandible (inverse), type, EKO-1, collection Urs Oberli, St. Gallen.

b) *Eomys ebnatensis* n. sp. from Ebnat-Kappel, right mandible (inverse), EKO-19, collection Urs Oberli, St. Gallen.

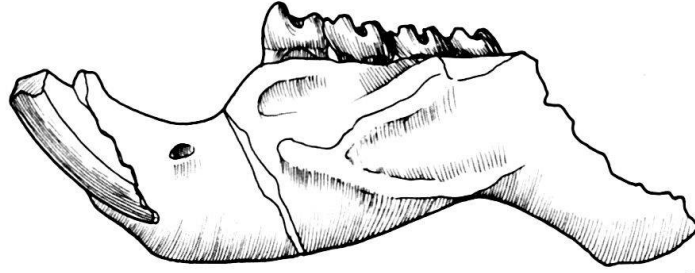
c) *Eomys zitteli* SCHLOSSER from Quercy, right mandible (inverse) neotype, Q.T. 928, Naturhistorisches Museum Basel.

d) *Eomys molassicus* n. sp. from Oensingen right mandible (inverse), type, U.M. 2926, Naturhistorisches Museum Basel.

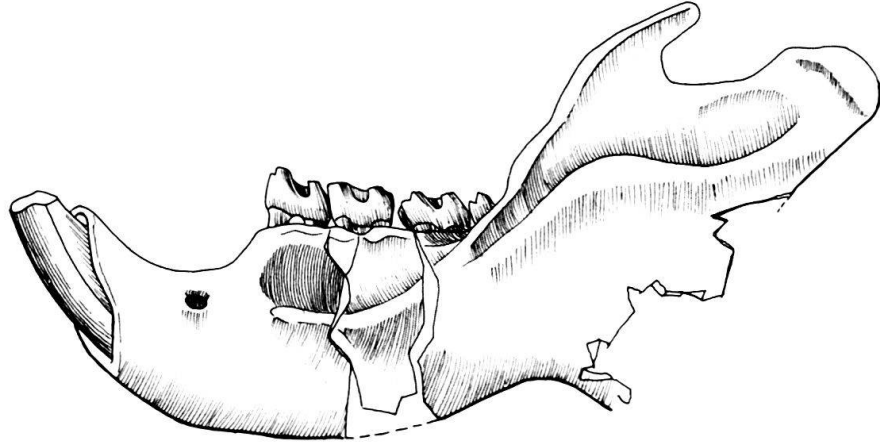
e) *Eomys antiquus* (AYMARD) from Ronzon, left mandible, type, LP R6, Muséum nat. d'Histoire naturelle Paris.

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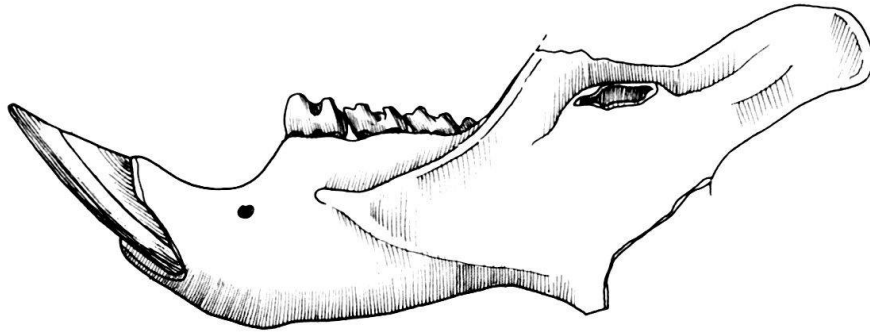
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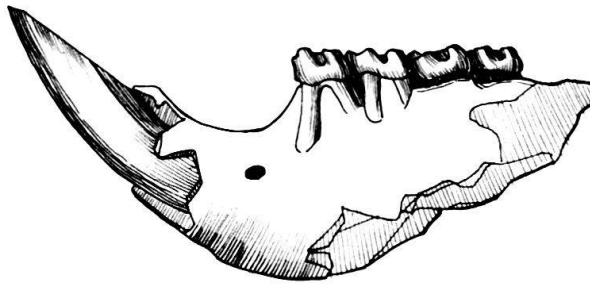
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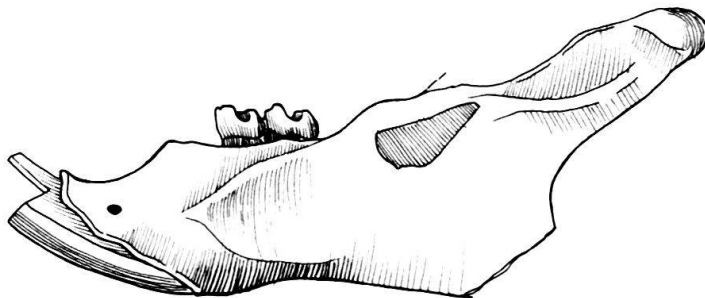
c



d



e



- its more elongated M_1 ,
- the longer mesoloph of P_4 , M^1 and M^2 .

E. ebnatensis differs from *E. minor* COMTE & VIANEY-LIAUD (no specimen seen) in:

- its larger size,
- its well developed mesolophid on M_1 and M_2 ,
- the more developed 4th lingual syncline of M_1 and M_2 ,
- the longer anterior cingulum of M_1 and M_2 .

E. ebnatensis differs from *E. quercyi* COMTE & VIANEY-LIAUD (no specimen seen) in:

- its well developed mesolophid on M_1 and M_2 ,
- the better developed 4th lingual syncline on P_4 , M_1 and M_2 ,
- its less reduced M^3 ,
- the more transversely aligned metalophid on M_1 and M_2 .

E. ebnatensis differs from *E. gigas* COMTE & VIANEY-LIAUD (no specimen seen) in:

- its smaller size,
- its longer mesoloph on the upper molars,
- its less reduced M^3 .

Description of the type (Fig. 2a, 5a). — The type is a right mandibular fragment with I, P_4 – M_3 . The teeth are moderately worn. The tip of the incisor is broken.

The P_4 shows a long mesolophid which reaches the lingual edge of the tooth, and a well developed 4th lingual syncline. An anteroconid is not present.

The M_1 is somewhat longer than wide. Its mesolophid is long and reaches the lingual edge. The metalophid is transversely aligned, but a little curved and ends in the anterior arm of the protoconid. The 2nd lingual syncline is somewhat shorter than the 3rd. Both extend beyond the middle of the tooth. The 4th lingual syncline is well-developed.

The M_2 is wider than long. Its mesolophid is moderately long. As in the M_1 , the metalophid ends in the anterior arm of the protoconid. The 2nd and the 3rd lingual synclines are about equal in length and extend a little beyond the middle of the tooth. The 4th lingual syncline is less well-developed than in M_1 .

The M_3 is relatively small. Its mesolophid is moderately large. The entoconid is incorporated into the posterior cingulum. The sinusid is more posteriorly directed than in M_1 and M_2 .

The mandible is very robust. Its ramus horizontalis reaches its maximum height below the P_4 . The ramus ascendens is broken away. Of the processus angularis only the lower edge is preserved. The masseteric fossa is distinctly perceptible. The foramen mentale is situated in front of the P_4 , somewhat below the deepest point of the upper edge of the mandible. The groove for the insertion of the temporalis muscle is visible below the P_4 .

The lower incisor is about the size of that of *E. zitteli* and shows a distinct longitudinal enamel ridge on its outside.

Description of the dentition. — Most P_4 s have a long or moderately long mesolophid and a well-developed 4th lingual syncline. In contrast to that of the type, most P_4 s show a more or less well-developed anteroconid.

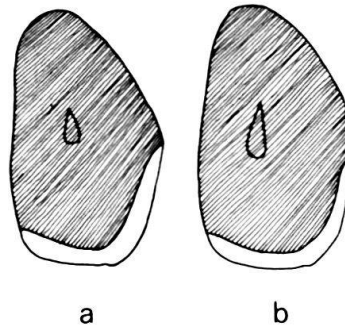


Fig. 6. Cross-section of the lower incisor.

a) *Eomys molassicus* n. sp. from Oensingen, U.M. 2926 (type) Naturhistorisches Museum Basel.

b) *Eomys ebnatensis* n. sp. from Ebnat-Kappel, EKO-19, collection Urs Oberli, St. Gallen. both figures 25 \times .

With the exception of one specimen, which is as long as wide, the M_1 is longer than wide. Its mesolophid is mostly long, more rarely moderately long. The 4th lingual syncline is generally well-developed. In most M_1 s the metalophid extends transversely to the protoconid.

The M_2 is often wider than long. It usually has a moderately long mesolophid, or occasionally a long one. As in the M_1 , no specimen with a short mesolophid was found. The 4th lingual syncline of M_2 almost always is weakly developed. The metalophid is less often transversely aligned than in M_1 .

The M_3 is distinctly smaller than M_1 and M_2 . Its mesolophid is usually fused with the posterior cingulum. A swelling in this latter ridge, which can be interpreted as an entoconid, is only rarely present.

The P^4 is relatively large. The 1st labial syncline is lacking. The mesoloph is usually short.

The M^1 usually has a weakly developed 1st labial syncline. The mesoloph is very variable. About equal percentages of teeth show a short, a moderately long or a long mesoloph. The 1st labial syncline, generally reaches the middle of the tooth. In most specimens the 1st labial syncline is a little longer than the 3rd one. The M^1 is more hypsodont than the M^2 .

The M^2 has a less well-developed 1st labial syncline than on M^1 , and usually a long, never a short mesoloph. The 2nd labial syncline extends beyond the middle of the tooth, and is always longer than the 3rd one.

Compared with the M^3 of other species of *Eomys*, that of *E. ebnatensis* is little reduced. In almost all the specimens a sinus is present. The 1st labial syncline is even more reduced than in M^2 . The mesoloph is generally long or occasionally moderately long.

Discussion

Having the evolution of all European eomyids in view, a number of features of *Eomys molassicus* can be classified as primitive: Its small size, its brachyodont premolars and molars, the transversely aligned metalophid and the labially situated longitudinal crest of the lower molars, and the long 2nd labial syncline of the upper molars. *E. molassicus* shares most of these characters with *E. antiquus*, which is one of the oldest eomyids in Europe. In other features, *E. molassicus* differs from the latter species, especially in the

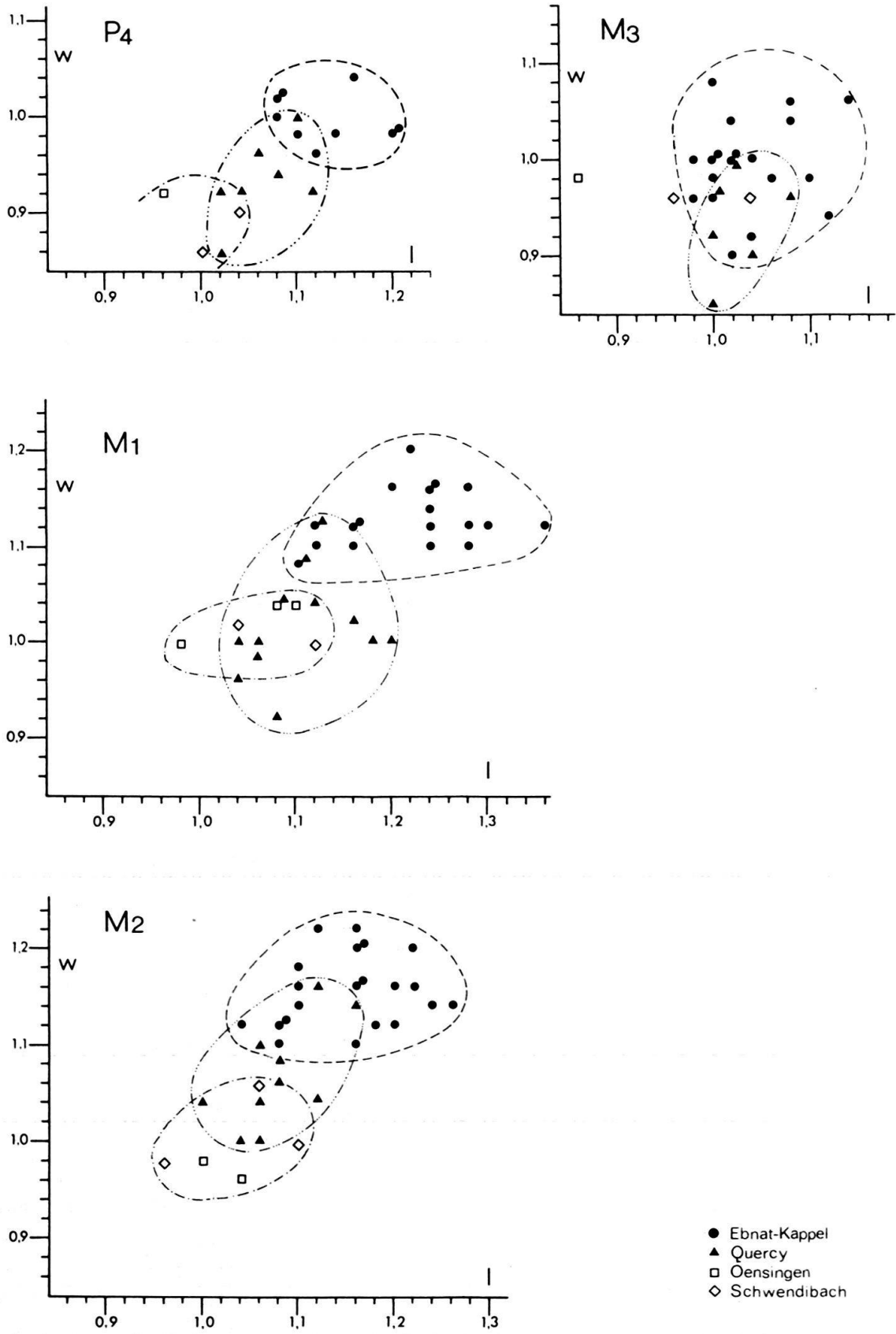


Fig. 7. Scatter diagrams of length (l) and width (w) in P₄, M₁, M₂ and M₃ of various *Eomys*-species: Ebnat-Kappel = *E. ebnatensis*; Quercy = *E. zitteli*; Oensingen = *E. molassicus*; Schwendibach = *E. molassicus*.

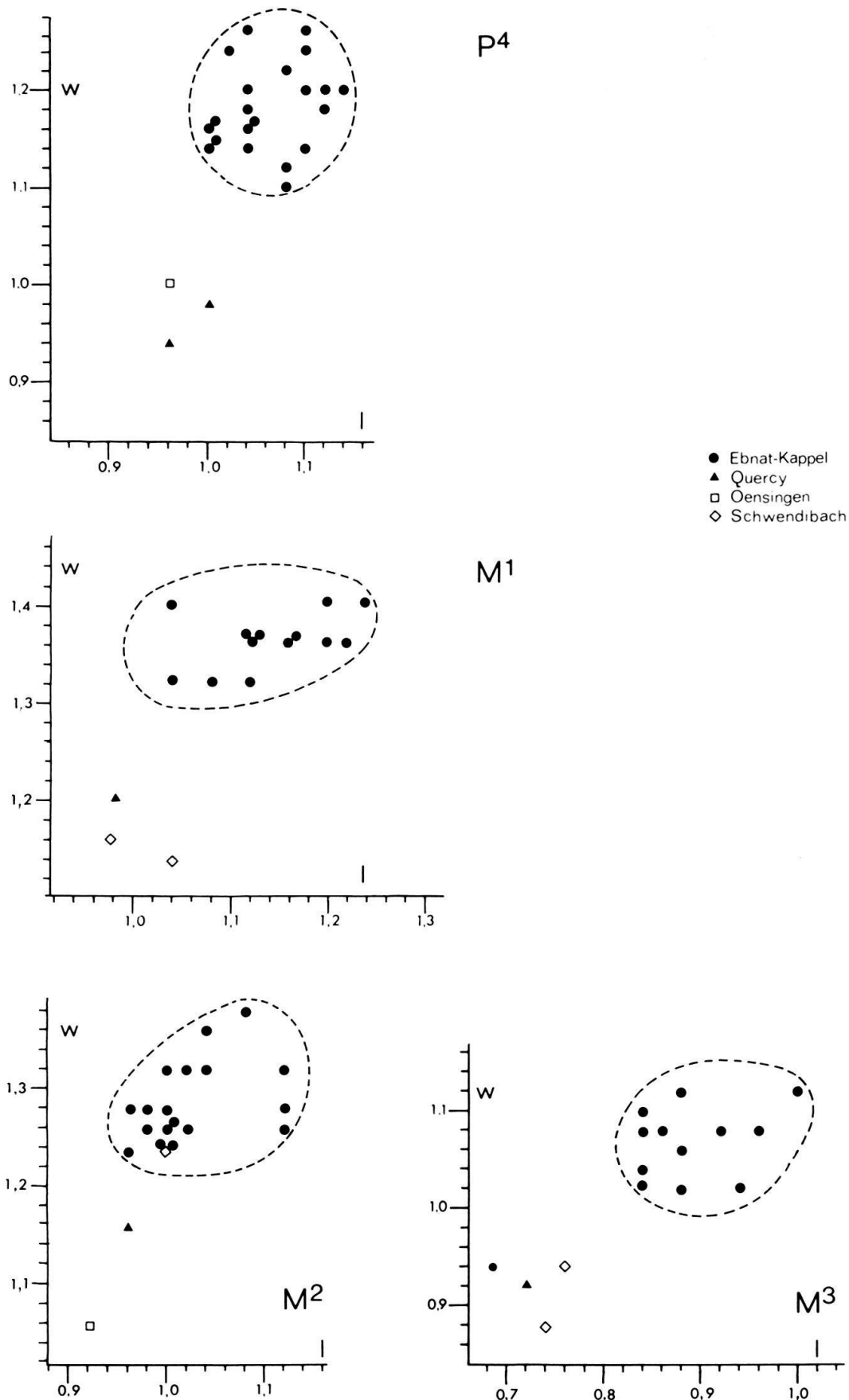


Fig. 8. Scatter diagrams of length (l) and width (w) in P⁴, M¹, M² and M³ of various *Eomys*-species (see Fig. 7).

better developed anterior cingula, the mesolophids, and the 4th lingual syncline on M_1 and M_2 . With these characters *E. molassicus* fits very well with later species of *Eomys* of the Molasse¹). Species with a very short mesolophid, as in *E. minor* from Belgarric or *E. quercyi* from Pech du Fraysse (COMTE & VIANEY-LIAUD 1987), are not known from the Molasse.

E. ebnatensis is very similar to *E. molassicus*. Both species show long mesolophids in the upper molars, and long mesolophids and transversely aligned metalophids in the lower molars. The most obvious difference between the two species is the crown height of the teeth (Fig. 4): *E. molassicus* has very brachyodont teeth, while those of *E. ebnatensis* are distinctly more hypsodont. In this character the latter species is clearly more advanced. It is easy to infer that *E. ebnatensis* was descended from *E. molassicus*.

Eomys ebnatensis has a quite large stratigraphical range. The species occurs in 5 assemblage zones (Wynau 1 – Fornant 6), or even in 6 if *E. cf. ebnatensis* from the zone of Rickenbach is included. During this time the species does not undergo any appreciable evolutionary development. In the zone of Wynau 1, for example, the tooth pattern is not more primitive than in that of Fornant 6. Also no increase in size or crown height can be observed. Nevertheless, it is important to keep in mind that, except for Ebnat-Kappel, all other localities have yielded only isolated teeth of *E. ebnatensis*. Whether there is a change in the mandible, we do not yet know.

Genus *Rhodanomys* DEPÉRET & DOUXAMI 1902

Rhodanomys hugueneyae n. sp.

Fig. 9–14

1969 ?partim *Rhodanomys* sp. B – HUGUENEY, p. 89–90.

1979 *Rhodanomys* sp. – VIANEY-LIAUD, p. 229.

1982 *Rhodanomys transiens* HUGUENEY – ENGESSER & HUGUENEY, p. 62–64.

1984 *Rhodanomys* cf. *transiens* HUGUENEY – ENGESSER, MAYO & WEIDMANN, p. 22.

1984 *Rhodanomys transiens* HUGUENEY – ENGESSER, MAYO & WEIDMANN, p. 31.

Diagnosis. – So far the largest species of *Rhodanomys* with primitive *Eomys*-like tooth pattern: M^1 mostly with well developed 1st labial syncline and continuous longitudinal crest. M^2 mostly with rudimentary 1st labial syncline and continuous or only slightly interrupted longitudinal crest. Mesoloph of P^4 moderately long or long. Mesolophid of M_1 and M_2 medium length to long. 4th lingual syncline of M_1 and M_2 frequently perceptible.

Derivatio nominis. – Named in honor of Dr. Marguerite Hugueney, Lyon, for her important studies on *Rhodanomys*.

Type. – Left M_2 , NMB U.M. 3515, dimensions: 1,28 × 1,14, (Fig. 9b).

¹) In a very recent paper COMTE & VIANEY-LIAUD (1987, p. 953) declared that the relationship between the different populations of *Eomys* in the Oligocene seem relatively clear. With this statement, these authors have overestimated the state of our present knowledge and the completeness of our fossil record. It is not possible to fully discuss this problem here. However I would like to state that in my opinion *Eomys* is a very complex and highly ramified group. That the relationships within this genus appear relatively clear is due to the fact that there are no striking changes in the evolution of *Eomys*, and that the different populations are difficult to distinguish. I will deal further with this problem in my monograph on the eomyids of the Swiss Molasse.

Type locality. – Road cutting of Rombach, commune of Küttigen, Canton of Aargau (Switzerland), co-ordinates 645975/250650 of the “Schweizerische Landeskarte” 1:25000, sheet 1089 Aarau.

Age. – Upper Oligocene, assemblage zone of Küttigen (see ENGESSER & MAYO 1987).

Stratigraphic range: *Rh. hugueneyae* is limited to the assemblage zone of Küttigen. It was also found in some small faunas intermediate in age between the zones of Rickenbach and Küttigen (La Cornalle, Rance, Brochene Fluh 19/20, Basel-St. Jakob) mostly associated with *Eomys huerzeleri* and/or *Issiodoromys*. In the assemblage zone of Brochene Fluh 53 we find a more advanced form: *Rh. aff. hugueneyae*.

Other localities with *Rh. hugueneyae*:

Le Gérignoz (ENGESSER, MAYO & WEIDMANN 1984)
 La Cornalle (ENGESSER, MAYO & WEIDMANN 1984)
 Basel-St. Jakob (ENGESSER & MAYO 1987)
 Choulex (Canton of Geneva)
 Rances (HUGUENEY & KISSLING 1982; KISSLING 1974)
 Brochene Fluh 19/20 (ENGESSER & MAYO 1987)
 Talent 18, 19c (ENGESSER, HÜRZELER & MAYO 1986)
 Appenzell–Kaubach 3
 ?Coderet “couche 1” (= *Rhodanomys* sp. B.)
 Hochheim–Flörsheim (SCHAUB 1925)

Localities with *Rh. aff. hugueneyae*:

Brochene Fluh 53 (ENGESSER & MAYO 1987)
 Findreuse 8 (ENGESSER & HUGUENEY 1982)

Differential diagnosis:

Rh. hugueneyae differs from *Rh. transiens* HUGUENEY in:

- its larger dimensions,
- the more frequently occurring and more strongly developed 1st labial syncline on M^1 and M^2 ,
- its longer mesolophid on M_1 and M_2 ,
- its longer mesoloph on P^4 ,
- the less frequent and less distinct interruption of the longitudinal crest of M^1 and M^2 ,
- the more frequently developed 4th lingual syncline of M_2 and P_4 .

Rh. hugueneyae differs from *Rh. schlosseri* DEPÉRET & DOUXAMI in:

- its distinctly larger dimensions,
- the 1st labial syncline of M^1 which is always present and usually well-developed,
- the more developed 1st labial syncline of M^2 ,
- the more continuous longitudinal crest of M^1 ,
- the rarer and less distinct interruption of the longitudinal crest of M^2 ,
- the more frequent occurrence of the 4th lingual syncline on M_1 and M_2 ,
- the general presence of the mesoloph on P^4 ,
- having a moderately long mesolophid on M_1 and M_2 which is never lacking.

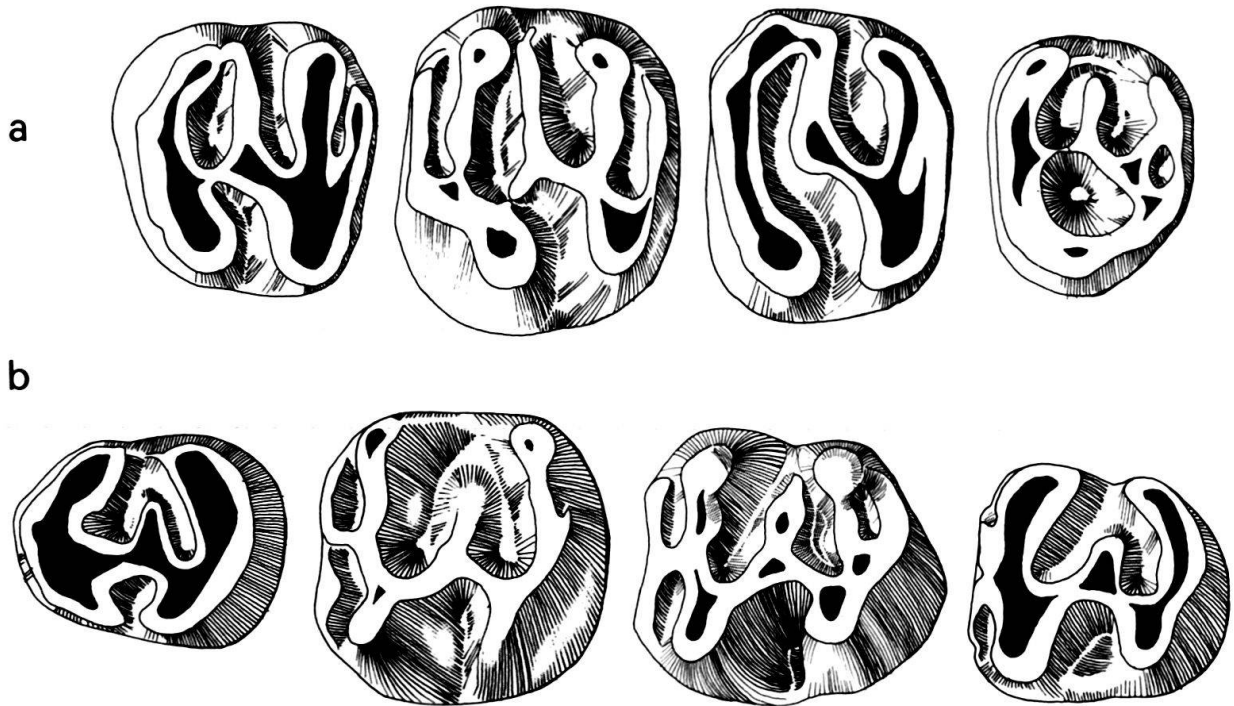


Fig. 9. *Rhodanomys hugueneyae* n. sp. from Küttigen.

a) P⁴–M³; left P⁴: U.M. 3498, left M¹: H.R. 463, right M² (inverse): U.M. 3493, right M³ (inverse): U.M. 3518.
 b) P₄–M₃; left P₄: H.R. 832, left M₁: H.R. 783, left M₂, type: U.M. 3515, left M₃: U.M. 3509, Naturhistorisches Museum Basel. all figures 25×.

Rh. hugueneyae differs from *Rh. oscensis* ALVAREZ SIERRA 1986 in:

- its distinctly larger dimensions,
- its uninterrupted longitudinal crest on P⁴ and M¹,
- the more frequent and better developed 1st labial syncline of M¹ and M²,
- the less reduced M³,
- the more frequently developed 4th lingual syncline on P₄,
- never lacking the mesolophid on M₁ and M₂,
- the better developed 4th syncline of M₁ and M₂.

Description of the type (Fig. 9b). – This moderately worn left M₂ is quite hypsodont. The lingual cusps are higher and more voluminous than the labial ones. The protoconid is elongated. The metalophid is connected with the anterior arm of the protoconid and the anterior cingulum. The labial part of this ridge is longer than the lingual one. The mesolophid fills almost the whole space between the metalophid and the hypolophid. It is long, but does not reach the lingual edge of the tooth. The hypolophid ends in the posterior arm of the hypoconid. A distinct 4th lingual syncline and a short posterior cingulum are developed.

Discussion

Rhodanomys is probably the best documented rodent in the range of the Oligocene/Miocene boundary. It is known from most faunas in this range, and from many localities

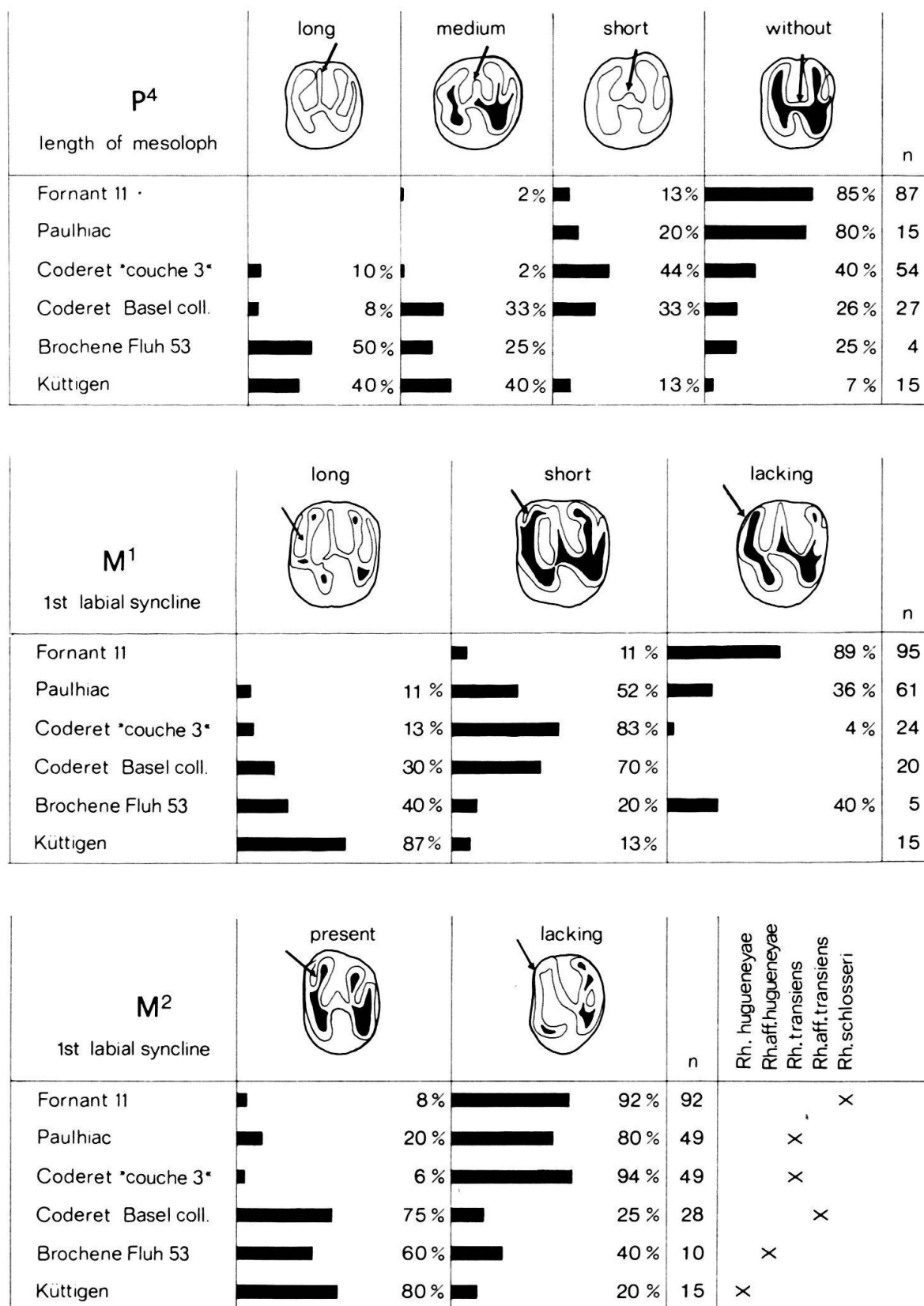








Fig. 10. Quantitative character analysis of various species of *Rhodanomys*.

M ¹ longitudinal crest	not interrupted	slightly interrupted	interrupted	n
				
Fornant 11		37 %	63 %	73
Paulhiac	48 %	41 %	11 %	54
Coderet *couche 3*	60 %	28 %	12 %	43
Brochene Fluh 53	80 %		20 %	5
Küttigen	87 %	13 %		15

M ² longitudinal crest	not interrupted	slightly interrupted	interrupted	n
				
Fornant 11		8 %	92 %	66
Paulhiac	27 %	44 %	29 %	52
Coderet *couche 3*	16 %	37 %	47 %	51
Brochene Fluh 53	8 %	17 %	75 %	12
Küttigen	40 %	27 %	33 %	15




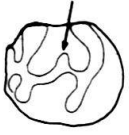




M ₁ 4th lingual syncline	present	lacking	n	Rh. hugueneyae Rh. aff. hugueneyae Rh. transiens Rh. aff. transiens Rh. schlosseri
				
Fornant 11	7 %	93 %	107	X
Paulhiac	32 %	68 %	19	X
Coderet *couche 3*	52 %	48 %	50	X
Coderet Basel coll.	62 %	38 %	37	X
Brochene Fluh 53	57 %	43 %	7	X
Küttigen	50 %	50 %	6	X

Fig. 11. Quantitative character analysis of various species of *Rhodanomys*.

M1 mesolophid	long	medium or short	without	n
				
Fornant 11	2%	46%	52%	108
Paulhiac		95%	5%	20
Coderet "couche 3"	6%	94%		50
Coderet Basel coll.	16%	81%	3%	37
Brochene Fluh 53				7
Küttigen				7

M2 mesolophid	medium	short	without	n
				
Fornant 11		37%	63%	101
Paulhiac	5%	76%	19%	21
Coderet "couche 3"	22%	73%	5%	41
Coderet Basel coll.	57%	41%	2%	37
Brochene Fluh 53	100%			12
Küttigen	100%			4

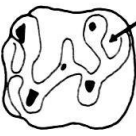
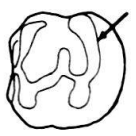
M2 4th lingual syncline	present	lacking	n	Rh. huguenevayae	Rh. aff. huguenevayae	Rh. transiens	Rh. aff. transiens	Rh. schlosseri
								
Fornant 11		100%	99					X
Paulhiac	11%	89%	18		X			
Coderet "couche 3"		100%	41		X			
Coderet Basel coll.	31%	69%	36				X	
Brochene Fluh 53	17%	83%	12	X				
Küttigen	33%	67%	3	X				

Fig. 12. Quantitative character analysis of various species of *Rhodanomys*.

a rich collection of *Rhodanomys* is available. Therefore we have a clear appreciation of the succession of the several forms, and *Rhodanomys* is very useful for biostratigraphy. In the range of the Neogene mammal zones MN 0 through NM 2a, we can observe the development of the *Rhodanomys* tooth pattern, starting with *Rh. hugueneyae* n. sp. through *Rh. transiens* to *Rh. schlosseri*, and even *Ritteneria*. Consequently, we have quite a precise idea of what is primitive in this genus and what is advanced.

Large size, an *Eomys*-like tooth pattern, with 4 synclines in upper and lower molars, long mesolophids in upper premolars and molars, long mesolophids in lower premolars and molars, and a continuous longitudinal crest in lower molars, are certainly primitive characters.

Based on these criteria *Rhodanomys hugueneyae* is without doubt the most primitive species of the genus. In some cases it might even be difficult to distinguish isolated teeth from those of *Eomys*. In all the features mentioned in the differential diagnosis, *Rh. hugueneyae* is more primitive than *Rh. transiens*. Of course none of these differences is absolute. As is shown in Fig. 10–12 the proportional frequency of characters within the “populations” makes up the differences. With one exception, all the characters mentioned above occur in both species. The exception is the 4th lingual syncline of M_2 , which occurs only in *Rh. hugueneyae*. Among 41 M_2 of *Rh. transiens* from Coderet “couche 3” I could not find any specimen with this syncline.

In 1969, M. Hugueney separated some *Rhodanomys* jaws and teeth, outstanding in size, from *Rh. transiens*, and listed them as *Rhodanomys* sp. B. She (op. cit. p. 90) did not mention any morphological difference compared with *Rh. transiens*, but noted that the M_1 was especially large. In its dimensions *Rhodanomys* sp. B comes very well within the range of *Rh. hugueneyae*. I have not seen any material from “couche 1”, where most of the material of this rare species comes from. The few isolated teeth I have seen from “couche 3” seem more advanced than those of *Rh. hugueneyae*.

The Figures 10–12 show that *Rh. transiens* from Coderet “couche 3” [the material on which the thesis of M. HUGUENEY (1969) is based] is not identical with the *Rhodanomys* material of the Basel collection. In many respects the latter species is more primitive: The 4th lingual syncline of P_4 , M_1 and M_2 is more developed, the mesolophid of M_1 and M_2 is longer, the mesoloph of P^4 is longer and the 1st labial syncline of M^2 is better developed. As stated elsewhere (MOJON et al. 1985; ENGESSER & MAYO 1987), the fauna from Coderet of the Basel collection is distinctly older than that of “couche 3”.

In the assemblage zone of Brochene Fluh 53 we find a *Rhodanomys* which is quite similar to *Rh. hugueneyae* but more advanced: The 1st labial syncline of M_1 and M_2 is more reduced, the longitudinal crest of M^2 is more often interrupted, and the 4th lingual syncline of M_2 shows further reduction. This form which I specify as *Rh. aff. hugueneyae* is also known from Findreuse 8 (ENGESSER & HUGUENEY 1982).

In the western Molasse, *Rh. transiens* apparently does not occur in the Oligocene. This species, which is somewhat smaller and more advanced than *Rh. hugueneyae*, has so far been found only in the zone of Boudry 2 (Lowermost Miocene). The best material of *Rh. transiens* has been found in Les Pierrettes near St-Sulpice, a new locality discovered by Marc Weidmann. *Rh. transiens* also occurs in the lower Miocene of Paulhiac. As shown in Figures 10–12 the *Rhodanomys* from Coderet “couche 3” and Paulhiac are very similar. In some features the form from Paulhiac is a little more advanced, while in others the Coderet form is more advanced. Also they are almost identical in size.

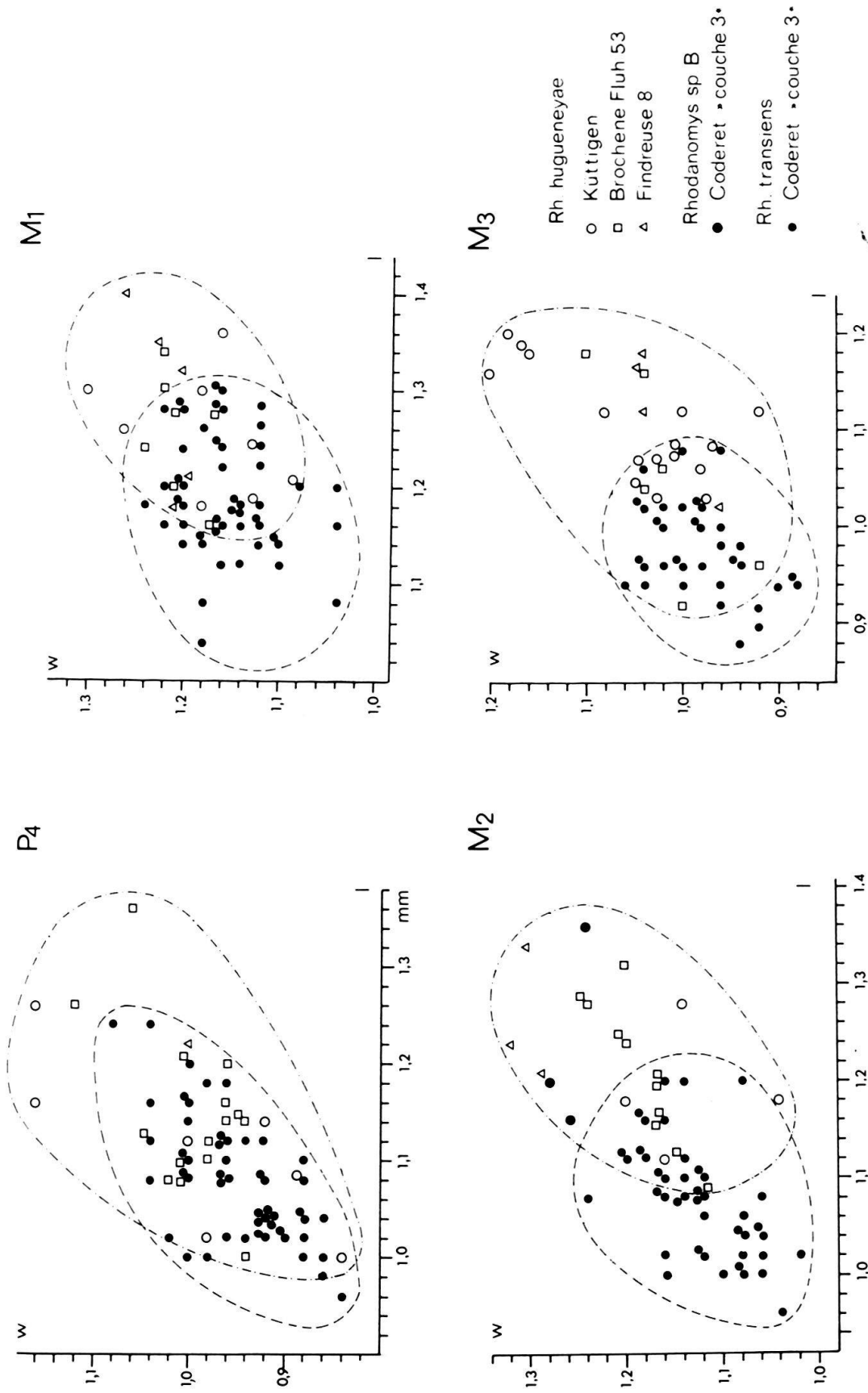


Fig. 13. Scatter diagrams of length (l) and width (w) in P₄, M₁, M₂ and M₃ of various *Rhodanomyys* «populations»: Küttigen = *Rh. hugueneyae*; Findreuse 8 = *Rh. aff. hugueneyae*; Brochene Fluh 53 = *Rh. aff. hugueneyae*; Coderet «couche 3» = *Rh. transiens* and *Rh. sp. B*.

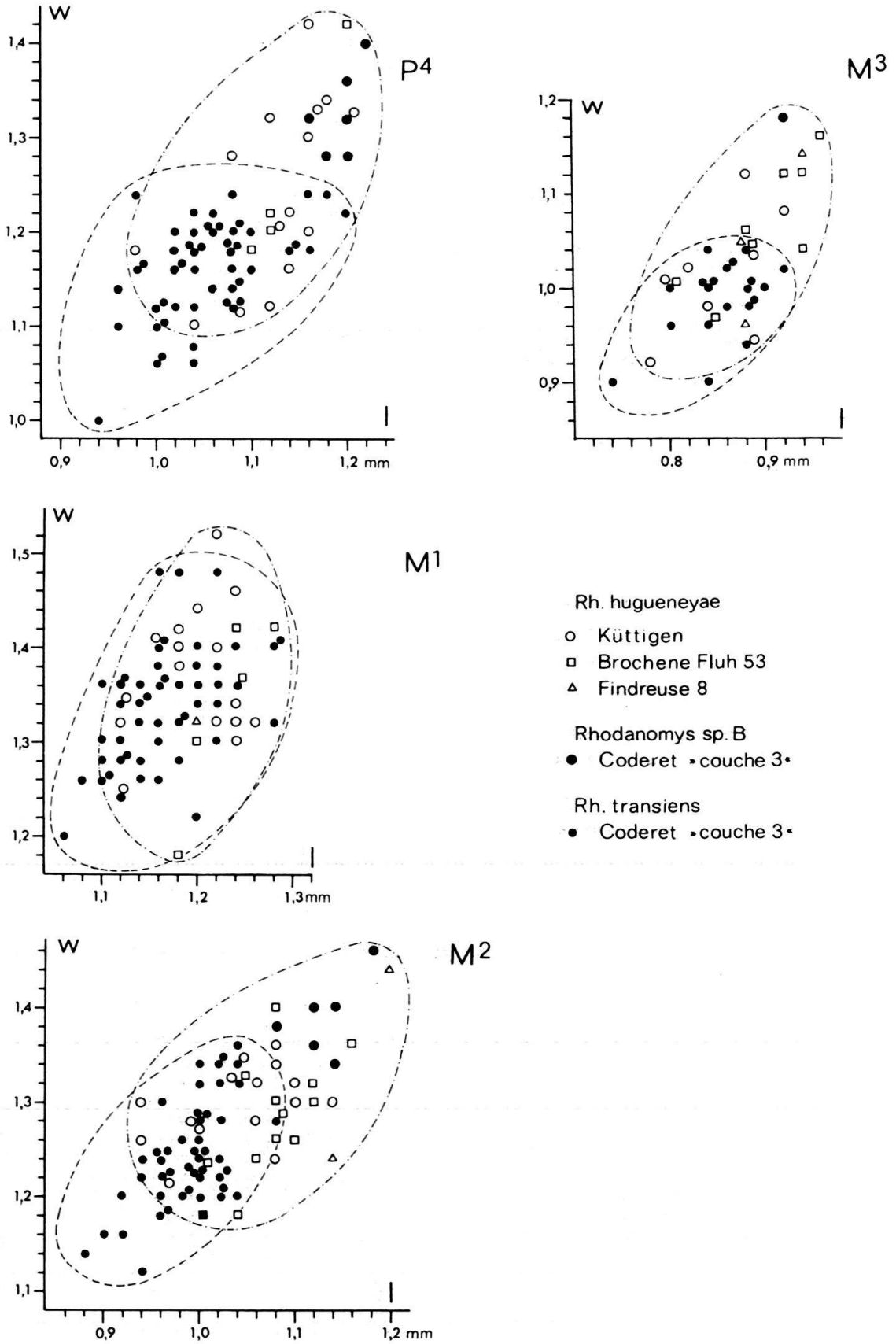


Fig. 14. Scatter diagrams of length (l) and width (w) in P⁴, M¹, M² and M³ of various *Rhodanomys* «populations» (see Fig. 13)

As a consequence of the fact that *Rh. aff. hugueneyae*, a primitive *Rhodanomys*, is found in the Uppermost Oligocene of the Molasse and that *Rh. transiens* occurs only in the Lowermost Miocene, the question arises as to the position of the Coderet “couche 3” in the zonation of the Molasse. If we suppose that *Rh. transiens* succeeds *Rh. hugueneyae* – the consequent simplification of the tooth pattern and the decrease in size point to this²) – we have to calibrate Coderet “couche 3” between the assemblage zones of Brochene Fluh 53 and Boudry 2. The only difficulty with this calibration is the occurrence of *Issiodoromys* and *Archaeomys* in Coderet “couche 3”. In the Molasse, *Issiodoromys* has already disappeared within the Rickenbach zone, *Archaeomys* within the Küttigen zone. These differences might be due to ecological differences or to regional differences in the faunal composition between the two basins.

Rhodanomys schlosseri has an even more simplified tooth pattern than *Rh. transiens* (see Fig. 10–12), and is distinctly smaller. This species seems to be limited to the zone of Fornant 11. Within this zone, the record of the genus *Rhodanomys* is coming to an end. However, the process of simplification of the tooth pattern and size decrease continues with *Ritteneria* in which the marginal synclines and the longitudinal crests become very reduced. The genus *Ritteneria* is known only from the assemblage zone of La Chaux.

Genus *Eomyodon* n. gen.

Diagnosis. – Small to medium sized eomyids with an *Eomys*-like tooth pattern, and a tendency to develop lophodont cheek teeth. Molars of primitive species very brachydont, of the advanced ones, moderately hypsodont. Longitudinal crest of upper and lower molars often interrupted, more in advanced forms than in primitive ones. Hypolophid of P₄, M₁, and M₂ joining the posterior cingulum respectively the posterior arm of hypoconid as in *Eomys*. Anterior cingulum of lower molars connected far labially, with the protoconid, or not connected at all; in primitive forms connected with the anterior arm of protoconid as in *Eomys*. Mesoloph of upper premolars and molars, and mesolophid of the lowers, mostly long. Metalophid of lower molars often backwardly directed. P⁴ mostly lacking a 1st labial syncline or very poorly developed. M₃ quite often with hypolophid. Lower incisor with longitudinal enamel ridge on the outside.

Derivatio nominis. – *Eomyodon* = greek “*Eomys* toothed”, because of the similarity of the tooth pattern with that of *Eomys*. Originally I was proposing to name this genus “*Eomyoides*”, but Volker Fahlbusch found that this name was too difficult to pronounce. At a concert in Munich in January 1986, during the 5th symphony of Schubert, Volker passed to me his concert programme on which he had written the name “*Eomyodon*”.

Type species. – *Eomyodon volkeri* n. sp.

Other species included in this genus. – *Eomyodon pusillus* (FAHLBUSCH 1969) (= *Pseudotheridomys pusillus*) and two undescribed species of the lower Aquitanien.

²) In their recent paper COMTE & VIANEY-LIAUD (1987) derive *Rh. transiens* from *Eomys quercyi*. This is not possible in my opinion because – as shown in Figure 12 – the lower molars of *Rhodanomys* undergo a reduction of the mesolophid. Based on the description and the figure presented by COMTE & VIANEY-LIAUD (1987), *E. quercyi* has a much shorter mesolophid than does *Rh. transiens*. Consequently, *E. quercyi* has to be considered as more advanced than *Rh. transiens* in this feature. In addition, the M¹ and M² of *Rh. transiens* usually show a long mesoloph, whereas those of *E. quercyi* (see Fig. 4 in COMTE & VIANEY-LIAUD) seem to have a moderately long one. In my opinion *Rh. transiens* is more likely to have been derived from *Rh. hugueneyae* than from *E. quercyi*.

Stratigraphical range of the genus. – Upper Oligocene to Lower Miocene, assemblage zones of Fornant 6 to Fornant 11.

Differential diagnosis. –

From *Pseudotheridomys* SCHLOSSER 1926, *Eomyodon* differs in:

- its hypolophid of lower P and M, which is directed backward and ends in the posterior cingulum or the posterior arm of hypoconid, but never meets the anterior arm of hypoconid as in *Pseudotheridomys*,
- its much shorter 1st labial syncline on the upper molars,
- its lack of a well developed 1st labial syncline on P⁴,
- the labial connection of the anterior cingulum with the protoconid on the lower molars,
- the lack of the secondary ridge between metalophid and mesolophid on the lower molars, which is typical of *Pseudotheridomys*,
- the commonly backwardly directed metalophid of lower molars.

From *Eomys* SCHLOSSER 1884, *Eomyodon* differs in:

- its more lophodont cheek teeth,



Fig. 15 a) *Eomyodon volkeri* n. gen., n. sp. from Chavanne, D⁴, P⁴–M³; right D⁴ (inverse): Sav. 408, left P⁴: Sav. 400, left M¹: Sav. 401, left M²: Sav. 402, left M³: Sav. 403.

b) *Eomyodon volkeri* n. gen., n. sp. from Chavanne, D₄, P₄–M₃; left D₄: Sav. 409, left P₄: Sav. 404, left M₁, type: Sav. 405, right M₂ (inverse); Sav. 406, right M₃: Sav. 407.

c) *Eomyodon volkeri* n. gen., n. sp. from Fornant 6, P₄–M₃; right P₄ (inverse): Sav. 410, left M₁: Sav. 67, right M₂ (inverse); Sav. 412, left M₃: Sav. 413. – All specimens of the Naturhistorisches Museum Basel.

all figures 25×.

- the more frequently interrupted longitudinal crest of the lower and upper molars,
- its tendency to replace the junction of the anterior cingulum and the anterior arm of protoconid by a more labially placed connection,
- the better developed 1st labial syncline of the upper molars,
- the more frequently backwardly directed metalophid of the lower molars,
- the more frequent presence of a hypolophid on M₃.

Eomyodon volkeri n. gen., n. sp.

Fig. 15–18

- partim 1968 *Pseudotheridomys* aff. *parvulus* (SCHLOSSER) – FAHLBUSCH, p. 224–232.
 partim 1969 *Pseudotheridomys pusillus* n. sp. – FAHLBUSCH p. 673–679.
 partim 1970 *Pseudotheridomys pusillus* FAHLBUSCH – FAHLBUSCH p. 1–133.
 partim 1977 *Pseudotheridomys parvulus* SCHLOSSER – AGUILAR, p. 88–89.
 1981 *Pseudotheridomys schaubi* LAVOCAT, morphotype *Eomys* – BRUNET et al., p. 334, 346–348.
 1982 *Pseudotheridomys* aff. *pusillus* FAHLBUSCH – ENGESSER & HUGUENEY, p. 67–69.
 1985 “*Pseudotheridomys*” *pusillus* FAHLBUSCH – MOJON et al., p. 640–644.
 partim 1986 *Eomys pusillus* (FAHLBUSCH) – ALVAREZ SIERRA, p. 161.

Derivatio nominis. – Honoring Prof. Dr. Volker Fahlbusch, the eminent expert in eomyids.

Type. – Left M₁, Sav. 405, Naturhistorisches Museum Basel

Dimensions. – 0,93 × 0,82 mm.

Type locality. – Chavanne near Frangy, Savoy.

Referred material from the type locality. – 18 isolated teeth.

Age. – Upper Oligocene, assemblage zone of Fornant 6 (see ENGESSER & MAYO 1987).

Stratigraphic range. – Assemblage zone of Fornant 6 until Brochene Fluh 53.

Other localities with E. volkeri:

- Fornant 6 (ENGESSER & MAYO 1987)
- Boudry-La-Fabrique (Mojon et al. 1985)
- Ruisseau du Bey (JORDI 1955)
- Appenzell-Kaubach 3
- Brochene Fluh 19/20 and 53 (ENGESSER & MAYO 1987)
- Gaimersheim (FAHLBUSCH 1969, 1970)
- ?Weissenburg 6 (FAHLBUSCH 1968)
- ?Nouvelle Faculté de Médecine (AGUILAR 1977).

Differential diagnosis. –

From *Eomyodon pusillus* (FAHLBUSCH), *E. volkeri* differs in:

- the smaller size of its cheek teeth,
- its much smaller lower incisor (fig. 16),
- the longer mesolophid on its lower P and M,
- the larger 4th lingual syncline of its lower P and M.

Description of the type. – This slightly worn left M₁ is longer than wide. Its anterior cingulum is not connected with the protoconid. The metalophid is transversely aligned and joins the anterior arm of the protoconid. The mesolophid is very long and ends in a mesostylid. The longitudinal crest is aligned along the longitudinal axis of the tooth. It is

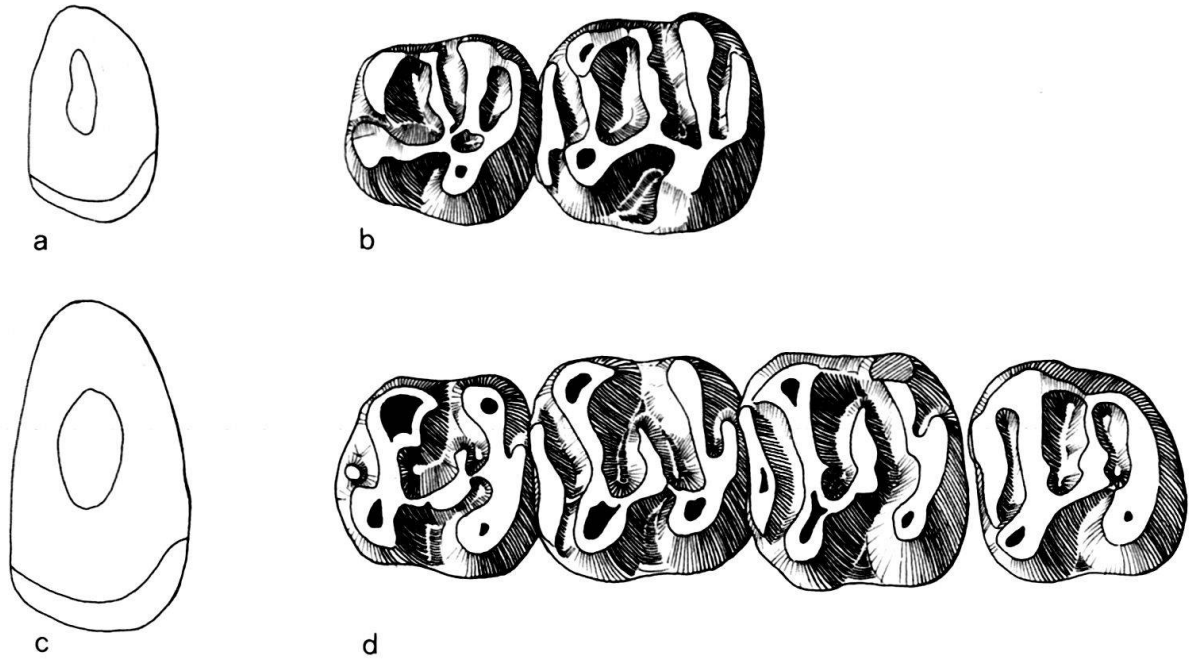


Fig. 16 a) *Eomyodon volkeri* n. gen., n. sp. from Gaimersheim, right lower incisor (inverse, cross-section) of the mandible fragment 1952 II 2236.

b) same mandible as under a), right P₄-M₁ (inverse).

c) *Eomyodon pusillus* (FAHLBUSCH) from Gaimersheim right lower incisor (inverse, cross-section): 1952 II 2204.

d) *Eomyodon pusillus* (FAHLBUSCH) from Gaimersheim, right mandible (inverse) with P₄-M₃, type: 1952 II 2198. – All specimens of the Bayerische Staatssammlung für Paläontologie und historische Geologie, Munich.

all figures 25×.

interrupted behind the moderately developed mesoconid. The hypolophid is backward directed and joins the posterior arm of hypoconid. The 4th lingual syncline is very spacious.

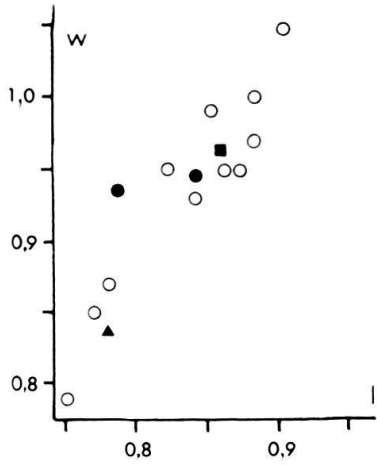
Description of the dentition (based on the material from Chavanne, Fornant 6, and Boudry-La-Fabrique). – The P₄ generally does not have an anteroconid. The mesolophid is usually long, and the longitudinal crest is only rarely interrupted. The 4th lingual syncline is very well developed.

The other M₁s correspond well with the type specimen, except that the longitudinal crest is not always interrupted, and that the anterior cingulum is sometimes connected with the anterior arm of the protoconid. Some specimens show a medium to long mesolophid.

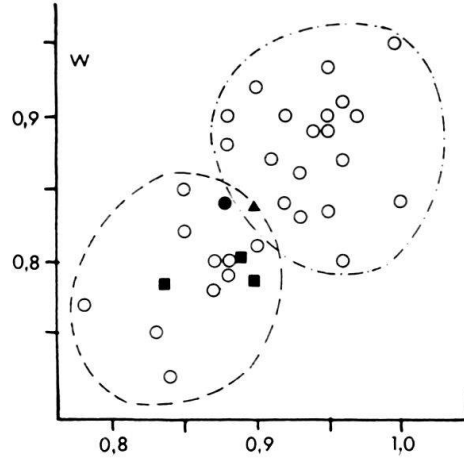
Fig. 17. Scatter diagrams of length (l) and width (w) of upper and lower premolars and molars of *Eomyodon volkeri* and *E. pusillus*.

Gaimersheim	}	<i>E. volkeri</i> and <i>E. pusillus</i>
Chavanne		<i>E. volkeri</i>
Fornant 6		
Boudry-La-Fabrique		

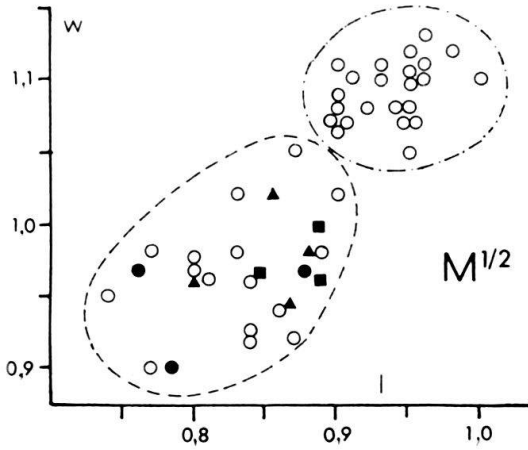
Measurements of the specimens from Gaimersheim after FAHLBUSCH (1970).
in M³: *Eomyodon* and *Eomys* from Gaimersheim are not distinguishable.



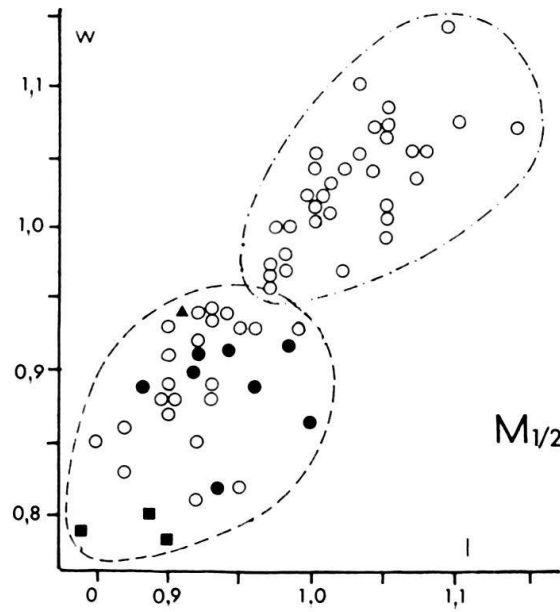
P₄



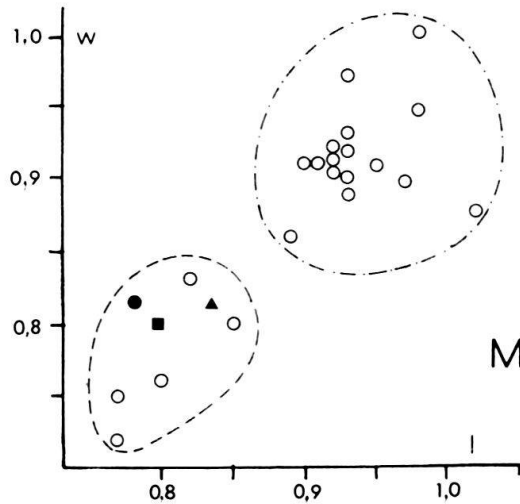
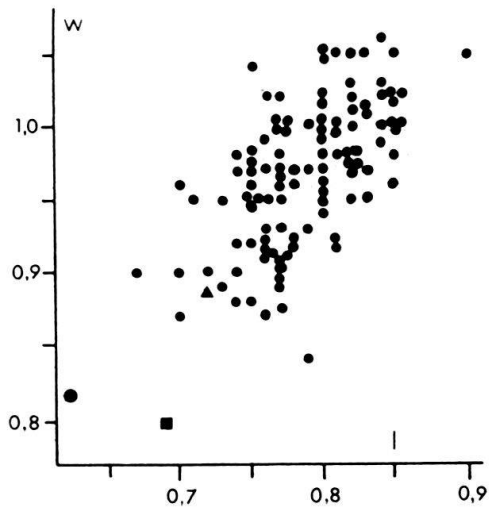
P₄



M_{1/2}



M_{1/2}



M₃

○ Gaimersheim
● Chavanne

▲ Boudry-La Fabrique
■ Fornant 6

In the M_2 the longitudinal crest is less often interrupted than in M_1 , and the mesolophid is often moderately long.

The M_3 is relatively large. Its anterior cingulum is mostly connected with the anterior arm of the protoconid. The mesolophid is very long and the longitudinal crest is uninterrupted. Some specimens show a well-developed hypolophid (see Fig. 15c).

The P^4 is almost as large as the M^1 . It has mostly a continuous longitudinal crest and a long mesoloph.

The M^1 and M^2 have a well-developed 1st labial syncline. Their paracone often has a posterior ridge. The mesoloph is very variable. It can be short, moderately long or long. The longitudinal crest is more often interrupted in M^1 than it is in M^2 .

The M^3 mostly shows 5 anticlines and a sinus.

Discussion

Fahlbusch was the first author to notice the peculiarity of the eomyids described here as *Eomyodon*. He also pointed out the morphological similarity with *Pseudotheridomys* and with *Eomys*, and he saw in his *P. pusillus* a primitive *Pseudotheridomys*. For this reason he considered it unnecessary to create a new genus (1970, p. 83).

The co-occurrence of *Eomyodon* and *Pseudotheridomys schaubi* in most localities prevented for a long time the recognition of the two eomyids as separated taxa. Thus FAHLBUSCH (1970), in his description of the eomyids from Weissenburg 6, emphasized the great variability of "*Pseudotheridomys aff. parvulus*". Similarly, AGUILAR (1977), in his publication of the fauna from Nouvelle Faculté de Médecine, mentioned teeth of *Eomys* type and others of *Pseudotheridomys* type among his material of *Pseudotheridomys parvulus*. Also BRUNET et al. (1981), in their description of the fauna of Cournon-Les-Soumérois, pointed to the great variability of *Pseudotheridomys schaubi*, from which they were able to distinguish two morphotypes: Morphotype *Eomys* and morphotype *Pseudotheridomys*. With the exception of Weissenburg 6 I have not seen any original material from these localities. Nevertheless I have been convinced for a long time (see MOJON et al. 1985) that in all three faunas two eomyids of about the same size occur together: *Pseudotheridomys schaubi* and *Eomyodon volkeri*. More recently ALVAREZ-SIERRA (1986, p. 158) has also suggested that the two morphotypes of *Pseudotheridomys schaubi* from Cournon-Les-Soumérois represent two different taxa, namely *P. schaubi* and a small species of *Eomys*.

In the Swiss Molasse *Eomyodon* and *Pseudotheridomys* are found together in most localities, but there are several localities in which only *Eomyodon* occurs (e.g. Fornant 6 and Chavanne). It is also very intriguing that the two genera emerge at about the same time, in the assemblage zone of Fornant 6³). In addition, it is interesting to note that a still undescribed species of *Eomyodon* co-exists with a possible new species of *Pseudotheridomys* in the lower Aquitanien. However, *Eomyodon* disappears after the zone of Fornant 11, while *Pseudotheridomys* persists until the Neogene mammal zone MN3.

³) M. HUGUENEY (1980) mentions *Pseudotheridomys pusillus* from St-Henri. I have not seen any material from this locality, which corresponds in age with our assemblage zone of Wynau 1. In the Swiss Molasse in the Wynau zone, a small eomyid is recorded which I have identified as *Eomys molassicus*. This form is probably identical with that from St-Henri.

The fact that *Pseudotheridomys* and *Eomyodon* occur separately at different sites proves that the two taxa cannot be merely morphotypes of a single species. Moreover, in samples which contain both genera, isolated teeth can easily be attributed to one or the other taxon (see differential diagnosis of the genera). Teeth with an intermediate morphology, as mentioned by BRUNET et al. (1981), I have never come across.

Some authors (FAHLBUSCH 1970, BRUNET et al. 1981, COMTE & VIANEY-LIAUD 1987) considered *Eomyodon pusillus* as an ancestor of *Pseudotheridomys parvulus* respectively *P. schaubi*. In my opinion, taking into account the new materials of the western Molasse, it can be demonstrated that we are dealing with two independent lines (see Fig. 18). The fact

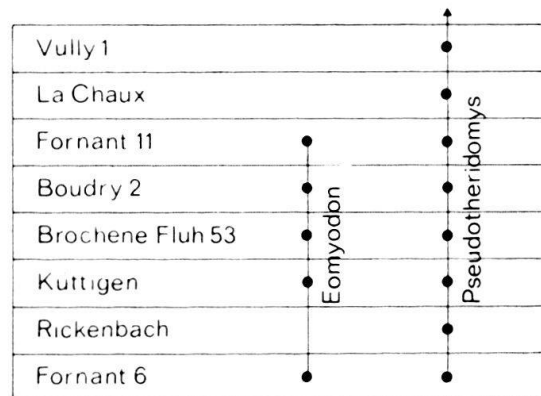


Fig. 18. The stratigraphical range of *Eomyodon* and *Pseudotheridomys*.

that *Eomyodon* and *Pseudotheridomys* emerged at the same time also points in this direction. It is true of course that *Eomyodon* has a more primitive tooth pattern, from which the more complicated one of *Pseudotheridomys* theoretically could have been developed, but the primitive characters of *Eomyodon* are those of *Eomys*. It is very easy to consider that both genera developed from primitive *Eomys* forms. In the case of *Eomyodon* and *Pseudotheridomys* we are apparently dealing with parallel evolution, in the course of which several morphological conformities were developed: lophodont cheek teeth, interruption of the longitudinal crest in upper and lower premolars and molars, development of a 1st labial syncline in P⁴ (but in *Eomyodon* only in the youngest forms). While crown height stays about the same in *Pseudotheridomys* during the course of its evolution, it is possible to observe a distinct increase of crown height over time in *Eomyodon*.

Family *Dipodidae* WATERHOUSE 1842

Genus *Plesiosminthus* VIRET 1926

Plesiosminthus winistoerferi n.sp.

Fig. 19–26

Diagnosis. – Very large species of *Plesiosminthus* with very long and strong posterior arm of protoconid on M₂ and M₃, double protoloph on M² and M³, and little reduced M₃³. M₁ always with secondary ridge between metalophid and mesolophid. Entoloph of M²

situated far lingually, ectolophid of M_2 and M_3 far labially. Connection between protoconid and anterior cingulum of M_2 and M_3 sometimes interrupted. M_2 equally as wide as M_1 but somewhat longer. Upper molars with 3 roots. Upper incisor with longitudinal groove (dental terminology after WANG 1985).

Derivatio nominis: Honoring Mr. Herbert Winistörfer from Balsthal who found the type locality together with Mr. Daniel Kälin. These two students also collected most of the reference material of this new species.

Type: left M_2 , Br. F. 1, Naturhistorisches Museum Basel, dimensions: $1,34 \times 1,04$ mm.

Referred material: 32 isolated teeth.

Type locality: Section of Brochene Fluh near Waldenburg (Baselland, Switzerland), level 53 (numeration after BAUMBERGER 1927): conglomeratic layer of about 10 cm with Unios.

Age: Uppermost Oligocene, assemblage zone of Brochene Fluh 53 (see ENGESSER & MAYO 1987).

Stratigraphic range: *P. winistoerferi* seems to be limited to the assemblage zone of Brochene Fluh 53. It has not yet been found in older or younger assemblage zones.

Other localities with *P. winistoerferi*:

Findreuse 11 (ENGESSER & HUGUENEY 1982)

Findreuse 14.

Differential diagnosis. –

From *Plesiosminthus promyarion* SCHAUB 1930, *P. winistoerferi* differs in:

- its considerably larger dimensions,
- its well-developed posterior arm of protoconid of M_2 and M_3 , which in M_2 is mostly in ontact with the mesolophid (respectively the mesostylid),
- having M_2^2 distinctly larger than M_3^3 ,
- its better developed protoloph II on M^2 and M^3 ,
- its more labially situated ectolophid on M_2 and M_3 ,
- its more lingually situated entoloph on M^2 ,
- its more anteriorly inclined hypolophid on M_1 and M_2 ,
- its secondary ridge between metalophid and mesolophid on M_1 ,
- the occasional interruption of the connection between the anterior cingulum and the protoconid on M_2 and M_3 .

Fig. 19 a) *Plesiosminthus winistoerferi* n. sp. from Findreuse 11, fragment of a right M_2 (inverse): Sav. 414.

b) *Plesiosminthus winistoerferi* n. sp. from Brochene Fluh 53, M_1 – M_3 ; left M_1 : K.B.F. 1, left M_2 , type: Br. F. 1, right M_3 (inverse): K.B.F. 2.

c) *Plesiosminthus winistoerferi* n. sp. from Brochene Fluh 53, M_1 – M_3 ; right M_1 (inverse): K.B.F. 3, right M_2 (inverse): K.B.F. 4, left M_3 : K.B.F. 5.

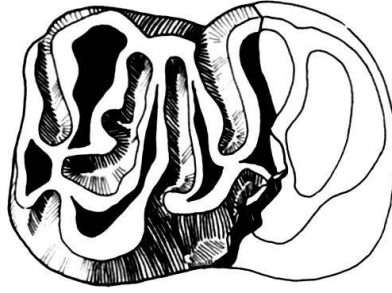
d) *Plesiosminthus schaubi* VIRET from Coderet (Basel collection), M_1 – M_3 ; left M_1 : Cod. 2852, left M_2 : Cod. 2853, left M_3 : Cod. 2854.

e) *Plesiosminthus myarion* SCHAUB from Fornant 11, M_1 – M_3 ; left M_1 : Sav. 416, left M_2 : Sav. 417, right M_3 (inverse): Sav. 418.

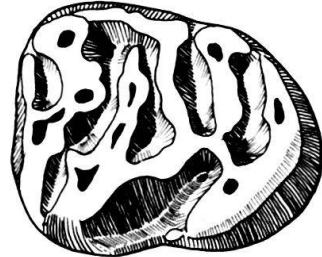
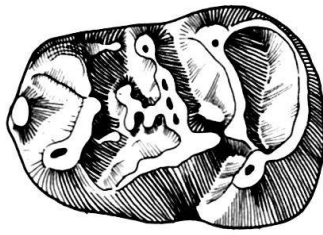
f) *Plesiosminthus promyarion* SCHAUB from Ruisseau du Bey, M_1 – M_3 ; left M_1 : R.B. 50, left M_2 : R.B. 51, right M_3 (inverse): MGL 42287. – Specimens with K.B.F.-numbers: collection D. Kälin, Balsthal, those with MGL-numbers: Musée géologique Lausanne, all the other specimens: Naturhistorisches Museum Basel.

all figures 25×.

a



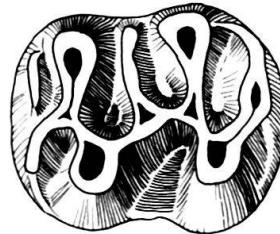
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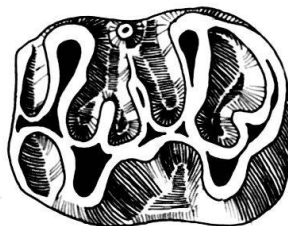
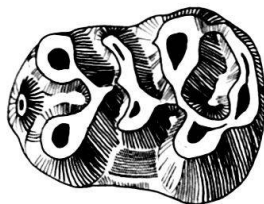
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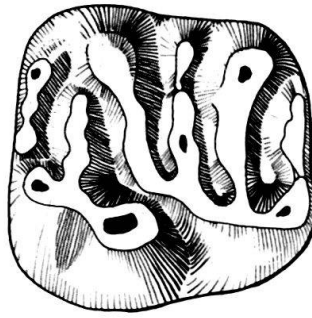
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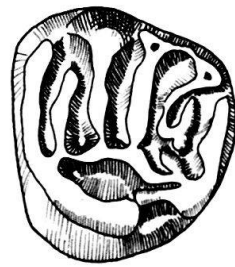
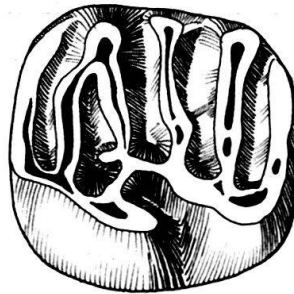
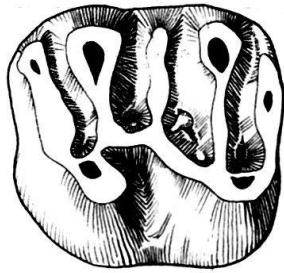
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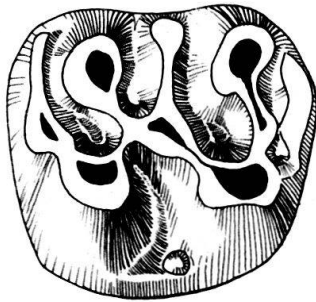
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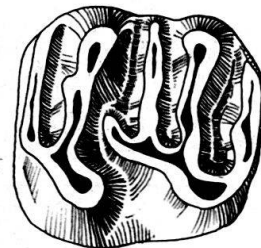
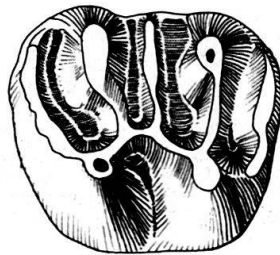
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d



e



From *Plesiosminthus schaubi* VIRET 1926, *P. winistoerferi* differs in:

- its larger dimensions,
- its well-developed posterior arm of protoconid on M_2 and M_3 , a ridge never observed in *P. schaubi*,
- its much larger M_3^3 (with 5 lingual anticlines instead of 3 in *P. schaubi*),
- its double protoloph on M^2 and M^3 ,
- its less developed mesoconid on the lower molars,
- its less bunodont structure of the molars,
- the occasional interruption of the connection between the anterior cingulum and the protoconid on M_2 and M_3 .

From *Plesiosminthus myarion* SCHAUB 1930, *P. winistoerferi* differs in:

- its considerably larger dimensions,
- its posterior arm of protoconid on M_2 and M_3 better developed than the mesolophid, and mostly connected with the mesolophid,
- its better developed protoloph II on M^3 ,
- its more lingually situated endoloph on M^2 ,
- its secondary ridge between metalophid and mesolophid on M_1 ,
- the occasional interruption of the connection between the anterior cingulum and the protoconid on M_2 and M_3 .

Description of the type (Fig. 19b). – The rather low-crowned M_2 shows four not very voluminous main cusps connected by strong ridges. The lingual part of the anterior cingulum is well-developed, whereas the labial part is very short. The metalophid joins the anteroconid. The posterior arm of the protoconid is very strong, and connected with the mesostylid. A distinct mesoconid cannot be observed. The mesolophid, which is much weaker than the posterior arm of protoconid, joins the mesostylid. The entoconid is situated close to the mesostylid, with the consequence that the hypolophid is inclined anteriorly. On the posterior cingulum a hypoconulid can be observed. The sinusid is strongly oblique and narrow.

Description of the dentition. – M_1 (Fig. 19b, c) shows in all specimens a small anterocoid which is not connected with the protoconid or metaconid. These latter two cusps are connected by a curved metalophid II. The mesolophid in all specimens is long and ends in a mesostylid. Between metaconid and mesolophid there is a secondary ridge in all specimens. The ectolophid ends at the base of the protoconid without reaching it. There is

Fig. 20 a) *Plesiosminthus winistoerferi* n. sp. from Findreuse 14, right M^2 (inverse): Sav. 415.

b) *Plesiosminthus winistoerferi* n. sp. from Brochene Fluh 53, M^1 – M^3 ; right M^1 (inverse): K.B.F. 6, left M^2 : K.B.F. 7, right M^3 (inverse): K.B.F. 8.

c) *Plesiosminthus schaubi* VIRET from Coderet (Basel collection), M^1 – M^3 ; left M^1 : Cod. 2855, left M^2 : Cod. 2856, left M^3 : Cod. 2857.

d) *Plesiosminthus myarion* SCHAUB from Fornant 11, M^1 – M^3 ; left M^1 : Sav. 419, left M^2 : Sav. 420, right M^3 (inverse): Sav. 421.

e) *Plesiosminthus promyarion* SCHAUB from Ruisseau du Bey, M^1 – M^3 ; left M^1 : R.B. 52, left M^2 : R.B. 53, right M^3 (inverse): MGL 42290. – Specimens with K.B.F.-numbers: collection D. Kälin, Balsthal, those with MGL-numbers: Musée géologique Lausanne, all the other specimens: Naturhistorisches Museum Basel.

all figures 25×.

no distinct mesoconid. The hypolophid is inclined anteriorly. The last syncline is very wide. Three of the four M_1 s show a little hypoconulid, of which two have a short anterior spur.

M_2 (Fig. 19b, c): In contrast to the type (and the two other specimens), one M_2 shows a posterior arm of the protoconid which is not connected with the mesolophid (respectively the mesostylid). The connection between the protoconid and the anterior cingulum in all specimens is not very strong. In one specimen, this connection is clearly interrupted, and the metalophid is curved anteriorly. Such an interruption could not be observed in any other species of *Plesiosminthus*. Two of four specimens show a hypoconulid, one with a short anterior spur.

The M_3 (Fig. 19b, c) is very large and shows the same pattern as the M_2 . A strong posterior arm of protoconid is always present, but it does not reach the mesolophid in all specimens. In one specimen it reaches the base of the metaconid, as is often the case in the M_2 of *P. myarion*. As in M_2 , the protoconid is not always connected with the anterior cingulum. The mesolophid is long in all specimens. In some M_3 s a distinct ectomesolophid is developed. The ectolophid is situated far lingually.

The M^1 (Fig. 20b) is almost of the same size as M^2 . The anterior cingulum is very close to the protolophid. The protocone is not always connected with the entoloph. The mesoloph is long in all specimens. The metaloph ends at the entoloph in front of the hypocone.

The M^2 (Fig. 20b) always shows a double protoloph: protoloph I and II. In most specimens the protocone is not connected with the entoloph. All specimens, with one exception, do not show a lingual anterior cingulum. The entoloph is situated in the lingual half of the tooth. In only one specimen the roots are preserved: There are 3 of them.

The M^3 (Fig. 20b) is little reduced. All structural elements of the M^2 are also present in this tooth. Like the M^2 , the M^3 always shows a double protoloph. In most specimens the entoloph is connected with the protoloph I, but in some this connection is interrupted.

The P^4 of *P. winistoerferi* is not yet known, but since all other species of *Plesiosminthus* have this tiny tooth it is quite certain that *P. winistoerferi* also has it.

The upper incisor (Fig. 24a) is very high and relatively narrow ($0,68 \times 1,52$ mm in cross-section) and shows the typical longitudinal groove.

Plesiosminthus winistoerferi from Findreuse 11 and 14

Fig. 19a and 20a,

The level 11 of the Findreuse section in Savoy has yielded a fragment of M_2 which shows the typical features of *P. winistoerferi* comprising a very strong posterior arm of protoconid connected with the mesolophid on the lingual side, and a far labially situated ectolophid. The tooth is distinctly wider than the four known M_2 s from Brochene Fluh 53.

Also a very large M^2 ($1,28 \times 1,28$ mm) was found in level 14 of the Findreuse section. It shows a double protoloph. The protocone is not connected with the endoloph. The protoloph I does not reach the paracone, and the anterocone and the labial anterior cingulum are disconnected.

Morphologically both molars fit very well with *P. winistoerferi* from Brochene Fluh 53. It is true that both teeth are somewhat larger than the equivalent molars from

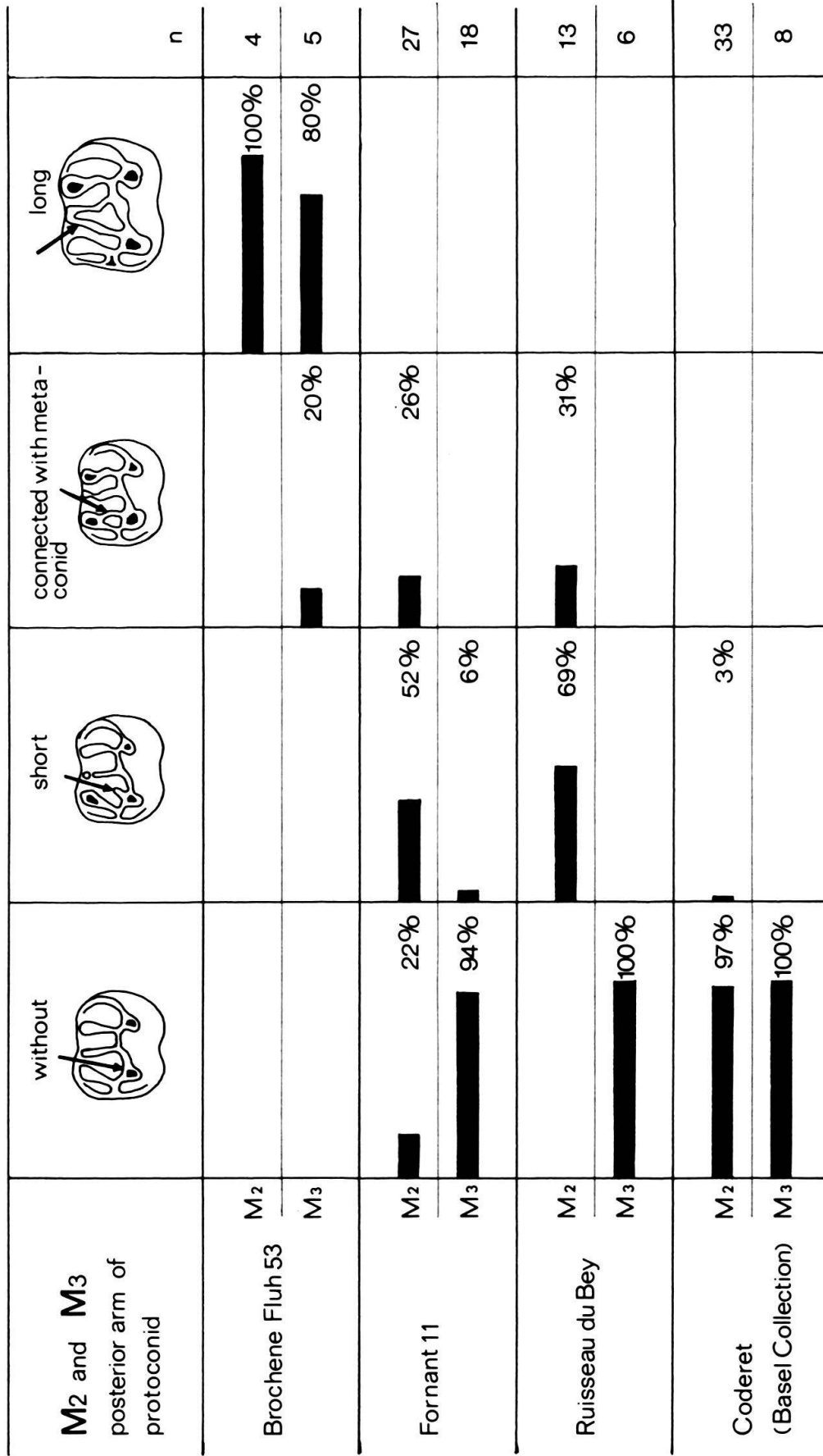
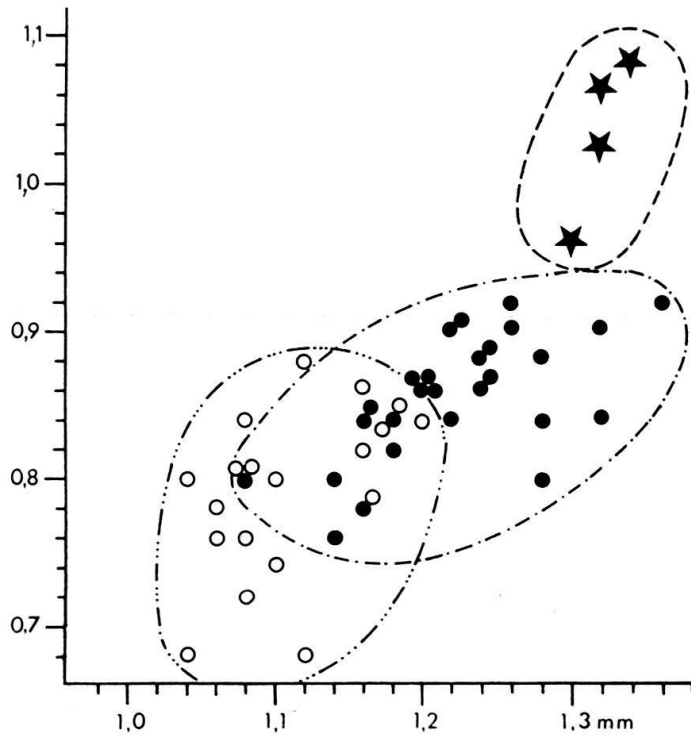
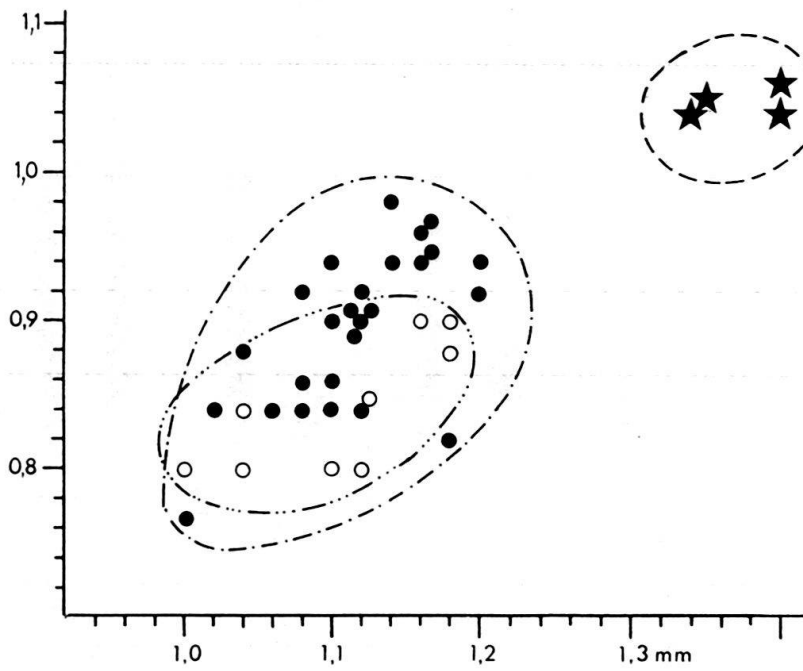


Fig. 21. Quantitative character analysis of the posterior arm of the protoconid on M₂ and M₃ of *Plesiosminthus*. – Brochene Fluh 53: *P. winistoerferi*. – Fornant 11: *P. myarion*. – Ruisseau du Bey: *P. promyaron*. – Coderet: *P. schaubi*.



M₁



M₂

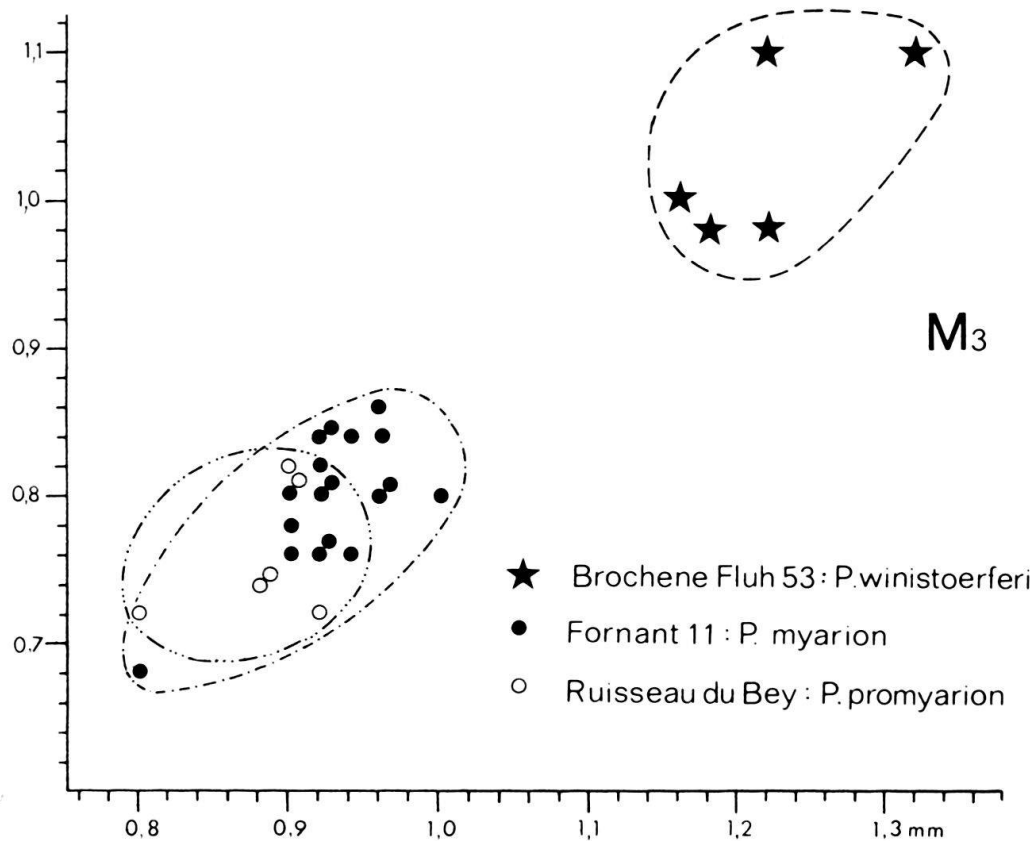


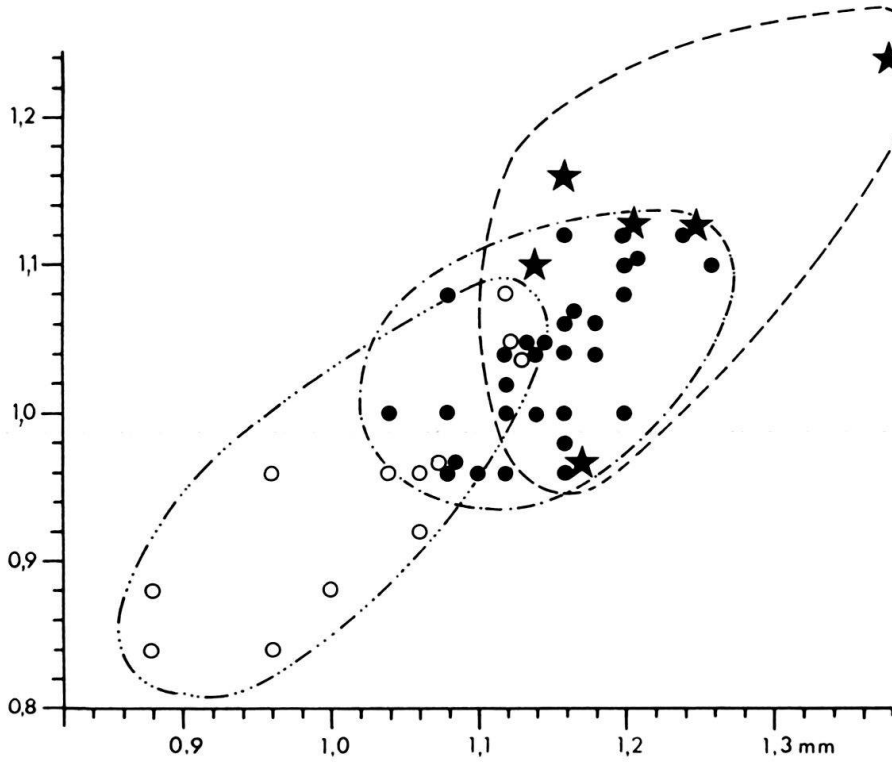
Fig. 22. Scatter diagrams of length (l) and width (w) in M_1 , M_2 and M_3 of three *Plesiosminthus* species of the western Molasse.

Brochene Fluh 53. However the sample from the latter locality is not large enough to give a clear impression of the size variability of *P. winistoerferi*, and I therefore tentatively classify the two molars from Savoy with this latter species.

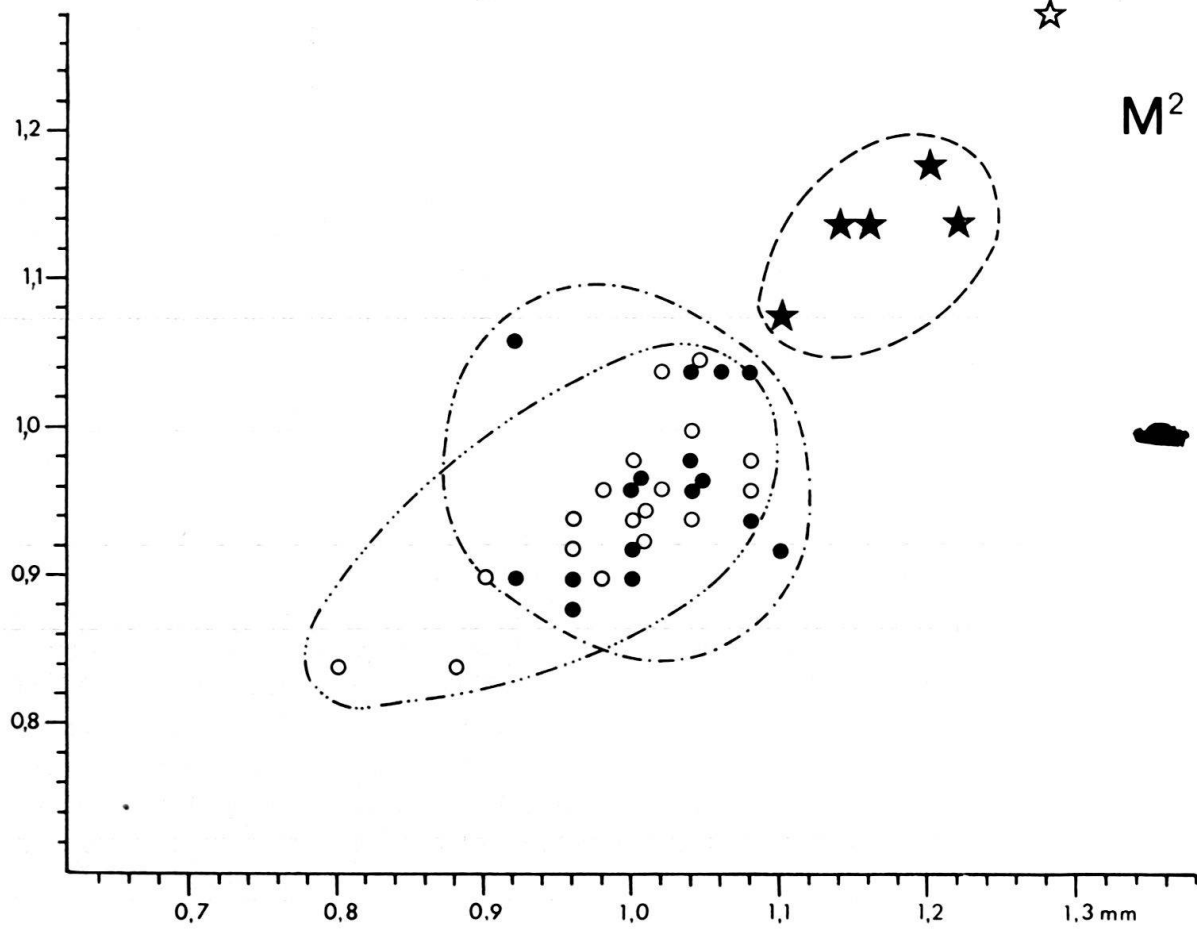
Discussion

Of all of the species of *Plesiosminthus*⁴), *P. myarion* SCHAUB 1930 is morphologically closest to *P. winistoerferi*. In most M_2 s this early Miocene species also shows a posterior arm of the protoconid, although in most specimens (52%) this ridge is very short. In 26% of the M_2 s it is connected with the metaconid (see Fig. 21), but I could not find any M_2 of *P. myarion* in which the posterior arm of protoconid is connected with the mesolophid, as is always the case in the M_2 of *P. winistoerferi*. The M_3 of the latter species always has a long posterior arm of the protoconid, but in the M_3 of *P. myarion* only 6% have such a ridge. As in *P. winistoerferi* the M^2 of *P. myarion* also has a double protoloph. The M^3 of *P. myarion* shows this feature too, but to a lesser extent. (Only in 28% of the M^3 s does protoloph I and II reach the paracone). In 43% of the teeth these two lophs are very short, and in 29% only one protoloph is developed. In the M^3 these two species also show similarities in that they are little reduced, but those of *P. winistoerferi* are less reduced than in *P. myarion*.

⁴) As discussed elsewhere (see ENGESSER 1979), I consider *Schaubeumys* WOOD 1935 and *Parasminthus* BOHLIN 1946 as genera distinct from *Plesiosminthus*.



M¹



M²

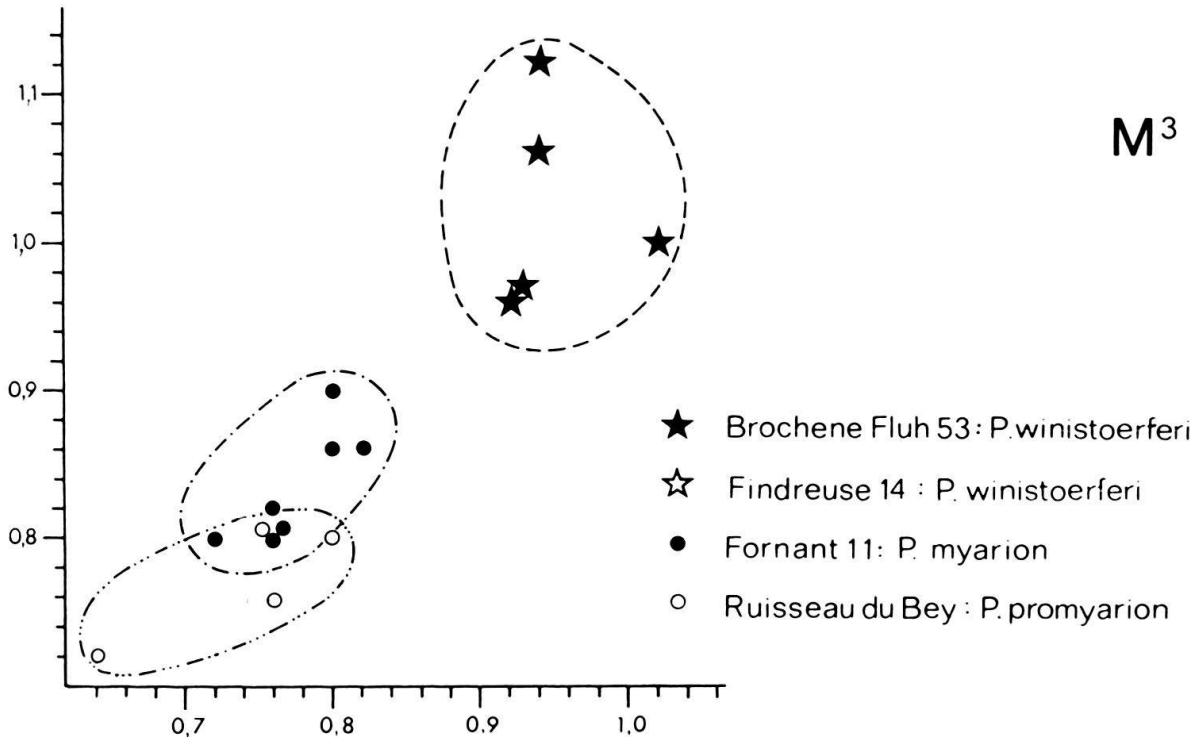


Fig. 23. Scatter diagrams of length (l) and width (w) in M^1 , M^2 and M^3 of three *Plesiosminthus* species of the western Molasse.

Of the features compared above, at least two can be classified as primitive: the strong posterior arm of the protoconid of M_2 and M_3 , and the slightly reduced M_3^3 . The Early Oligocene genera *Allosminthus* WANG 1985, *Sinosminthus* WANG 1985, and *Heosminthus* WANG 1985 already show these characters very distinctly. In the case of the posterior arm of the protoconid HUGUENEY & VIANEY-LIAUD (1980) also came to the conclusion, on the basis of comparisons of populations of *P. promyarion* from Pech Desse and Pech du Fraysse, that the strong development of this ridge is a primitive feature. Since

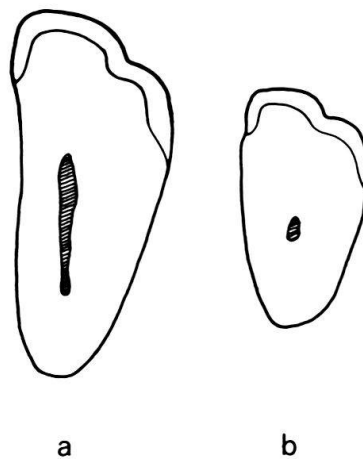


Fig. 24 a) *Plesiosminthus winistoerferi* n. sp. from Brochene Fluh 53, cross-section of the upper incisor: K.B.F. 9, collection D. Kälin, Balsthal.

b) *Plesiosminthus promyarion* SCHAUB from Ruisseau du Bey, cross-section of the upper incisor: MGL 44343, Musée Géologique Lausanne. both figures 25 \times .

P. winistoerferi shows these characters to a greater extent than *P. myarion* it can be considered as more primitive. Is it then possible, that *P. winistoerferi* is the ancestor of *P. promyarion*? Against such a derivation is the larger size of *P. winistoerferi*, because the general tendency in dipodids, as in most rodents, is towards the direction of size increase. In addition, all authors (SCHAUB 1930, HUGUENEY & VIANEY-LIAUD 1980) are in agreement, that *P. myarion* developed from *P. promyarion*. As will be shown, in connection with *P. promyarion*, *P. winistoerferi* does not fit at all in this scheme of evolution. Therefore, it seems probable, that *P. myarion* is not closely related with *P. winistoerferi*, and that the similarities of the two species can be considered as shared primitive features.

P. myarion is morphologically very close to *P. promyarion* (SCHAUB 1930), and in general it is considered as having been derived from this latter species. *P. promyarion* is actually more primitive in several features: the teeth are somewhat smaller, the M_1^1 are almost of the same size as the M_2^2 (see Fig. 25), and a posterior arm of the protoconid on M_2 is always developed, whereas in *P. myarion* 22% of the M_2 s show no trace of this ridge (see Fig. 21). Concerning the posterior arm of the protoconid, *P. winistoerferi* is more primitive than *P. promyarion*. Also the less reduced M_3^3 of *P. winistoerferi* as shown above, have to be considered as more primitive. Therefore it does not seem possible to derive *P. winistoerferi* from *P. promyarion*.

P. schaubi VIRET 1926 is without doubt the most advanced species of *Plesiosminthus* so far known. This species not only shows a very reduced M_3^3 and a relatively large M_1^1 , but in M_2 and M_3 the posterior arm of the protoconid is completely lacking. Accordingly, *P. winistoerferi* seems to have no close relationship with any other species of *Plesiosminthus*. Apparently this species represents a separate evolutionary line that immigrated into the Molasse basin during the Uppermost Oligocene (see Fig. 26). It is very conspicuous that *P. winistoerferi* is known only in the assemblage zone of Brochene Fluh 53, and that it was not found outside the Molasse basin.

Plesiosminthus in the Molasse of Switzerland and Savoy

Plesiosminthus appears for the first time in the zone of Mümliswil–Hardberg. The genus is documented over a range of 11 mammal zones. Only in the zone of Aarwangen are no *Plesiosminthus* known. But the lack is certainly due to the scarcity of small mammals from this zone. In the range of these 11 zones, 4 species of *Plesiosminthus* are known. It is noticeable that these species replace each other, and that there is no overlapping at all. Especially peculiar is the fact that in the zones of Küttigen and Brochene Fluh 53 no representative of the *P. promyarion/myarion* group has been found so far. HUGUENEY & VIANEY-LIAUD (1980) propose the following explanation for this absence: The group may have been displaced in fringe areas by the more advanced and larger species, *P. schaubi*. Only after the disappearance of *P. schaubi* could the *P. promyarion/myarion* group regain its territory. This explanation sounds quite reasonable. However, the situation becomes more complicated by the appearance of *P. winistoerferi*. For example, did *P. winistoerferi* in its turn displace *P. schaubi* in the Molasse basin? This would certainly explain the short stratigraphical range of the latter species. But if this is the case, which species was responsible for the disappearance of the large species, *P. winistoerferi*?

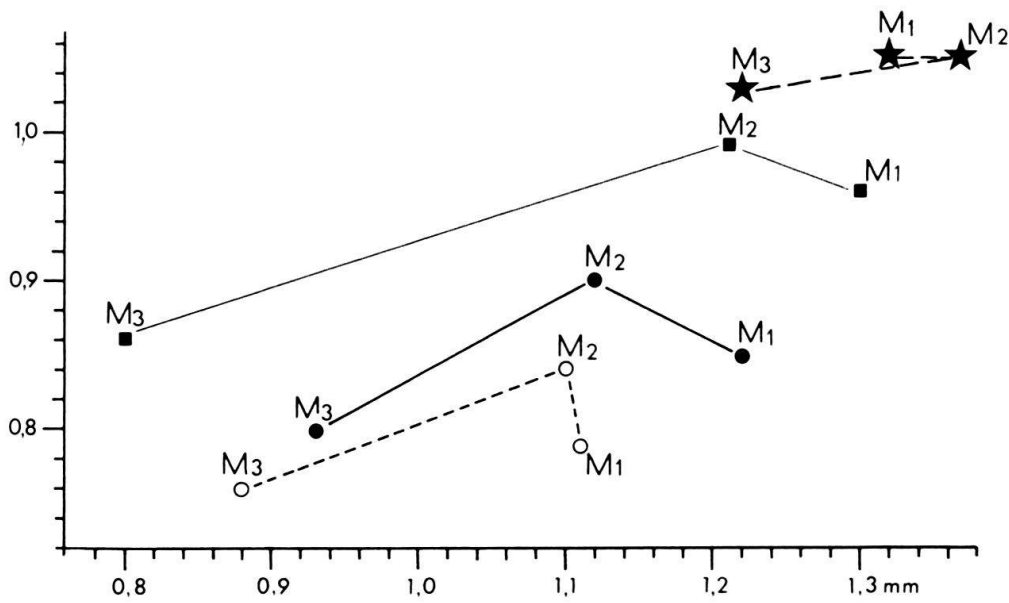
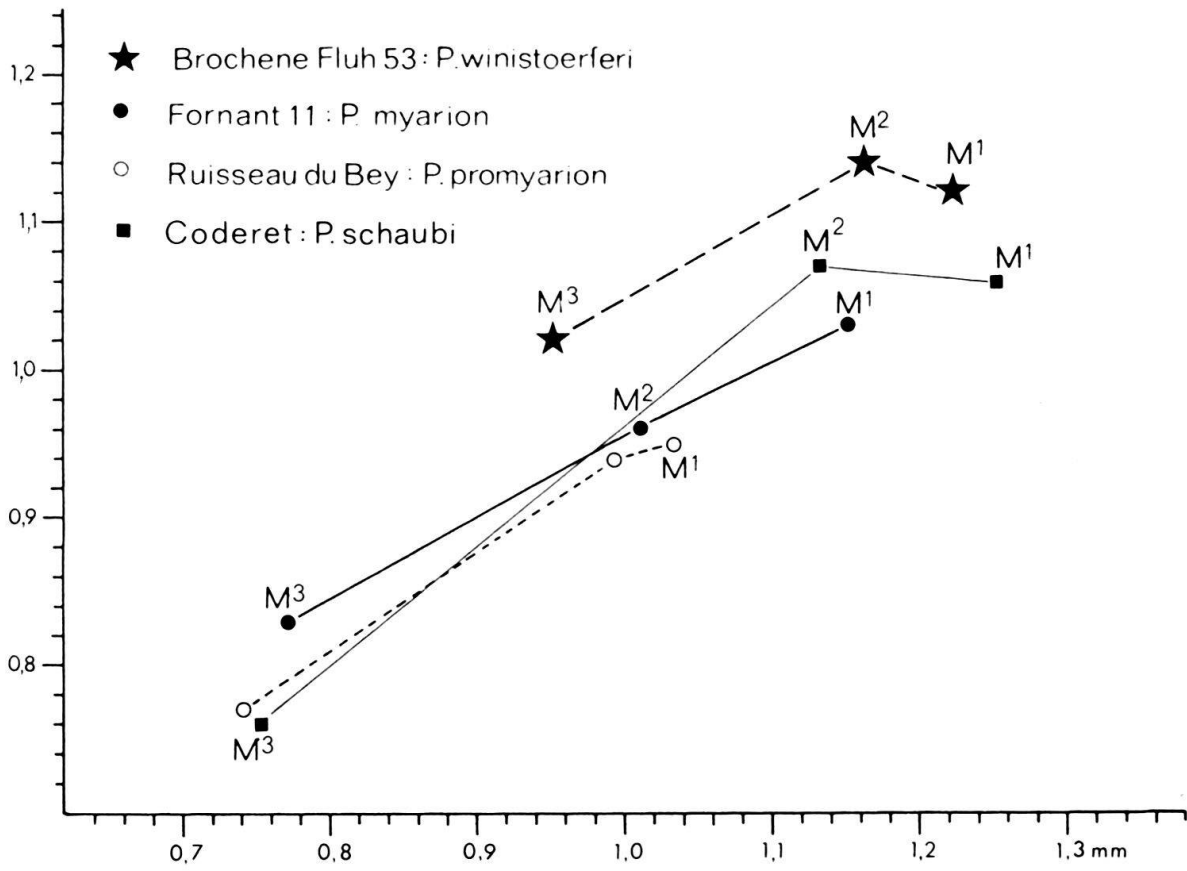


Fig. 25. Mean values of the molars of four species of *Plesiosminthus*.

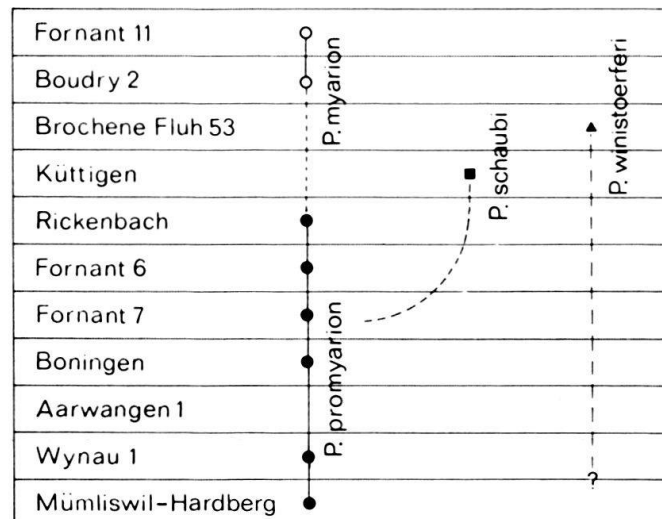


Fig. 26. The stratigraphical range of the various species of *Plesiosminthus*.

List of the mammal faunas with *Plesiosminthus* in the Molasse of Switzerland and Savoy

P. promyarion SCHAUB 1930

Mülliswil-Hardberg (ENGESSER & MAYO 1987)

Wynau 1 (ENGESSER & MAYO 1987)

Wolfwil (STEHLIN & SCHAUB 1951)

Boningen (ENGESSER & MAYO 1987)

Ruisseau du Bey (JORDI 1955)

Le Coudray 2 (ENGESSER, HÜRZELER & MAYO 1986)

Fornant 6 (ENGESSER & HUGUENEY 1982; ENGESSER & MAYO 1987)

Fornant 7 (ENGESSER & HUGUENEY 1982; ENGESSER & MAYO 1987)

Findreuse 16 (ENGESSER & HUGUENEY 1982)

Route de Serrasson (Savoy)

La Chaude Fontaine (ENGESSER & MAYO 1987)

Boudry-La-Fabrique (MOJON et al. 1985)

Rickenbach (SCHAUB 1925, 1930; ENGESSER & MAYO 1987)

Rances (HUGUENEY & KISSLING 1972)

Brochene Fluh 4/5 (BAUMBERGER 1927)

P. schaubi VIRET 1926

Le Gérignoz (ENGESSER, MAYO & WEIDMANN 1984)

Küttigen (ENGESSER & MAYO 1987)

P. winistoerferi n. sp.

Brochene Fluh 53 (ENGESSER & MAYO 1987)

Findreuse 11 (ENGESSER & HUGUENEY 1982)

Findreuse 14

P. myarion SCHAUB 1930

Les Pierrettes

Fornant 11 (ENGESSER & MAYO 1987)

Findreuse 3, 4 (ENGESSER & HUGUENEY 1982)
 Findreuse 22
 Messen (ENGESSER 1976)
 Seligraben (BLAU 1969)
 Boudry Viaduc VI (MOJON et al. 1985)
 Bois Genoud (MUMENTHALER, PETERS & WEIDMANN 1981)

Family *Cricetidae* ROCHEBRUNE 1883

Subfamily *Pseudocricetodontinae* new subfam.

Genus *Heterocricetodon* SCHAUB 1925

Heterocricetodon hausi nov. sp.

Fig. 27–28

Diagnosis. – Smallest known species of *Heterocricetodon* with small M^3 , and relatively short posterior arm of the protoconid and mesolophid in M_1 and M_2 . M^3 with a double protoloph. In M^2 protoloph I more strongly developed than protoloph II. M^2 always with lingual anterior cingulum. M^3 with lingual anterior cingulum poorly developed or absent and no posteriorly elongated protocone.

Derivatio nominis. – Honoring Dr. H. A. Haus (Überlingen, Germany) for his geological work in the area of Bumbach, the type locality.

Type. – Left M^2 , Bum. 5, Naturhistorisches Museum Basel, dimensions: 1,82 × 1,68 mm, Fig. 27c.

Referred material. – 25 isolated teeth and 14 fragments.

Type locality. – Bumbach 1 near Schangnau (Kanton Bern, Switzerland, see HAUS 1937).

Age. – Middle Oligocene, assemblage zone of Bumbach 1 (see ENGESSER & MAYO 1987).

Stratigraphic range. – Assemblage zone of Bumbach to that of Mümliswil-Hardberg (see ENGESSER & MAYO 1987).

Other localities with *H. hausi*:

(Réchauvent-Cristallin, assemblage zone of Bumbach (see ENGESSER, HÜRZELER & MAYO 1986)

Mümliswil-Hardberg (ENGESSER & MAYO 1987).

Differential diagnosis. –

From *Heterocricetodon stehlini* SCHAUB 1925⁵⁾ *H. hausi* differs in:

- its smaller dimensions,
- its less enlarged M^3 ,
- its lingual anterior cingulum on M^2 ,
- its more developed protoloph I (compared with protoloph II) on M^2 ,
- its double protoloph on M^3 ,

⁵⁾ About *H. stehlini* and *H. schlosseri*, see p. 991–992.

- its shorter posterior arm of the protoconid on M_2 ,
- its anticlines on M_2 and M_3 which are perpendicular to the longitudinal axis.

From *Heterocricetodon schlosseri* SCHAUB 1925⁶), *H. hausi* differs in:

- its smaller dimensions,
- its less enlarged M_3^3 ,
- its better developed lingual anterior cingulum on M^2 ,
- its stronger protoloph I on the M^2 .

From *Heterocricetodon helbingi* STEHLIN & SCHAUB 1951, *H. hausi* differs in:

- its distinctly smaller dimensions,
- its much less enlarged M_3^3 ,
- its more developed protoloph I on M^2 mostly reaching the paracone,
- the less developed lingual anterior cingulum on M^3 .

Description of the type (Fig. 27c). — Paracone and metacone rise far above the other cusps and crests of this M^2 . The entoloph is as high as the protocone and hypocone. The protoloph I is connected with the anterior arm of the protocone, and is higher and stronger than the protoloph II. This latter ridge ends at the base of the paracone. The labial anterior cingulum is very long but the lingual part is not as well developed, and does not reach the lingual edge of the tooth. The mesoloph is not so high as the entoloph and is not connected with the pronounced mesostyle. The metaloph is parallel to the posterior cingulum, and ends in the entoloph somewhat behind the mesoloph.

Description of the dentition (Fig. 27). — The M_1 is a long and narrow tooth. It has a pointed anteroconid which is connected with the protoconid. In the only complete specimen the metaloph is directed backwards and fuses with the anterior arm of the protoconid. The posterior arm of the protoconid of this specimen is very short. The paracone shows a distinct posterior crest. In one specimen the mesolophid is of medium length, while in another it is divided into three little crests. The ectomesolophid is very variable: in one M_1 it is very distinct and long, in the two other specimens there is no ectomesolophid at all. Only one specimen shows a posterior arm of the hypoconid.

The M_2 is less variable than the M_1 . The labial anterior cingulum is mostly shorter than the lingual one. The posterior arm of the protoconid is of medium length and always stronger than the short mesolophid. The metaconid also has a posterior crest.

Only three fragments of the M_3 were found, and in all of them, only the anterior half is preserved. The posterior arm of the protoconid is very long, and apparently there is no mesolophid.

The M^1 is very variable. Some specimens show two anterocones, others only one. The labial anterocone is sometimes connected with the anterior arm of protocone. In other specimens this arm is very short and ends freely. The protoloph is always curved backwards, and the mesoloph is always long.

The M^2 is much less variable than the M^1 . In general these teeth correspond very well with the type specimen. All specimens show a lingual anterior cingulum, but in some it is more developed than that of the type, in others less so. Of the 11 M^2 s, only one has an

⁶) About *H. stehlini* and *H. schlosseri*, see p. 991–992.

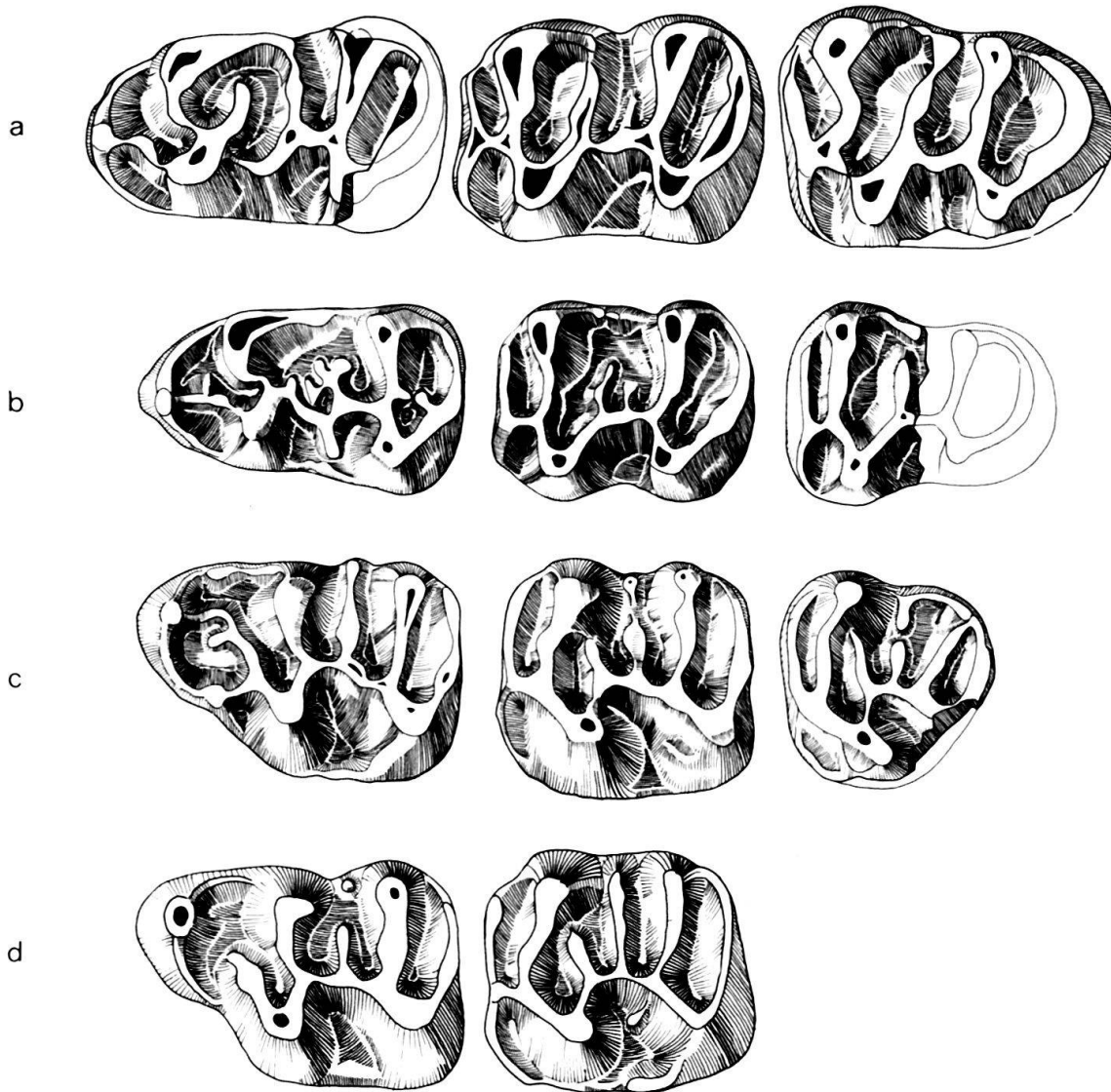


Fig. 27 a) *Heterocricetodon stehlini* SCHAU from Route de Serrasson (M_1) and Fornant 7 (M_2 and M_3), left M_1 : Sav. 422, right M_2 (inverse): Sav. 423, right M_3 (inverse): Sav. 424.

b) *Heterocricetodon hausi* n.sp. from Bumbach I, M_1 – M_3 ; right M_1 (inverse): Bum. 1, left M_2 : Bum. 2, fragment of left M_3 : Bum. 3.

c) *Heterocricetodon hausi* n.sp. from Bumbach I, M^1 – M^3 ; left M^1 : Bum. 4, left M^2 , type: Bum. 5, right M^3 (inverse): Bum. 6.

d) *Heterocricetodon hausi* n.sp. from Bumbach I, M^1 – M^2 ; left M^1 : Bum. 7, left M^2 : Bum. 8. – all specimens of the Naturhistorisches Museum Basel. all figures 15 \times .

interrupted protocone I. In all other specimens this ridge reaches the paracone, and is higher and longer than the protocone II. Some specimens show a distinct posterior crest of the paracone. The length of the mesoloph varies from short to long.

The M^3 is very small compared with other species of *Heterocricetodon*. The lingual anterior cingulum is little developed or is completely lacking. As in M^2 , there is always a double protocone, and the anterior arm is always higher and longer than the posterior one. The mesoloph is mostly long, and the metacone is incorporated in the metaloph.

Dimensions of *Heterocrisetodon hausi* from Bumbach I in millimeters

	length			width			n
	minimum	mean	maximum	minimum	mean	maximum	
M ¹	2,28	2,34	2,42	1,52	1,60	1,66	6
M ²	1,68	1,77	1,88	1,60	1,66	1,72	9
M ³	1,48	1,51	1,56	1,44	1,50	1,60	5
M ₁		2,30			1,36		1
M ₂	1,84	1,89	1,96	1,44	1,50	1,60	4

Discussion

Heterocrisetodon hausi is so far the oldest species of the genus. It also shows a number of characters which can be interpreted as primitive:

- small M₃³,
- a lingual anterior cingulum of M²,
- protoloph I on M² more developed than protoloph II,
- short posterior arm of the protoconid on M₂,
- anticlines on M₂ and M₃ perpendicular to the longitudinal axis.

In many respects *H. hausi* is very similar to *Pseudocrisetodon*. When we found the first specimens of this species from Bumbach, I had my doubts whether it was a new species of *Heterocrisetodon* or of *Pseudocrisetodon*. When more material came to light it became clear that the new species had to be considered as a primitive *Heterocrisetodon*. The cusps of the teeth are little voluminous and ridge like; the labial cusps of the lower molars are situated very close to the labial edge of the teeth, the mesoloph of the upper molars is always long; the M₁ is very much elongated; the posterior arm of the protocone on M² shows a tendency to become connected with the paracone, and the lingual anterior cingulum of the same tooth seems to become reduced. All these characters are typical for *Heterocrisetodon*.

SCHAUB (1925, p. 62) already recognized the similarity between *Heterocrisetodon schlosseri* and *Pseudocrisetodon incertus*. Since *H. hausi* also shows characters of *Pseudocrisetodon* (large, often two-cusped prelobe, and long anterior arm of the protocone on M¹, well-developed posterior arm of the protoconid on M₂, double mesolophid and posterior crest of the paraconid on M₁), it seems to be a form intermediate between *Pseudocrisetodon* and *Heterocrisetodon*. Therefore I think the two genera are closely related and I could easily consider the possibility that *Heterocrisetodon* originated from *Pseudocrisetodon*. It is true that the M₃³ of some species of *Pseudocrisetodon* are very little, and it is hard to imagine how the large M₃³ of *Heterocrisetodon* could develop from such tiny teeth. However, it seems evident that in *Heterocrisetodon* there is a tendency towards enlargement of M₃³. Even if it is not possible at this stage to determine the exact species of *Pseudocrisetodon* from which *Heterocrisetodon* developed, it seems very probable that the two genera are closely related, and I therefore propose to include the two genera in a new subfamily, the Pseudocrisetodontinae.

Diagnosis of the subfamily *Pseudocricetodontinae*

Small to large Oligocene and lower Miocene cricetids with rather lophodont molars. M^1 with large prelobe, straight or even concave labial edge, and often long anterior arm of protocone. M^2 with double protoloph. M_1 mostly with posterior crest of the paraconid and often double mesoloph. M_1 and M_2 mostly without the posterior arm of the hypoconid.

Type genus. – *Pseudocricetodon* THALER 1969.

Remark. – M. HUGUENEY (1980) was the first author to classify the species *incertus* within the genus *Pseudocricetodon*, although THALER (1969) had already suggested this possibility. She wrote (p. 60) “L'évolution des caractères crâniens décrits chez *P. incertus* (HARTENBERGER 1967) et chez *P. montalbanensis* (VIANEY-LIAUD 1974) ne semble pas en contradiction avec ce point de vue”. It is true, as far as the infraorbital foramen is concerned, that the skulls of the two species are very similar. But in the anterior palatine foramen there is a difference: In *P. montalbanensis* it is quite short, and does not reach backwards to the anterior edge of the M^1 (see VIANEY-LIAUD 1974, Fig. 18c). In *P. incertus*, on the other hand, the foramen is much longer, and reaches further backwards than the prelobe of the M^1 (see HARTENBERGER 1967, p. 1b). As no skulls of other species of *Pseudocricetodon* are known, it is difficult to estimate the importance of this difference. It seems possible that *Pseudocricetodon*, in the sense of HUGUENEY (1980), is not a homogeneous genus. With the material presently available it is not possible to resolve this problem. In any case, *Heterocricetodon* seems to be close to *P. incertus* in this character: In the type specimen of *H. stehlini*, a fragment of a left maxilla, the posterior edge of the anterior palatine foramen is preserved. It reaches backwards to the prelobe of M^1 , almost as far as in *P. incertus*.

Heterocricetodon in the western Molasse

Heterocricetodon is a very rare cricetid. *H. hausii*, the oldest species so far known, was found only in the zones of Bumbach and Mümliswil–Hardberg. Besides Bumbach it has been found in two other localities. In Réchauvent-Cristallin (near Yverdon, Canton of Vaud), a new locality slightly younger than that of Bumbach, a fragment of a M^2 was found, and in Mümliswil–Hardberg a M^3 has been recovered.

When SCHAUB (1925) described *H. schlosseri* he had only three mandibles of this species from the Quercy, while *H. stehlini* was known only from a maxilla with M^1 – M^3 . In each case the age of the species was unknown.

FREUDENBERG (1941) considered *H. stehlini* as a synonym of *H. schlosseri*. This was followed with some reservation by M. HUGUENEY (1980). On the basis of new material from the Molasse, I came to the conclusion that both species are justified. *H. stehlini* is somewhat smaller than *H. schlosseri*. The posterior arm of the protoconid on the M_2 of *H. stehlini* is long, whereas in the M_2 of *H. schlosseri* it is short. The anticlines of M_2 and M_3 in *H. stehlini* are oblique (Fig. 27). In the corresponding teeth of *H. schlosseri* these crests are perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the molars. The M^3 of *H. schlosseri* shows a well developed protoloph I, and the protoloph II is interrupted. In contrast, the M^3 of *H. stehlini* has a strong protoloph II and the protoloph I, if present at all, is interrupted. In the only known M_1 of *H. stehlini* the metalophid is fused with the anterior arm of protoconid, and the posterior arm of this cusp is directed backwards (Fig. 27), as de-

Assemblage zones	H. hausi	H. schlosseri	H. helbingi	H. stehlini
Fornant 7			Rte. de Serrasson	Rte. de Serrasson Fornant 7
Boningen			Boningen	
Aarwangen 1				
Wynau 1		Bavois grès inf. Wynau 1 Talent 16	Wynau 1. Wolfwil Eclagnens Talent 16 Mümliswil-Näsühöfli	
Mümliswil-Hardberg	Mümliswil-Hardberg			
Oensingen		Schwendibach		
Bumbach 1	Réchauvent Bumbach 1			

Fig. 28. The stratigraphical range of various *Heterocricetodon* species in the western Molasse.

scribed for *H. gaimersheimensis* by FREUDENBERG (1941). On the M_1 of *H. schlosseri* by contrast the posterior arm of protoconid fuses with the metalophid.⁷

In most of these features *H. stehlini* is more advanced than *H. schlosseri*. In addition *H. stehlini* was actually found in younger layers (in the assemblage zone of Fornant 7), whereas *H. schlosseri* is known in the zones of Oensingen and Wynau 1 (Fig. 28).

H. helbingi which covers quite a large stratigraphical range (from the zone of Wynau until that of Fornant 7) shows a combination of primitive and advanced features. On the one hand, the enlarged M_3^3 , the long posterior arm of the protoconid on M_2 , and a protoloph II which is always well developed on M^2 can be classified as advanced characters. The lingual anterior cingulum on M^2 and M^3 , on the other hand, are primitive features.

The most extensive material of *Heterocricetodon* known is that from Gaimersheim, and described by FREUDENBERG (1941) as *H. gaimersheimensis*. However Volker Fahlbusch has informed me that of the 22 lower and 6 upper jaws of the species originally described only 5 jaw fragments survived the Second World War. Among them is the type, with the number 1939 XI 4 (not indicated in FREUDENBERG 1941)⁷). From the measurements given in Freudenberg, the material from Gaimersheim exhibits a large range of variability in molar length (23,2% for M_2 , 27,2% for M_3). In addition, this material seems morphologically heterogeneous. The type mandible (op. cit. Pl. 12, Fig. 3) shows features of *H. stehlini*: long posterior arm of the protoconid on M_2 , backwardly directed posterior arm of the protoconid in M_1 , oblique anticlines in M_2 and M_3 . Also the dimensions of the type are very close to those of *H. stehlini*. In contrast, the upper jaw fragments illustrated

⁷) I am indebted to Prof. Dr. V. Fahlbusch for providing me with additional information about *H. gaimersheimensis* not mentioned in FREUDENBERG (1941).

by Freudenberg in Figures 5 and 6 (Plate 12) show distinct lingual anterior cingula on M^2 and M^3 . I conclude from this that the material from Gaimersheim described by Freudenberg includes two species: *H. stehlini* and *H. helbingi*. Without having seen any of the material from Gaimersheim, I infer that *H. gaimersheimensis* represents a synonym of *H. stehlini* because the type of the former species is very similar to the lower dentition of the latter. Further studies of the Gaimersheim material (which now includes a complete skull with mandible recovered from more recent excavations) will undoubtedly shed some light upon this problem.

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