

## **Karabi Tamchin**

44° 55' N, 34° 27' E. Cave in the highland region of the first Crimean mountain range. 740 metres above sea level, in a westward facing cliff overlooking Audjikli Dere ravine. Discovered in 1996 by Yevtushenko and Chabai. Described both in the ERAUL volumes and in the PPS (2003). 18 x 6 metres recess, with heavily brecciated sediments. Profile, see Figure 5 (from PPS). Said to contain three main parts in stratigraphic sequence.

- (1) humus and large rockfall. (Not described in text but visible in profile).
- (2) fine loamy sediments. 3a-3b. (3c still appears to contain some rock fragments).
- (3) angular rubble. 4-7.

The relationship between the lithological layers and the archaeological levels is detailed in Table 1 (from PPS). Level 0 contains mixed archaeological material and is not in situ. Levels IA, I, and II/1 are likewise not in situ. The only archaeological material which is in place therefore comes from levels II/2, III, IV/1-2-A, and V.

There are three AMS dates from these layers as follows.

III >42,400 BP IV/2 >41,200 BP V >29,800 BP.

Full details are given on pages 281-282 of the ERAUL volume III. As stated there, ESR and U/Th dates could not be obtained because of the limited thickness of the deposits, their heterogeneous nature, and the presence of standing water in the excavation area (?).

The fauna is dominated by *Equus hydruntinus*. But the presence of *Ellobius talpinus* (northern mole-vole) in level V is regarded as an indication that this layer may belong to the Last Interglacial or possibly an early interstadial in the last glaciation.

The archaeological material is not too abundant. Only levels II/2, III, IV/2, and V have been analysed in detail. The first two are attributed to the Western Crimean Mousterian, and the last two to the Crimean Micoquian, the latter characterised by bifacial tools made on thin flint plaquettes. Small tool size is held to reflect the distance of the site from raw material sources, and is not considered to be a valid criterion for the creation of a separate Kiik-Koba Mousterian culture (pace Gladilin and Stepanchuk).

In general, the site is held to represent a short-term upland hunting locality.

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