

Denis GERAADS

French - Born December 27, 1951 in Paris - Graduated from Paris University, 1974

Assistant Professor at the "Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle" from 1976 to 1978, and from 1978 onwards, full-time researcher at the "Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique", where I presently hold a position of "Directeur de Recherches émérite".

I am a specialist of Miocene, Pliocene and Pleistocene faunas of Hominid-bearing sites, mainly from the Mediterranean basin and Africa. My results have been published in more than 200 scientific papers, and several more are in press.

I have been involved in a number of researches based upon field work; the main ones being the following, organised by geographic areas:

In Bulgaria, I started working in this country in 1999, and we have been steadily cooperating with N. Spassov (National Museum of Natural History) since then. Most of our research focuses on the Late Miocene, which is highly fossiliferous in many localities, especially in the south-western part of the country, but we also described a new species of Pliocene Primate. In 2006 we recognized the first Hominoid of Bulgaria, from Azmaka, a locality that we are currently working. I have authored or co-authored about 20 scientific papers on the Late Miocene of this country.

Greece: I started working there in 1974, with L. de Bonis (University of Poitiers) and G. Koufos (University of Thessaloniki), and I took part in many field campaigns. We worked on localities of Northern Greece that yielded very rich mammalian faunas of the Late Miocene (similar in age to those of south-western Bulgaria), including the Hominoid Primates *Ouranopithecus* and *Graecopithecus* I have authored or co-authored more than 10 scientific papers on the Late Miocene of Greece.

Turkey: I have been involved in several field programs there, with N. Dalfes (Tübitak, Istanbul), E. Güleç (University of Ankara), and T. Kaya (University of Izmir). We worked in several distinct sedimentary basins of various ages, ranging from the Middle Miocene to the Late Miocene, in Çandır and Çankiri north of Ankara, Kemiklitepe near Esme, and Çorlu in European Turkey. The first two sites yielded the hominoid primates *Griphopithecus* and *Ouranopithecus*, respectively. I have authored or co-authored about 20 scientific papers on the Middle and Late Miocene of Turkey.

Morocco: I first worked there in 1979, but it is only in 1989 that I became involved in the "programme Casablanca", a long term multidisciplinary cooperation program of the "Institut National des Sciences de l'Archéologie et du Patrimoine", aiming at reconstructing the paleoenvironments of the Atlantic coast during the last 5 million years, as well as its hominid peopling and cultural evolution. In the frame of this program, I have been regularly involved in the excavations of several sites, and I have been conducting those of the most important Late Cainozoic site of North Africa, Ahl al Oughlam, for 20 years. I have authored or co-authored about 35 scientific papers on the Pliocene and Pleistocene of Morocco.

Chad: The earliest bipedal hominid, *Sahelanthropus tchadensis*, was discovered here. Besides involvement in its first descriptions, I studied the fossil Bovidae that is the most significant group in terms

of paleoecological reconstruction, and is also critical in biochronology and biogeography. I have authored or co-authored more than 10 scientific papers on the Miocene and Pliocene of Chad.

Ethiopia: I first became involved in the study of the faunas from the archaeological sites of Melka Kunturé in 1974, while working in co-operation with several international teams. Around 1995 I initiated survey and excavations in the Late Miocene of Chorora, collecting important large Mammal and Rodent fauna. From 1995 onwards, I started working with Zeresenay Alemseged in the Asbole-Dikika area, just opposite the Hadar localities that yielded the "Lucy" *Australopithecus* skeleton. Besides abundant mammalian faunas, we discovered the skeleton of a baby *Australopithecus*, nicknamed "Selam", and the earliest known hominin cutmarks. More recently, we surveyed late Pliocene exposures, slightly farther North, in the Mille-Logya area. I have authored or co-authored about 20 scientific papers on the Miocene, Pliocene and Pleistocene of Ethiopia.

I have not taken part in field projects in **Kenya**, but I am involved in the study of collections stored in the National Museums there: Miocene rhinos, tragulids, giraffes, and bovids. I have authored or co-authored about 10 scientific papers on the Miocene, Pliocene and Pleistocene of Kenya.

My field experience includes several other countries, in which I led or participated in some surveys or excavations: the Pleistocene of **Java**, the Pleistocene of **Jordan**, the Late Pleistocene of **Spain**, many localities in **France**, the late Miocene of **Tunisia**, the Pleistocene of **Algeria**, the Pleistocene of **Tanzania**, the Pleistocene of **Djibouti**. Altogether, these various researches led to about 15 scientific papers.

Besides this, I have published a number of studies based upon laboratory research, and dealing with many fossil groups, such as Chalicotheriidae, Rhinocerotidae, Suidae, Giraffidae, Cervidae, Bovidae, Carnivores, and Primates, including the first descriptions of the *Australopithecus boisei* cranium from Omo 323, and of the Hominoids *Ouranopithecus macedoniensis*, *Sahelanthropus tchadensis*, and the first known baby skeleton of *Australopithecus afarensis*; the latter three appeared in "Nature".