

## PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE EXCAVATION OF HUMAN AND MAMMALIAN FOSSILS LOCALITY AT MAPA, KWANTUNG

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### ABSTRACT

During the digging of natural fertilizers—a limestone cave in Shidushan ("Lion Hill") at Mapa, Chukiang District in Northern Kwantung in May and June of 1958 a fossilized human skull and many mammalian fossils were collected. The discovery was later reported to the Provincial Museum in Canton and a survey of the fossil locality with the prospect of finding more material was conducted by a group of scientific staff from the Museum and Sun Yat-sen University. The result of the investigation is preliminarily given in the present note.

1. Geologically the fossiliferous deposits occur in a cave in an isolated hill made of carboniferous limestone dipping 20—30° to the south. The top of the hill has a relative elevation of 60—70° meters above the local ground surface. Limestone cave are developed at three levels less than 25 meters above the ground and one connected with each other by fissure and channels. Fossils are discovered in all the deposits. The human fossils were found in a fissure of the second level about 37.4 meters from the entrance. The fissure which is 63 m long and 1—2 m wide runs in the EW direction.

2. **Human skull** The fossil human skull cap consists of parts of the parietal and occipital bones, the frontal bone and a small piece of the nasal bones. It has the following characteristics: sloping forehead, very prominent superciliary ridges to be continuous in the middle part, thickness of the skull about 7.5 mm. It represents probably a later member of the protoanthropic stage or an earlier member of the palaeoanthropic stage.

3. **Associating mammalian fauna** Fossils of 19 mammalian species mostly represented by teeth were collected in the deposits.

Among the fossils collected isolated teeth of pigs, deers, *Cervus*, and bovids are most abundant. Those of tiger, bears and tapirs are less abundant. Rodent remains are comparatively rare. According to preliminary identification, the mammalian fauna contains: *Hyaena*, *Ursus Ailuropoda*, *Felis tigris*, Mustelid indet., *Tapirus*, *Rhinoceros*, *Sus*, *Cervus*, *Bos* and other bovids, *Hystrix*, *Lepus*, *Stegodon*, *Paleoloxodon namadicus*, etc.

The age of this fauna is probably late middle Pleistocene.