

**Lagomorpha (Mammalia) of the Pliocene and Pleistocene of Europe:  
a revision of selected taxa**

**Stanislav Čermák**

The dissertation (accepted as a rigorous) thesis is concerned with selected taxa of lagomorphs, an ancient conservative group of herbivorous mammals, in the Pliocene and Pleistocene (Ruscinian – Biharian) of Europe. Using techniques of detailed morphometric analysis of 42 metric and 14 non-metric features, the fossil material (mostly new unpublished) of dental and cranial remains of Lagomorpha from 38 localities of Central, Southeastern, and Eastern Europe covering stratigraphically the period from Early Ruscinian to Late Biharian (MN 14 – Q2) was analyzed in detail. The work provides: **(1)** Ochotonidae – a detailed revision of poorly known pikas of “*Ochotona* group“ from the Pliocene (Ruscinian) of Eastern and Southeastern Europe (i.e. *Ochotona antiqua*, *Pseudobellatona*, and *Ochotonoma*); a detailed morphometric survey of all currently available fossil record of *Ochotona* from the Pleistocene (MN 17 – Q1) localities of the Czech and Slovak Republics, it enlarges knowledge about these ochotonids based, up to now, on the relatively scarce fossil record from France, Germany, Poland, and Hungary; **(2)** Leporidae – a comprehensive revision of *Hypolagus* – the important and dominant genus of Leporidae in the Pliocene and Pleistocene (MN 15 – Q2) of Central and Southeastern Europe, a survey of all currently available, up to now unstudied in detail, finds from localities of the Czech and Slovak Republic supplements the revisions provided from the area of Poland, Austria, and partly from Hungary. The thesis enlarges knowledge about the taxonomy, nomenclature, phylogeny, and paleobiogeography of studied taxa in the Pliocene and Pleistocene (Ruscinian – Biharian) of Europe. The main results were primarily processed and structured in a form of the following scientific papers or manuscripts accepted for publication.

List of respective papers (\* – in SCI) included into the thesis:

\* **Čermák S.** (2004): A New ochotonid (Lagomorpha) from the Early Pleistocene of Slovakia. – *Neues Jahrbuch für Geologie und Paleontologie Mh.*, 2004: 662-680.

\* **Čermák S.** (2007): New finds of *Ochotonoma csarnotana* (Lagomorpha, Ochotonidae) from the Pliocene of Hungary: a new look on the species. – *Neues Jahrbuch für Geologie und Paleontologie Abh.*, 246: 247-256.

\* **Čermák S.** (2009): The Plio-Pleistocene record of *Hypolagus* (Lagomorpha, Leporidae) from the Czech and Slovak Republics with comments on systematics and classification of the genus. – *Bulletin of Geosciences*, 84, 3: 497-524.

\* **Čermák S.** & Rekovets L. I. (in press [in 2009]): Early Pliocene ochotonids (Mammalia, Lagomorpha) of Southern Ukraine. – *Geodiversitas* [(published 2010), 32 (1): 107-120].

**Čermák S.**, Wagner J., Fejfar O. & Horáček I. (2007): New Pliocene localities with micromammals from the Czech Republic: a preliminary report. – *Fossil Record*, 10, 1: 60-68.