

Archaeological Site Orozmani

Abstract

The scientific project aims to deepen our knowledge of the initial human migration from Africa to Eurasia during the Lower Paleolithic era. Focusing on the Orozmani site, a significant archaeological discovery made in 2019. Located approximately 20 kilometers west of the Dmanisi archaeological site in southern Georgia, in the Dmanisi municipality, Orozmani has become the oldest and most famous archaeological site in Eurasia.

The study establishes a correlation between Orozmani and Dmanisi, as confirmed by absolute dates of basalt, phytolith samples, and ash layer composition. The findings suggest a similar Early Pleistocene date of 1.825–1.76 Ma, Messenger et al (2011)

In 2019, during planned survey, we encountered lake sediments sandwiched between two dated volcanic layers. In the same year, a 1 X 1 test pit was drilled on this profile, where Olduvai-type stone artifacts and faunal remains were revealed.

As a result of further excavations carried out in 2021 and 2022 on an area of 20 m², numerous faunal taxa were discovered in the Early Pleistocene layers: Carnivora: Felidae (*Homotherium* sp.), Canidae (*Canis* sp.), Hyaenidae (*Hyaenidae* gen. et sp. indet), and Ursidae (*Ursus* sp.). Perissodactyla: Equidae (*Equus* cf. *stenosis*) and Rhinocerotidae (*Stephanorhinus* sp.). Artiodactyla: Cervidae (Large sp., medium sp.) and Bovidae (*Bovinae* gen. et sp. indet., *Antilopinae* gen. et sp. indet.). Proboscidea: Elephantidae (*Mammuthus* (*Archidiscodon*) sp.). Primates: Hominidae (*Homo* sp.).

Olduvai stone tools, and a human tooth.

By examining these aspects, this study not only provides valuable information about early human migrations, but also expands our knowledge of cultural and technological evolution during the Lower Paleolithic. Comparisons with Dmanisi and other European sites further enrich the contextual understanding of this turning point in human history.