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Pleistocene vertebrates from Celebes. XIII. *Sus celebensis* Müller & Schlegel, 1845

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ABSTRACT

Part of a fossil skull of *Sus celebensis* Müller & Schlegel from southwestern Celebes adds a species to the Pleistocene fauna of that island. The specimen further corroborates the evidence already available for a trend toward increasing tooth size in this particular species.

The other day P. J. H. van Bree, curator of mammals at the Zoological Museum, Amsterdam, brought me a fossilized skull portion (reg. nr. ZMA 10,910) from Celebes, that had been collected by N. Adriani from the bed of the Salo-Patjiro river, between Pampanua and Sopeng, southwestern Celebes. The fossil was donated to the said museum by W. G. N. van der Sleen in 1932. The specimen comprises the palate holding the incomplete crowns of P^3—M^3 sin. and P^4—M^3 dext.; the anterior cusps of the last molars appear just a little above the alveolar margin and are unworn, not having cut the gums yet. P^2 sin. was present, but is broken off, and so is the crown of P^3 dext. The shape of P^3 and P^4, lacking the roundness seen in those of the Babirusa, and the well-developed anterior cingula in M^2 and M^3, stamp the specimen as *Sus*, and there is nothing against referring it to *Sus celebensis* Müller & Schlegel, one of the endemic suids of the island. There is only one extinct, endemic suid in the Pleistocene of Celebes: *Celebochoerus heekereni* Hooijer (1954), and it differs from *Sus* in its potamochoeroid premolars as well as in its weakly grooved molar cusps. *Celebochoerus* was discovered by H. R. van Heekeren in the late 'forties in the Tjabengè area, Sopeng district, at three sites, Beru, Sompoh, and Tjeleko. The fossil specimen collected by N. Adriani comes from the very same area, and, as it represents an element not found in the so-called *Archidiskodon-Celebochoerus* fauna, it is of interest and should be recorded even though its locality is not very precisely known.

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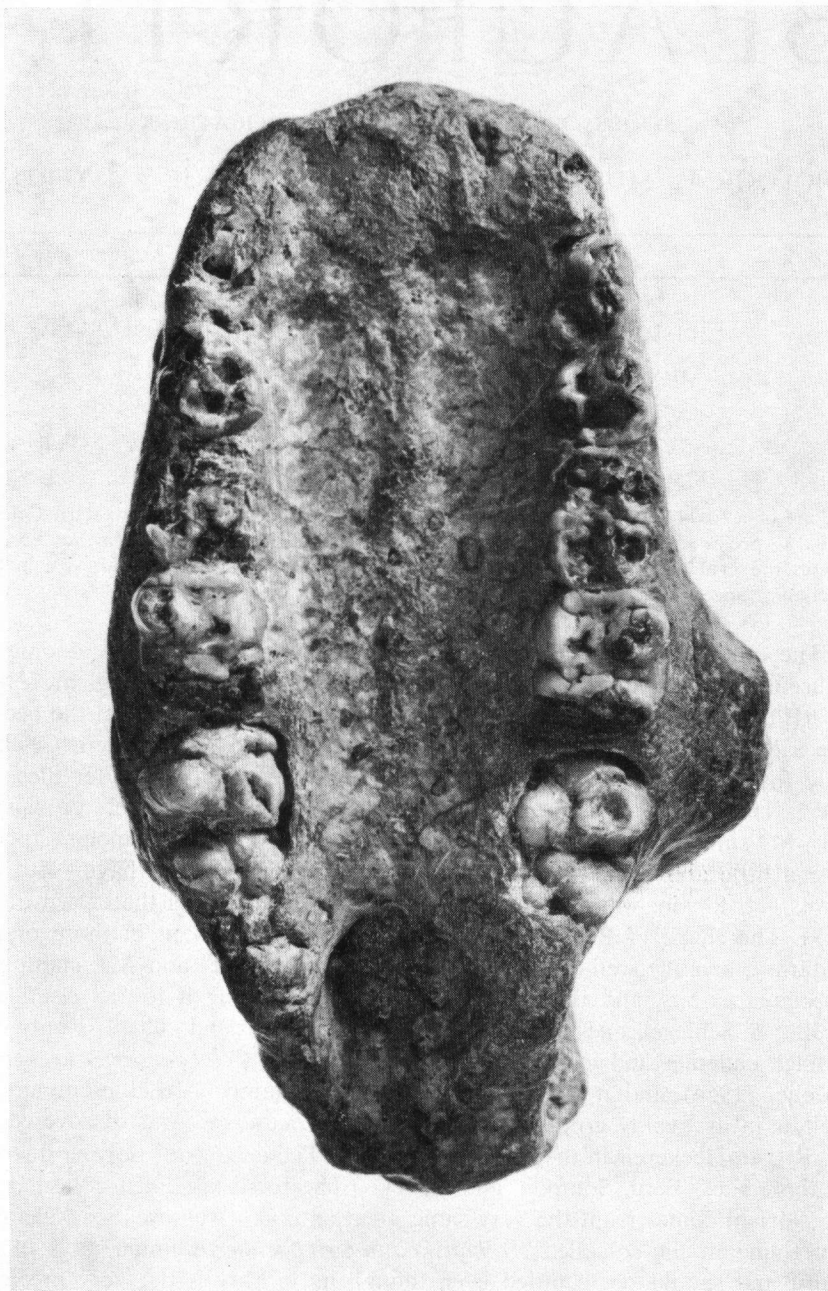

Sus celebensis Müller & Schlegel, part of fossil skull from Salo-Patjiro river, between Pampanua and Sopeng, southwestern Celebes. Zool. Mus. Amsterdam no. 10,910. Palatal view, × 4/3. C. Hoorn phot.

Table I. Tooth measurements of fossil, subfossil and recent *Sus celebensis* (mm).

	fossil	subfossil		recent	
		range	mean	range	mean
P^3, transverse	8.9	6.8— 9.2	8.3	8.3— 9.9	9.1
P^4, transverse	11.2	10.2—11.9	11.0	10.5—12.9	11.9
M^2 anterotransverse	13.4	12.8—15.9	14.4	13.8—17.5	15.2

Because of damage, few dental measurements can be given: the transverse diameters of P^3 sin. and P^4 dext., 8.9 and 11.2 mm, respectively, and the anterotransverse diameter of M^2 (both sides), 13.4 mm. In table I these data may be compared with the variation ranges and means of these dimensions in the recent and the subfossil *Sus celebensis* (after Hooijer, 1950). The subfossil *Sus celebensis* averages smaller than the recent in tooth size, an exception to the general rule that subfossil (and fossil) races of living species are larger than the recent. As a matter of fact *Sus celebensis* is the only element in the subfossil Toala cave fauna of southwestern Celebes in which we find this trend, in which it contrasts with the Babirusa also present in the cave fauna. The Babirusa shows the usual decrease in tooth size with time just as do most of the elements to the Celebes cave fauna. As I put it at the time (Hooijer, 1950: 117) it is evident that there has been an increase in size of the teeth of *Sus celebensis* since the time of deposition of the cave remains, but, as long as Pleistocene remains are not available, it is impossible to say whether this trend was already in evidence before. Now that we have a well-fossilized specimen that appears to be of Pleistocene age we see that it is not large, but rather on the small side, within the variation limits of the subfossil teeth but below the limits of the recent in its M^2 width at least. We know nothing as yet about the amount of individual variation in size of the Pleistocene teeth, but the single specimen available shows dimensions that tend to support the view that the trend toward increasing tooth size had already set in in the Pleistocene. Until more specimens are forthcoming, this is all we can say about the Pleistocene *Sus celebensis*, which adds a living species to the Pleistocene fauna of Celebes comprising one endemic genus and species (*Celebochoerus heekereni*), two extinct species that are endemic (*Archidiskodon celebensis* and *Stegodon sompoensis*), and only one recent species (*Anoa depressicornis*), to mention only the mammals (Hooijer, 1960, 1964).

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