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ABSTRACT BOOK

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The sub-fossil fauna of BEL XXII (Belobaka, Northwest of Madagascar)

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Belobaka (catalogue prefix BEL) is located 10 km east of the city of Mahajanga, northwestern Madagascar. In 1911 and 1912, this site yielded sub-fossil remains of *Pachylemur insignis* (a lemur) and other material. Between 2003 and 2012, new surveys and excavations were undertaken by a French-Malagasy MAPPAM team (Mission Archéologique et Paléontologique dans la Province de Mahajanga), which led to the discovery of previously unknown karst infillings. In 2007, BEL XVII yielded the remains of a hippopotamus (*H. laloumena*) dated *circa* 20,000 years BP. In addition, a right maxilla of a small species of "sloth lemur" was discovered at BEL XIX, and became the type specimen for *Palaeopropithecus kelyus* Gommery *et al.* //2009. This genus is also represented by *Palaeopropithecus maximus* Standing, 1903 and *Palaeopropithecus ingens* Grandidier, 1899. Two lower molars of *Palaeopropithecus* have also been reported from Ambongonambakoa. In 2009, some breccia with microfauna was discovered at BEL XXII. The excavation began in 2010. Important discoveries were made in 2011 and 2012 with the help of students of the University of Mahajanga during field school. This locality yielded many remains of *P. kelyus* and other faunal remains (chelonian, carnivores, lemurs, rodents and bats). But, the collection of *P. kelyus* is the most important, best represented by teeth (especially partial mandibles and anterior teeth). The excavation exposed cave deposits; part of which were unfortunately destroyed in the 1980's during quarrying. The proximity of BEL XXII and BEL XIX suggests that the two localities belong to the same karstic network

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