

First proboscidean fossil record in the Southern Thailand

Jaroon Duangkrayom, Yupa Thasod & Pratueng Jintasakul

Northeastern Research Institute of Petrified Wood and Mineral Resources (in Honor of His Majesty the King) Nakhon Ratchasima Rajabhat University

Since 1957, the proboscidean fossils were found in Thailand. Many fossils were discovered in the northern and northeastern parts. A few specimens were collected from the central part. The ages of proboscidean fossils in Thailand are range from the late Early Miocene to Pleistocene. In the southern part, however, it is never found proboscidean fossil until the year 2008. At Thung Wa district, Satun province, southern Thailand, two genera of proboscidean, Stegodon and Elephas, were found in the cave that connect to the sea. This is the first record of Stegodon in the Thai-Malay Peninsula. They were found associated with other vertebrate fossils consist of rhinoceros, deer, bovid, and turtle. All fossils were fragmented and polished that indicate they were transported and reworked with sediments. The fossil assemblage indicates Pleistocene in age. The molar structures of Thung Wa Stegodon is similar to that of S. orientalis of southern China than that of S. trigonocephalus of Indonesia. This finding supports the idea "beast migration from the north".