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Quaternary Fauna from Vadod Locality, Purna Alluvial Basin, Central India

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Abstract

Recently, the discovered Vadod locality in the Purna basin has brought to light numerous mammalian fossil remains belonging mainly to *Bos namadicus*, *Equus namadicus* and *Bos/Bubalus*. This discovery in conjunction with previously reported fossil site of Kapileshwar, a well established fossiliferous section of the Purna basin, has confirmed rich fossiliferous nature of the Purna basin, subsequent to the Narmada valley of Central India. The 9 m thick stratigraphic sequence exposed at the Vadod locality has yielded rich faunal assemblage of *bovids* and *equids*, indicating perennially available grassland and abundant supply of water *i.e.*, savanna landscape, in the Purna basin during Middle-Late Pleistocene times. The present study has significant bearing on the palaeo-geographic distribution of the animals along with palaeo-environmental implications in Central India. Further excavations and discoveries of more localities for retrieval of palaeobiological data will help to reconstruct, more precisely, the palaeoenvironmental conditions of the Purna basin, *vis'-a vis'* other localities in the Central Indian region.

Keywords: Purna alluvial valley, Quaternary sediments, Palaeoenvironment, Vadod, Maharashtra, Central India.