

Macedonia: 8 million-year-old elephant-like remains found

April 24 2018



A member of a paleontologist team applies a liquid to protect a fossilized skeleton of extinct species of elephant, excavated at Dolni Disan, near Negotino, in central Macedonia, Tuesday, April 24, 2018. Paleontologists from Bulgaria and Macedonia are excavating the fossilized remains of a prehistoric elephant believed to pre-date the mammoth, after its bones were found accidentally by a man working in a field. (AP Photo/Boris Grdanoski)

Paleontologists from Bulgaria and Macedonia are excavating the fossilized remains of a prehistoric elephant believed to pre-date the

mammoth, after its bones were discovered accidentally by a man working in a field.

Scientists at the Natural Science Museum of Macedonia and the Natural History Museum of Sofia said Tuesday they began excavating the skeleton in Dolni Disan in central Macedonia last Friday. They estimated the animal would have weighed about 10 tons and have been about 50 years old at the time of its death, roughly 8 million years ago during the Miocene epoch.

Biljana Garevska of the Natural Science Museum in Skopje said the fossil was of one of the elephant's ancestors which roamed the region at a time when it was covered by African-like savannah.



Children look at a fossilized skeleton of extinct species of elephant, excavated at Dolni Disan, near Negotino, in central Macedonia, Tuesday, April 24, 2018. Paleontologists from Bulgaria and Macedonia are excavating the fossilized

remains of a prehistoric elephant believed to pre-date the mammoth, after its bones were found accidentally by a man working in a field. (AP Photo/Boris Grdanoski)



A member of a paleontologist team looks at a fossilized skeleton of an extinct species of elephant, excavated at Dolni Disan, near Negotino, in central Macedonia, Tuesday, April 24, 2018. Paleontologists from Bulgaria and Macedonia are excavating the fossilized remains of a prehistoric elephant believed to pre-date the mammoth, after its bones were found accidentally by a man working in a field. (AP Photo/Boris Grdanoski)



A member of a paleontologist team works on a fossilized skeleton of an extinct species of elephant, excavated at Dolni Disan, near Negotino, in central Macedonia, Tuesday, April 24, 2018. Paleontologists from Bulgaria and Macedonia are excavating the fossilized remains of a prehistoric elephant believed to pre-date the mammoth, after its bones were found accidentally by a man working in a field. (AP Photo/Boris Grdanoski)



A member of a paleontologist team works on a fossilized skeleton of an extinct species of elephant, excavated at Dolni Disan, near Negotino, in central Macedonia, Tuesday, April 24, 2018. Paleontologists from Bulgaria and Macedonia are excavating the fossilized remains of a prehistoric elephant believed to pre-date the mammoth, after its bones were found accidentally by a man working in a field. (AP Photo/Boris Grdanoski)

© 2018 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Macedonia: 8 million-year-old elephant-like remains found (2018, April 24) retrieved 10 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2018-04-macedonia-million-year-old-elephant-like.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.