

## Rodents and climate. 1. A model for estimating past temperatures using arvicolid (Mammalia: Rodentia)

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### Abstract

Analysis of 253 extant mammalian local faunas shows that the number of arvicoline species in each fauna is related to temperature parameters. The very high correlation allows us to propose a method to estimate the temperature for fossil faunas bearing arvicoline species from temperate areas. To illustrate this method, mean annual temperatures were estimated for Late Pleistocene Hungarian localities and for a sequence from the Baume de Gigny (Jura, France). These were compared with results obtained by other techniques (multivariate analysis of rodent associations and synthetic analysis of pollen, faunal, and sedimentological data).

**Keywords:** Rodentia; Arvicolinae; diversity; climate; temperature; estimation

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### 1. Introduction

Over the last few decades, significant endeavour has been made in determining the characteristics of past climates. In the continental domain, studies have been realized using approaches dealing with geochemical data (e.g. Buchardt, 1978), with palaeosol analysis (see, for example: Retallack, 1992), with vegetal data such as pollen and plant remains (e.g., Collinson et al., 1981; Guiot, 1990; Hubbard and Boulter, 1983; Ollivier-Pierre et al., 1988; Pantic, 1986), or with animal data such as coleopterans (e.g. Atkinson et al., 1986), molluscs (e.g., Rousseau, 1987, 1991; Rousseau and Puisségur, 1990; Rousseau et al., 1992), or verte-

brates, mainly mammals (Aguilar and Michaux, 1990; Chaline and Brochet, 1989; Daams and Van der Meulen, 1984; Janis, 1984; Legendre, 1987, 1989; Van der Meulen and Daams, 1992; Michaux et al., 1996).

Mammals have been used as climatic indicators since a long time by reference to related extant groups (see: Aguilar et al., in press; Legendre, 1989). Rodents have particularly been useful to reconstruct past climates: for example murines (e.g., Aguilar et al., in press; Michaux, 1971; Montuire, 1994), and arvicolines (e.g., Chaline, 1972; Chaline and Brochet, 1989; Chaline et al., 1995; Horáček, 1990).

Combining the palaeoecological analysis of mammalian communities with the relationships between the extant faunal structure and climate

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(Legendre et al., in prep.), as well as between biodiversity dynamics and climatic changes during the late Tertiary and the Quaternary (Aguilar et al., in press; Montuire, 1994, 1995), a quantification of the climatic parameters has been attempted. Results on arvicoline diversity and climatic parameters, such as temperatures, are presented in this study.

## 2. The Arvicolinae

The oldest arvicolines are recorded in Western Europe as early as the latest Late Miocene (Fejfar and Heinrich, 1986, 1990; Repenning et al., 1990). An age of 5.5 m.y. has been estimated for the radiation of these rodents (in the stratigraphical context adopted here, the base of the Pliocene is around 5.2 m.y.).

In fact, the presence of arvicolines as early as the Late Miocene cannot be excluded: a few faunal elements recently collected bear evidence of their presence in the late Late Miocene locality of Castelnou 3 in Southern France (Aguilar et al., 1991). It must however be noted that the quality of the datings and correlations is rather poor.

Data concerning the Eastern and Western part of the United States demonstrate the presence of arvicolines as early as the Late Miocene (Repenning, 1987; Repenning et al., 1990) while these rodents are not recorded in China before the Early Pliocene (Repenning et al., 1990; Zheng and Li, 1990). The oldest representatives of the arvicolines in western Transbaikalia are recorded slightly later than in Europe (Repenning et al., 1990).

Musser and Carleton (1993) recognize 143 living arvicoline species. Among them, 99 are known in the Old World, mainly from Eurasia but 1 in Africa, and 40 in the New World. Only 4 species have a holarctic distribution, one of these, the muskrat *Ondatra zibethicus*, having been introduced in a great part of the Old World for fur and having returned in the wild.

The definition of the subfamily Arvicolinae follows Musser and Carleton (1993).

## 3. Material

In order to analyze the structure of the body weight distribution of species in mammalian com-

munities with the cenogram method (Legendre, 1986, 1989; Valverde, 1964, 1967), a database on extant local faunas has been built. These data are used to develop a taxon-free method using mammals to quantify climatic parameters (Legendre et al., 1991, Legendre et al., in prep.). A first method has been proposed which follows the observations of Misonne (1969) on the murine geographical distribution. This method was applied to estimate temperatures and rainfall during the Pliocene in Southwestern Europe (Aguilar et al., in press). Whereas the Murinae are basically distributed over the palaeotropical realm, the Arvicolinae have a very large distribution in the temperate regions of both the Old and the New World. Thus, the same approach as for the Murinae has been undertaken for the Arvicolinae.

Based on bibliographical data on their extant distribution, the number of arvicoline species has been determined for each locality. One locality roughly covers an area ranging from 100 km<sup>2</sup> to a maximum of 10,000 km<sup>2</sup>, but 400 km<sup>2</sup> to 2500 km<sup>2</sup> on average. The presence of one species in a specified area (the locality) was the only criterion taken into account without any consideration on its biotope preferences. This was done with two reasons. The first reason is to reproduce the conditions involved during the formation of a fossil locality where the sediments could trap species living at the vicinity and another part of the fossil fauna would result from the activity of various predators living in that area. The second reason is to avoid circular reasoning which could occur when environments are deduced from the ecological affinities of fossil species, that should not be exactly similar to those of extant relatives used as reference.

A total of 253 faunas have been compiled for the Palearctic and Nearctic realms (Fig. 1). Thus, all the Holarctic domain has been covered including North Saharian regions from Africa (Morocco, Algeria, Libya) where arvicolines are now generally absent, although one species (*Microtus irani*) is still present in Cyrenaica (Libya). Faunas without Arvicolinae have been retained to obtain data concerning the climatic limit of the subfamily distribution (location marked with a star in Fig. 1). The list of all the faunas, with their

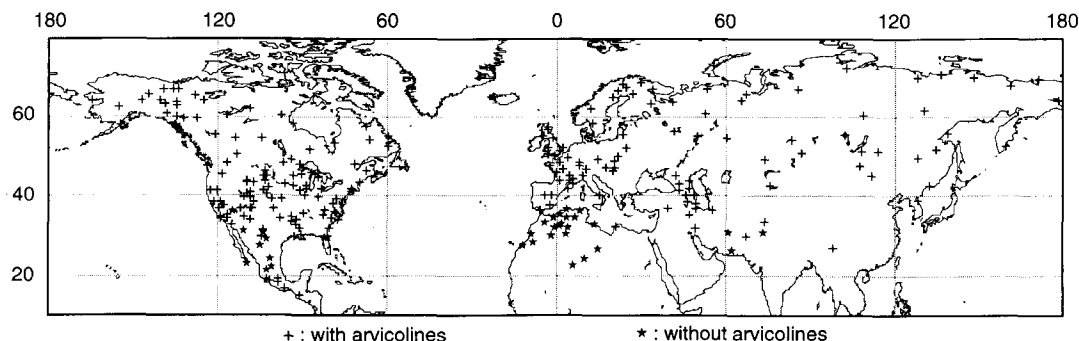


Fig. 1. Geographical distribution of the extant faunas used in this study.

geographical location and bibliographic references, is given in Tables 1 and 2.

For each fauna, temperature parameters have been determined with the meteorological data compiled in Wernstedt (1972). The temperature parameters used are: mean annual daily temperature, mean daily temperature of the coldest month, and mean daily temperature of the warmest month. These data are also given in Tables 1 and 2.

#### 4. Method

The relationship between climatic parameters and arvicoline diversity has been analyzed using linear regression. For an overview on the various regression techniques, and for a discussion on the choice of the regression models to use, the reader is referred to specialized treatises such as those of Campbell (1989), Edwards (1984), Scherrer (1984), Sokal and Rohlf (1981), Tomassone et al. (1983), and Weisberg (1985).

To describe the relationship, without any assumption on causality between two variables both measured with statistical errors, type II regression models must be used. Moreover, while the two variables, here temperature and species number, are not measured in the same units, a method allowing standardization has been chosen: the reduced major axis (see: Sokal and Rohlf, 1981).

To use this relationship to estimate climatic parameters, a type I regression model must be used. In this model, the variable used for estima-

tion is considered to be known without statistical error. The least square regression technique has thus been applied, with the number of arvicoline species as independent variable, and the climatic parameter as dependent variable of the model. Statistical errors are associated with these estimations and can be calculated (see, for example: Scherrer, 1984; Sokal and Rohlf, 1981).

To test the validity of the model based on the data, a randomization method has been used, the bootstrap technique (see, for example: Manly, 1991). The bootstrap method consists of resampling a random population of  $n$  individuals from the original sample, which includes  $n$  individuals. The individual which has been drawn is put back in the original sample. Calculations on the data from the theoretical populations are then run. In any case, the basic assumption of this method is that the original sample reflects the reality of the condition tested.

A computer program has been prepared by one of us (SL) to run the various calculations of this study.

#### 5. Results

Figs. 2–4 are scatter diagrams of the basic data from the various extant faunas, and the results of the calculations using the reduced major axis on the 253 faunas are given in Table 3.

As illustrated by Figs. 2–4, the relationship between temperature and number of arvicoline species is very high. The correlation is the highest

Table 1

List (Part 1) of extant faunas used in this study, with their geographical position, the mean annual daily temperature (Ann.), the mean daily temperature of the coldest (Min.) and warmest (Max.) months, the number of species of Arvicolinae, and the bibliographical references for the arvicolid data. Temperature data from Wernstedt (1972)

Country	Location		Temperature(°C)			Arvicolinae N of sp.	References
	Latitude(°)	Longitude(°)	Ann.	Min.	Max.		
Fauna							
<b>ASIA–EUROPE</b>							
<b>Armenia</b>							
Araks sector	39.00 N	45.30 E	13.8	0.9	25.8	4	Vereshchagin, 1967
Sevan subdistrict	40.30 N	45.00 E	5.2	–5.4	15.8	3	Vereshchagin, 1967
<b>Austria</b>							
Neusiedlersee	47.40 N	16.40 E	9.8	–2.1	20.5	6	Bauer, 1960
<b>Azerbaijan</b>							
Kura subdistrict	40.30 N	48.00 E	4.6	2.2	26.4	2	Vereshchagin, 1967
<b>Burma</b>							
Northern Kachin Province	27.20 N	97.25 E	19.2	11.1	24.7	2	Ellerman, 1961a, Ellerman, 1961b
<b>Czech Republic</b>							
Cesky les	49.50 N	13.35 E	7.9	–2.6	17.9	6	Hurka, 1978
<b>Finland</b>							
Pallas Ounastunturin NP	68.00 N	24.00 E	–2.0	–13.1	11.6	9	Niethammer and Krapp, 1982
Rovaniemi	66.35 N	26.00 E	0.5	–13.0	15.1	8	Niethammer and Krapp, 1982
<b>France</b>							
Armorique	48.20 N	3.30 W	11.0	5.0	16.5	5	Fayard, 1984
Camargues	43.25 N	4.50 E	15.3	7.8	23.5	3	Fayard, 1984
Cévennes	44.20 N	3.40 E	8.0	1.0	17.0	4	Fayard, 1984
Colmar	48.10 N	7.30 E	10.5	1.0	19.5	5	Fayard, 1984
Landes de Gascogne	44.30 N	0.35 E	13.8	7.0	20.5	4	Fayard, 1984
Livradois–Forez	45.30 N	3.50 E	8.0	0.0	16.0	6	Fayard, 1984
Marais poitevin	46.20 N	1.00 W	12.5	6.0	19.5	5	Fayard, 1984
Nord-Pas-de-Calais	50.20 N	3.00 E	10.0	3.5	17.2	5	Fayard, 1984
Normandie-Maine	48.50 N	0.30 E	10.7	4.0	17.5	4	Fayard, 1984
Sologne	47.30 N	1.20 E	10.5	3.5	19.0	5	Fayard, 1984
Vercors	44.50 N	5.10 E	7.4	–0.9	16.2	5	Fayard, 1984
Vosges du Nord	48.50 N	7.10 E	9.5	1.2	18.0	5	Fayard, 1984
<b>Georgia</b>							
Greater Caucasus subdistrict	43.40 N	42.30 E	0.8	–7.4	9.3	8	Vereshchagin, 1967
Lesser Caucasus subdistrict	41.40 N	42.30 E	6.2	–6.2	17.3	7	Vereshchagin, 1967
<b>Great Britain</b>							
Dingwall Region	57.30 N	4.00 W	8.3	3.0	14.2	3	Arnold, 1993
Exmoor NP	51.10 N	3.40 W	10.5	5.5	16.1	3	Arnold, 1993
Hertfordshire	51.55 N	0.10 E	9.5	3.1	16.5	3	Arnold, 1993
Kintyre	55.30 N	5.30 W	8.9	3.8	14.3	3	Arnold, 1993
New Forest	50.50 N	1.30 W	10.7	4.6	17.3	3	Arnold, 1993
Norfolk Broads	52.40 N	1.40 E	9.7	3.3	16.6	3	Arnold, 1993
Southern Northumberland NP	55.05 N	2.20 W	7.4	1.3	13.9	3	Arnold, 1993
Southern Snowdonia NP	52.50 N	4.00 W	9.6	4.3	15.2	3	Arnold, 1993
<b>Hungary</b>							
Hortobagy	47.35 N	19.55 E	10.3	–2.7	22.0	5	Palotás and Demeter, 1983
Kiskunsag	47.00 N	18.55 E	10.6	–1.7	21.8	6	Demeter and Topál, 1987
<b>Iran</b>							
Aghbolagh Morched	35.40 N	46.30 E	14.0	2.1	27.0	3	Misonne, 1959
Geh	26.30 N	62.00 E	26.0	19.7	31.0	0	Lay, 1967
Gorgan Province	36.50 N	54.30 E	17.8	8.4	27.8	1	Lay, 1967

Table 1 (Continued)

Country Fauna	Location		Temperature(°C)			Arvicolinae N of sp.	References
	Latitude(°)	Longitude(°)	Ann.	Min.	Max.		
Seistan	31.00 N	61.00 E	21.7	9.5	33.4	0	Lay, 1967
Shush	32.20 N	48.25 E	20.3	8.2	35.4	2	Lay, 1967
Talysh forest sector	37.30 N	48.30 E	9.6	−2.0	20.1	3	Vereshchagin, 1967
Upland Talysh steppe sector	38.30 N	48.25 E	9.8	0.1	20.0	4	Vereshchagin, 1967
<b>Italy</b>							
Partenio Mts	40.50 N	14.35 E	13.9	5.8	23.2	3	Capolongo and Caputo, 1990
Ticino	45.25 N	8.40 E	13.1	2.3	23.1	1	Galeotti, 1981
<b>Kazakhstan</b>							
Kazakh uplands	49.50 N	73.10 E	2.3	−15.3	20.1	6	Ognev, 1948, Ognev, 1950, Corbet, 1978
Zaisan	67.30 N	84.55 E	4.0	−17.2	23.0	5	Ognev, 1948, Ognev, 1950, Corbet, 1978
<b>Northern Korea</b>							
Wonsan	39.10 N	127.25 E	10.6	−3.8	23.4	3	Corbet, 1978
<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>							
Central Kirgizia	43.00 N	75.00 E	2.1	−18.2	16.5	4	Kouznnetov, 1939
<b>Liechtenstein</b>							
Liechtenstein	47.10 N	9.30 E	6.9	−2.4	15.4	7	Lehmann, 1963
<b>Lithuania</b>							
Lithuania	56.00 N	23.00 E	6.0	−5.1	18.1	6	Ivanauskas et al., 1964
<b>Mongolia</b>							
Central Mongolia	48.00 N	107.00 E	−1.7	−23.7	17.1	9	Ognev, 1948, Ognev, 1950, Corbet, 1978
<b>Norway</b>							
Kautokeino	69.00 N	23.00 E	−2.6	−13.8	13.0	6	Niethammer and Krapp, 1982
Pasvik	69.10 N	29.15 E	−1.0	−13.0	13.0	7	Niethammer and Krapp, 1982
Røros	62.35 N	11.25 E	−0.2	−10.5	11.4	6	Niethammer and Krapp, 1982
<b>Pakistan</b>							
Lyallpur	31.00 N	73.00 E	24.5	12.1	34.3	0	Taber et al., 1967
Murree	33.55 N	73.25 E	12.9	2.9	21.1	3	Roberts, 1977
Quetta	30.10 N	67.00 E	15.1	3.6	26.6	1	Roberts, 1977
<b>Poland</b>							
Babia Gora I	49.10 N	19.30 E	8.1	−2.9	18.2	5	Cohen, 1988
Babia Gora II	49.10 N	19.30 E	5.7	−5.8	16.0	5	Cohen, 1988
Białowieża	52.40 N	23.40 E	6.8	−4.7	18.3	7	Pucek and Raczyński, 1983
Nowy Targ Valley	49.20 N	20.00 E	4.5	−5.0	15.2	8	Pucek and Raczyński, 1983
Świętokrzyski	50.50 N	21.00 E	7.5	−3.5	18.0	4	Szafera, 1959
<b>Russia</b>							
Anadyr	64.40 N	177.30 E	−7.4	−21.4	10.8	7	Ognev, 1948, Ognev, 1950, Corbet, 1978
Archangelsk	64.35 N	40.30 E	1.4	−11.7	16.3	7	Ognev, 1948, Ognev, 1950, Corbet, 1978
Ayan	56.35 N	138.10 E	−3.3	−19.4	12.6	6	Ognev, 1948, Ognev, 1950, Corbet, 1978
Blagoveshchensk	50.15 N	127.30 E	0.2	−24.2	21.7	6	Ognev, 1948, Ognev, 1950, Corbet, 1978
Bratsk	56.05 N	101.50 E	−2.6	−23.7	18.2	7	Ognev, 1948, Ognev, 1950, Corbet, 1978
Cherskiy	68.40 N	160.50 E	−12.4	−35.7	11.8	9	Ognev, 1948, Ognev, 1950, Corbet, 1978
Chita	52.05 N	113.30 E	−2.9	−26.7	18.5	8	Ognev, 1948, Ognev, 1950, Corbet, 1978
Chokurdakh	70.40 N	147.55 E	−13.3	−35.7	10.5	10	Ognev, 1948, Ognev, 1950, Corbet, 1978
Ciscaucasian subdistrict	45.40 N	41.50 E	9.0	−4.0	20.0	5	Vereshchagin, 1967
Dagestan subdistrict	42.10 N	46.30 E	2.2	−17.8	21.6	5	Vereshchagin, 1967
Erbogacem	61.15 N	108.00 E	−6.8	−31.1	17.0	8	Ognev, 1948, Ognev, 1950, Corbet, 1978
Ivanovo	57.00 N	41.00 E	3.3	−12.0	18.8	8	Ognev, 1948, Ognev, 1950, Corbet, 1978
Kandalaksha	67.30 N	33.20 E	−1.1	−13.2	13.1	9	Niethammer and Krapp, 1982, Ognev, 1948, Ognev, 1950
Karelia	64.00 N	33.00 E	1.0	−11.3	15.9	8	Isakov, 1939
Kazan	55.45 N	49.10 E	3.1	−13.1	19.4	7	Ognev, 1948, Ognev, 1950, Corbet, 1978
Khatanga	72.55 N	102.30 E	−13.8	−34.8	11.8	10	Ognev, 1948, Ognev, 1950, Corbet, 1978

Table 1 (Continued)

Country Fauna	Location		Temperature(°C)			Arvicolinae N of sp.	References
	Latitude(°)	Longitude(°)	Ann.	Min.	Max.		
Kyusyur	70.45 N	127.20 E	−14.3	−40.8	12.0	10	Ognev, 1948, Ognev, 1950, Corbet, 1978
Narjan Mar	67.40 N	53.00 E	−3.2	−15.6	12.2	7	Ognev, 1948, Ognev, 1950, Corbet, 1978
Nizhneyansk	71.30 N	136.00 E	−13.2	−29.4	2.5	10	Ognev, 1948, Ognev, 1950, Corbet, 1978
Northeastern Urals	65.00 N	65.00 E	−3.8	−21.7	17.1	8	Flerov, 1933
Novosibirsk	55.00 N	82.55 E	−0.3	−19.3	18.7	7	Ognev, 1948, Ognev, 1950, Corbet, 1978
Petropavlosk	53.00 N	158.45 E	1.9	−8.5	13.7	6	Ognev, 1948, Ognev, 1950, Corbet, 1978
Salekhard	66.35 N	66.40 E	−5.7	−21.9	14.1	8	Ognev, 1948, Ognev, 1950, Corbet, 1978
Shelagontsy	70.10 N	170.20 E	−12.7	−41.6	14.8	10	Ognev, 1948, Ognev, 1950, Corbet, 1978
Sofiysk	52.15 N	134.00 E	−7.4	−34.2	15.2	7	Ognev, 1948, Ognev, 1950, Corbet, 1978
Telotskoye Lake	51.30 N	86.15 E	3.0	−12.6	18.4	7	Ognev, 1948, Ognev, 1950, Corbet, 1978
Terek-Kuma sector	44.20 N	46.20 E	11.2	−2.5	24.3	4	Vereshchagin, 1967
Ulan Ude	51.50 N	107.35 E	−2.2	−26.7	19.2	8	Ognev, 1948, Ognev, 1950, Corbet, 1978
Ust Tsilma	61.30 N	52.10 E	−2.6	−18.2	14.4	10	Ognev, 1948, Ognev, 1950, Corbet, 1978
Vladivostok	43.10 N	131.55 E	4.6	−13.7	20.6	5	Ognev, 1948, Ognev, 1950, Corbet, 1978
Yakutsk	62.15 N	129.50 E	−10.2	−43.2	18.8	9	Ognev, 1948, Ognev, 1950, Corbet, 1978
Zlatoust (Southern Urals)	55.10 N	59.40 E	0.4	−15.8	16.0	9	Ognev, 1948, Ognev, 1950, Corbet, 1978
<b>Spain</b>							
Aiguamolls de l'Empordà	42.15 N	3.15 E	16.0	9.0	24.0	3	Sargatal and Fèlix, 1989
Alto Tajo	40.35 N	2.50 W	10.0	2.0	20.0	2	Amores et al., 1992
Cazorla	37.55 N	3.05 W	17.0	8.0	28.0	3	Otero et al., 1978
Do – ana	37.00 N	6.30 W	18.0	10.3	26.3	1	Valverde, 1964, Valverde, 1967
Sierra de Gredos	40.30 N	5.00 W	10.0	2.0	20.0	2	P. Fandos, pers. comm.
<b>Sweden</b>							
Dalsland	58.50 N	12.00 E	5.9	−4.3	16.9	3	Karvik, 1964
Malmberget	67.10 N	20.40 E	0.2	−10.4	13.9	9	Niethammer and Krapp, 1982
Storavan Lake	65.45 N	19.25 E	0.1	−10.4	13.7	6	Niethammer and Krapp, 1982
<b>Turkey</b>							
Urfa	37.10 N	38.45 E	18.1	4.7	31.8	1	Harrison and Bates, 1991
<b>AFRICA</b>							
<b>Algeria</b>							
Ain Sefra	32.50 N	0.35 E	20.2	8.7	32.6	0	Kowalski and Rzebiak-Kowalska, 1991
Algiers	36.50 N	3.00 E	18.2	12.0	25.5	0	Kowalski and Rzebiak-Kowalska, 1991
Annaba	36.35 N	7.50 E	17.9	11.3	25.3	0	Kowalski and Rzebiak-Kowalska, 1991
Beni Abbes	30.10 N	2.10 W	20.2	8.7	32.6	0	Kowalski and Rzebiak-Kowalska, 1991
Biskra	34.50 N	5.40 E	21.8	11.0	33.5	0	Kowalski and Rzebiak-Kowalska, 1991
Brezina	33.00 N	1.20 E	20.2	8.7	32.6	0	Kowalski and Rzebiak-Kowalska, 1991
Djanet	24.30 N	9.30 E	23.5	12.5	31.6	0	Kowalski and Rzebiak-Kowalska, 1991
Djelfa	34.40 N	3.10 E	21.8	11.0	33.5	0	Kowalski and Rzebiak-Kowalska, 1991
El Golea	30.30 N	2.50 E	21.6	9.0	34.0	0	Kowalski and Rzebiak-Kowalska, 1991
Ghardaia	32.25 N	3.40 E	21.3	10.5	33.8	0	Kowalski and Rzebiak-Kowalska, 1991
Oran	35.40 N	0.40 E	18.4	12.5	25.5	0	Kowalski and Rzebiak-Kowalska, 1991
Tamanrasset	22.40 N	5.30 E	21.0	11.5	28.3	0	Kowalski and Rzebiak-Kowalska, 1991
<b>Libya</b>							
Northern Cyrenaica	32.35 N	20.35 E	20.1	13.9	25.8	1	Ranck, 1968
Sabha	27.00 N	14.25 E	22.6	11.6	31.1	0	Ranck, 1968
Tripoli	32.55 N	13.10 E	19.6	12.4	26.3	0	Ranck, 1968
<b>Morocco</b>							
Agadir	30.30 N	9.30 W	18.4	14.0	22.5	0	Aulagnier and Thévenot, 1986
Figuig	32.10 N	1.10 W	20.2	8.7	32.6	0	Aulagnier and Thévenot, 1986
Jbel Ouarkiz	28.30 N	9.00 W	19.6	15.4	23.6	0	Aulagnier and Thévenot, 1986
Moyen Atlas	33.30 N	4.30 W	15.0	7.6	25.4	0	Aulagnier and Thévenot, 1986
Oujda	34.40 N	1.50 W	17.1	10.5	25.5	0	Aulagnier and Thévenot, 1986
Tarfaya	27.50 N	12.30 W	19.1	16.4	21.2	0	Aulagnier and Thévenot, 1986

Table 2

List (Part 2) of extant faunas used in this study, with their geographical position, the mean annual daily temperature (Ann.), the mean daily temperature of the coldest (Min.) and warmest (Max.) months, the number of species of Arvicolinae, and the bibliographical references for the arvicolid data. Temperature data from Wernstedt (1972)

Country	Location		Temperature(°C)			Arvicolinae	References
	Latitude(°)	Longitude(°)	Ann.	Min.	Max.		
Fauna						N of sp.	
<b>NORTH AMERICA</b>							
<b>Canada</b>							
Calgary, Alberta	51.00 N	114.05 W	3.6	−9.9	16.7	7	Banfield, 1974
Slave Lake, Alberta	55.20 N	114.50 W	1.0	−16.3	15.9	7	Banfield, 1974
Hudson Hope, British Columbia	56.00 N	121.55 W	1.8	−13.9	15.6	7	Banfield, 1974
Rossland, British Columbia	49.05 N	117.50 W	6.1	−5.4	18.1	6	Banfield, 1974
Churchill, Manitoba	58.50 N	94.10 W	−7.3	−26.8	12.6	9	Banfield, 1974
Hamilton Inlet, New Foundland	53.20 N	60.25 W	0.2	−16.6	16.3	6	Harper, 1961
Hopedale, New Foundland	55.30 N	60.10 W	−1.8	−17.1	11.1	7	Hall and Kelson, 1959, Banfield, 1974
Fort Good Hope, Northwest Territory	66.15 N	128.35 W	−8.2	−30.7	15.2	9	Banfield, 1974
Fort McPherson, Northwest Territory	67.30 N	134.50 W	−9.1	−28.7	13.6	10	Hall and Kelson, 1959, Banfield, 1974
Fort Providence, Northwest Territory	61.00 N	117.40 W	−3.9	−26.7	16.1	7	Banfield, 1974
Fort Reliance, Northwest Territory	62.45 N	109.10 W	−7.2	−29.7	12.9	9	Banfield, 1974
E Great Bear Lake, Northwest Territory	64.55 N	125.30 W	−6.2	−28.1	15.5	9	Banfield, 1974
NW Nueltin Lake, Northwest Territory	61.00 N	98.00 W	−9.4	−31.6	12.4	9	Harper, 1956
Kenora, Ontario	49.50 N	94.30 W	2.3	−17.1	19.6	6	Banfield, 1974
Lansdowne House, Ontario	52.15 N	87.55 W	−1.4	−22.2	17.1	5	Banfield, 1974
Quetico Provincial Park, Ontario	48.25 N	91.30 W	3.3	−12.9	18.6	4	Cahn, 1937
Fort Chimo, Québec	58.05 N	68.20 W	−5.2	−23.9	11.8	7	Harper, 1961
Fort George, Québec	53.50 N	79.00 W	−3.2	−22.4	12.3	6	Harper, 1961
Knob Lake, Québec	54.50 N	66.50 W	−4.3	−23.0	12.8	7	Harper, 1961
Lac Saint-Jean, Québec	48.30 N	72.20 W	2.7	−15.7	18.7	4	Harper, 1961
Lac La Ronge, Saskatchewan	55.05 N	105.15 W	−0.5	−20.3	17.7	6	Banfield, 1974
Bonnet Plume Lake, Yukon	64.20 N	135.00 W	−4.2	−25.4	15.3	10	Youngman, 1975
Dawson, Yukon	64.00 N	139.25 W	−4.7	−27.6	15.4	9	Youngman, 1975
Kluane Lake, Yukon	61.20 N	138.50 W	−1.5	−20.1	14.1	9	Youngman, 1975
Lapierre House/Summit Lake, Yukon	67.40 N	136.30 W	−8.2	−28.8	14.7	10	Youngman, 1975
Mayo/Keno, Yukon	63.40 N	135.30 W	−3.7	−25.2	14.7	8	Youngman, 1975
Old Crow, Yukon	67.35 N	139.40 W	−6.4	−28.8	14.9	9	Youngman, 1975
Teslin Lake, Yukon	60.05 N	133.00 W	−1.3	−19.4	13.4	8	Youngman, 1975
Watson Lake, Yukon	60.10 N	128.25 W	−2.6	−24.2	15.1	8	Youngman, 1975
Whitehorse, Yukon	60.40 N	135.05 W	−2.6	−24.2	15.1	8	Youngman, 1975
<b>U.S.A.</b>							
Eagle, Alaska	64.45 N	141.10 W	−4.2	−25.4	15.3	9	Hall and Kelson, 1959, Rearden, 1981
Fairbanks, Alaska	64.50 N	147.45 W	−3.6	−23.8	15.8	8	Hall and Kelson, 1959, Rearden, 1981
Fort Yukon, Alaska	66.35 N	145.20 W	−6.4	−28.8	16.3	9	Hall and Kelson, 1959, Rearden, 1981
Katmai National Monument, Alaska	58.30 N	155.00 W	0.6	−11.5	12.6	6	Cahalane, 1959
McGrath, Alaska	63.00 N	155.35 W	−3.8	−22.6	14.7	8	Hall and Kelson, 1959, Rearden, 1981

Table 2 (Continued)

Country Fauna	Location		Temperature(°C)			Arvicolinae N of sp.	References
	Latitude(°)	Longitude(°)	Ann.	Min.	Max.		
Seward Peninsula, Alaska	65.00 N	165.00 W	–3.3	–15.3	9.7	8	Quay, 1951, Hall and Kelson, 1959, Rearden, 1981
San Francisco Mts, Arizona	35.10 N	111.40 W	7.6	–2.6	18.6	3	Hoffmeister, 1986
Santa Cruz County, Arizona	31.35 N	111.05 W	17.9	9.1	27.4	0	Hoffmeister, 1986
Southern Apache County, Arizona	34.10 N	109.15 W	9.3	–0.5	19.4	5	Hoffmeister, 1986
Greene County, Arkansas	36.00 N	90.30 W	15.4	3.7	26.4	4	Sealand and Heidt, 1990
Hot Springs County, Arkansas	34.30 N	93.05 W	17.3	6.4	27.8	2	Sealand and Heidt, 1990
Sebastian County, Arkansas	35.20 N	94.20 W	16.4	4.3	27.9	3	Sealand and Heidt, 1990
Union County, Arkansas	33.15 N	92.50 W	18.1	7.8	28.0	2	Sealand and Heidt, 1990
Colorado desert, California	33.00 N	115.30 W	22.6	12.0	33.4	1	Jameson and Peeters, 1988
Colusa County, California	39.05 N	122.00 W	16.1	7.3	25.4	2	Jameson and Peeters, 1988
Del Norte County, California	41.40 N	123.40 W	11.4	8.0	14.6	5	Jameson and Peeters, 1988
Eastern Kern County, California	35.30 N	117.50 W	17.2	6.9	28.9	1	Jameson and Peeters, 1988
Lake Tahoe, California	39.00 N	120.00 W	5.8	–2.9	15.9	3	Jameson and Peeters, 1988
McKittrick, California	35.10 N	119.40 W	19.0	8.7	30.2	1	Schultz, 1938
Modoc Plateau, California	41.40 N	121.00 W	8.2	–2.2	19.2	3	Jameson and Peeters, 1988
Mohave Desert, California	34.40 N	117.30 W	16.4	6.9	27.5	1	Merriam, 1919
Mono Lake, California	38.00 N	119.00 W	12.1	0.1	25.7	2	Jameson and Peeters, 1988
San Joaquin Valley, California	37.20 N	120.40 W	17.1	8.5	26.3	1	Schultz, 1938
Santa Barbara County, California	34.40 N	120.00 W	15.6	11.7	19.4	1	Jameson and Peeters, 1988
Yosemite NP, California	38.00 N	119.35 W	11.4	1.8	21.7	3	Jameson and Peeters, 1988
Grand Mesa, Colorado	39.00 N	108.00 W	4.7	–6.7	16.5	5	Anderson, 1959
Mesa Verde NP, Colorado	37.10 N	108.30 W	10.1	–1.2	22.4	4	Anderson, 1961
Hartford County, Connecticut	41.45 N	72.40 W	9.9	–2.8	22.8	5	Godin, 1977
Gainesville, Florida	29.40 N	82.20 W	21.2	14.3	27.3	0	Humphrey, 1992
Palm Valley, Florida	30.00 N	81.20 W	21.0	14.2	27.5	0	Ivey, 1959
Peoria, Illinois	40.40 N	89.40 W	10.7	–3.8	24.1	5	Jones and Birney, 1988
Hancock County, Iowa	43.20 N	93.50 W	7.9	–8.7	23.1	3	Bowles, 1975
Johnson County, Iowa	41.50 N	91.30 W	9.9	–5.7	23.7	4	Bowles, 1975
Cheyenne County, Kansas	39.50 N	101.50 W	11.4	–1.7	25.2	2	Bee et al., 1981
Republic County, Kansas	39.50 N	98.00 W	11.9	–3.1	26.2	3	Eshelman, 1975
SW Kansas and NW Oklahoma	37.10 N	101.00 W	14.4	1.7	27.7	3	Hibbard and Taylor, 1960
Big Black Mt, Kentucky	37.00 N	83.00 W	13.9	3.7	24.7	4	Barbour, 1951
Baton Rouge, Louisiana	30.30 N	91.10 W	20.1	12.1	27.8	2	Lowery, 1974
Calcasieu County, Louisiana	30.10 N	93.10 W	20.2	11.4	28.2	2	Lowery, 1974
Northeastern Louisiana	32.30 N	91.30 W	18.8	9.5	27.9	2	Lowery, 1974
Androscoggin County, Maine	44.05 N	70.10 W	7.1	–7.1	20.9	4	Godin, 1977
Aroostook County, Maine	46.50 N	68.00 W	3.7	–11.9	18.2	5	Godin, 1977
Frostburg, Maryland	39.40 N	78.55 W	10.4	–0.9	21.9	5	Webster et al., 1985
Berkshire County, Massachusetts	42.25 N	73.20 W	7.1	–6.1	19.8	5	Godin, 1977
Ann Arbor, Michigan	42.20 N	83.40 W	10.0	–3.0	23.4	3	Baker, 1983
Charlevoix, Michigan	45.10 N	85.20 W	7.3	–5.5	20.6	3	Baker, 1983
Marquette County, Michigan	46.35 N	87.25 W	5.3	–8.2	18.7	4	Baker, 1983
Schoolcraft County, Michigan	46.00 N	86.10 W	5.6	–7.1	18.4	4	Baker, 1983
Sherburne County, Minnesota	45.35 N	94.10 W	5.4	–12.5	21.2	6	Hazard, 1982
Cook County, Minnesota	47.50 N	90.20 W	3.6	–9.9	–16.5	5	Hazard, 1982
Carter County, Montana	45.30 N	104.30 W	5.8	–9.7	21.2	4	Lampe et al., 1974
Gallatin County, Montana	45.40 N	111.05 W	5.7	–6.4	18.4	4	Hoffmann et al., 1969
Chadron, Nebraska	42.50 N	103.00 W	9.1	–4.6	23.8	3	Jones et al., 1985
Wildcat Hills, Nebraska	41.05 N	103.40 W	8.7	–3.1	22.1	3	Jones et al., 1985



Table 2 (Continued)

Country Fauna	Location		Temperature(°C)			Arvicolinae N of sp.	References
	Latitude(°)	Longitude(°)	Ann.	Min.	Max.		
Clark Canyon, Nevada	36.20 N	115.35 W	19.3	11.8	26.8	0	Deacon et al., 1964
New Hanover County, North Carolina	34.20 N	77.55 W	17.6	8.6	26.8	1	Lee et al., 1982
Rockingham County, North Carolina	36.20 N	79.20 W	15.3	5.0	25.6	1	Lee et al., 1982
Union County, North Carolina	35.00 N	80.30 W	16.1	6.4	26.0	2	Lee et al., 1982
Wake County, North Carolina	35.55 N	78.30 W	15.4	5.3	25.7	3	Lee et al., 1982
Bad Lands, North Dakota	47.00 N	103.50 W	6.0	−9.9	21.6	4	Jones et al., 1985
Pembino Hills, North Dakota	48.50 N	97.30 W	2.6	−17.4	20.1	4	Jones et al., 1985
Licking County, Ohio	40.05 N	85.25 W	10.9	−1.3	23.0	4	Gottschang, 1981
Southeastern Oklahoma	34.05 N	94.50 W	17.5	6.6	27.9	2	Jones et al., 1985
Wichita Mts, Oklahoma	35.00 N	98.50 W	16.2	4.2	27.8	1	Glass and Halloran, 1961
Oregon Caves Area	42.00 N	123.25 W	12.4	4.0	21.4	3	Roest, 1951
Beaufort, South Carolina	32.25 N	80.45 W	19.1	10.5	27.3	1	Webster et al., 1985
Harding County, South Dakota	45.30 N	103.30 W	6.4	−8.4	21.6	3	Andersen and Jones, 1971
Sioux Falls, South Dakota	43.30 N	96.40 W	7.5	−9.9	23.2	3	Jones et al., 1985
Great Smoky Mt, Tennessee	35.40 N	83.30 W	15.2	9.1	21.2	2	Fleming, 1973
Big Bend NP, Texas	29.20 N	103.20 W	20.8	9.9	30.5	0	Schmidly, 1977
Guadalupe Mts NP, Texas	32.00 N	104.50 W	18.4	8.5	27.3	1	Schmidly, 1977
Southern Culberson County, Texas	31.10 N	104.25 W	17.3	7.1	26.9	0	Dalquest and Stangl, 1984
San Juan County, Utah	37.15 N	109.35 W	13.0	−0.9	26.6	2	Durrant, 1952
Uintah, Utah	40.20 N	109.20 W	7.6	−9.4	22.3	4	Durrant, 1952
Utah County, Utah	40.20 N	111.55 W	9.2	−3.8	22.4	4	Durrant, 1952
Washington County, Utah	37.15 N	113.00 W	16.4	4.3	29.1	3	Durrant, 1952
Monterrey, Virginia	38.25 N	79.35 W	9.6	−0.9	20.2	5	Webster et al., 1985
Franklin County, Washington	46.10 N	119.05 W	12.0	−0.2	24.2	3	Ingles, 1965
Olympic NP, Washington	48.00 N	124.25 W	9.5	3.4	15.7	6	Ingles, 1965
Pend Oreille County, Washington	48.55 N	117.25 W	6.1	−5.4	18.1	7	Ingles, 1965
Dane County, Wisconsin	43.05 N	89.25 W	7.9	−7.9	22.6	4	Jackson, 1961
Rock County, Wisconsin	42.30 N	89.00 W	9.1	−6.1	23.1	3	Jackson, 1961
Sawyer County, Wisconsin	45.55 N	91.05 W	3.8	−12.8	18.8	4	Jackson, 1961
Big Horn Basin, Wyoming	44.00 N	108.00 W	8.1	−8.7	23.6	5	Clark and Stromberg, 1987
Black Hills, Wyoming	44.10 N	104.10 W	6.9	−6.3	21.7	5	Clark and Stromberg, 1987
Goshen County, Wyoming	42.00 N	104.50 W	9.8	−1.6	23.2	2	Clark and Stromberg, 1987
Jackson Hole, Wyoming	43.50 N	110.40 W	3.3	−9.9	16.1	8	Negus and Findley, 1959
Lower Green River, Wyoming	41.20 N	109.30 W	6.9	−7.1	20.9	5	Clark and Stromberg, 1987
Uinta Mts, Wyoming	41.10 N	110.30 W	4.2	−8.3	16.9	7	Clark and Stromberg, 1987
Yellowstone Park, Wyoming	44.35 N	110.30 W	4.3	−7.6	17.2	6	Clark and Stromberg, 1987
<b>Guatemala</b>							
Huehuetenango	15.20 N	91.30 W	16.7	14.9	18.5	1	Hall and Kelson, 1959
<b>Mexico</b>							
Cabo, Baja California Sur	23.00 N	110.00 W	23.9	17.9	29.7	0	Woloszyn and Woloszyn, 1982
Casas Grandes, Chihuahua	30.20 N	105.00 W	16.5	7.1	25.7	1	Anderson, 1972
Ciudad Camargo, Chihuahua	27.40 N	105.10 W	20.6	11.6	29.1	0	Anderson, 1972
Colima	19.10 N	103.30 W	24.6	22.7	26.3	1	Ramírez-Pulido et al., 1986
Distrito Federal	19.25 N	99.10 W	15.5	12.3	18.3	1	Ceballos and Galindo, 1984
Michoacan	19.00 N	102.00 W	19.8	16.4	22.9	1	Hall and Villa-Rochas, 1949
Morelos	18.40 N	99.00 W	16.8	14.0	19.2	1	Ramírez-Pulido et al., 1986
Zacatepec, Oaxaca	17.20 N	96.00 W	15.6	13.4	17.8	1	Hall and Kelson, 1959
Jalpa, Zacatecas	21.30 N	103.00 W	17.9	13.0	22.0	0	Matson and Baker, 1986
Pinos, Zacatecas	22.25 N	101.30 W	17.6	12.9	21.5	0	Matson and Baker, 1986
Northern Zacatecas	24.30 N	102.00 W	22.0	18.9	23.8	0	Matson and Baker, 1986

Geographical, climatic, and arvicoline data for extant faunas.

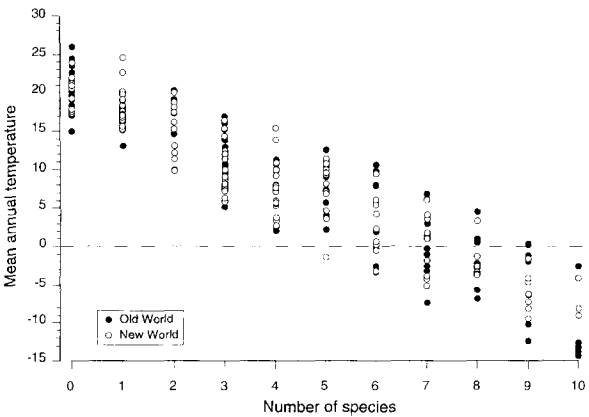


Fig. 2. Scatter diagram of the number of species of Arvicolinae from each fauna and of the mean annual daily temperature of the locality. The dashed line corresponds to the 0°C mean value.

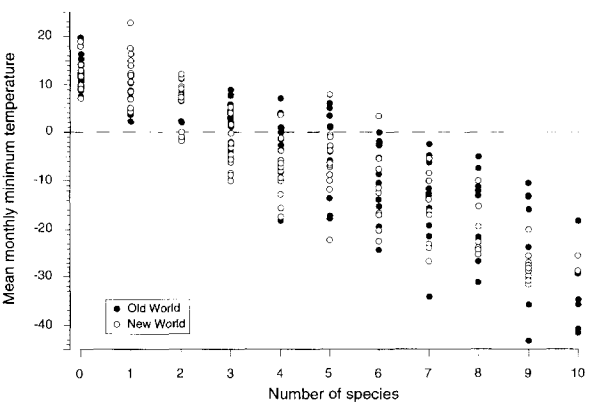


Fig. 3. Scatter diagram of the number of species of Arvicolinae from each fauna and the mean daily temperature of the coldest month in the year (January or February). The dashed line corresponds to the 0°C mean value.

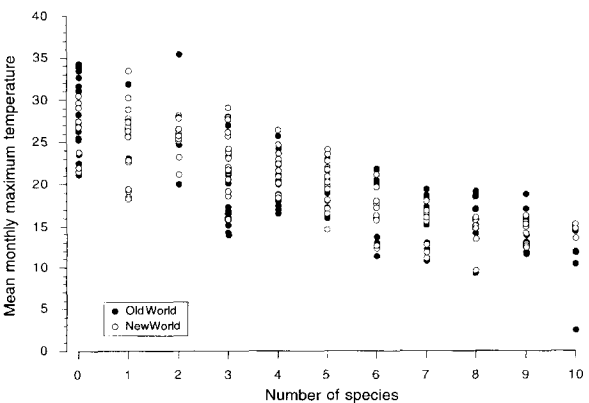


Fig. 4. Scatter diagram of the number of species of Arvicolinae from each fauna and the mean daily temperature of the warmest month in the year (July or August).

Table 3

Parameters of the reduced major axis between number of species, and mean annual temperature, monthly minimum temperature, and monthly maximum temperature

Temperatures	<i>N</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>	Slope	Intercept
Mean annual	253	−0.921	0.849	−3.093	21.360
Mean monthly minimum	253	−0.883	0.780	−4.249	15.446
Mean monthly maximum	253	−0.803	0.645	−2.000	29.186

Parameters of the reduced major axis between the number of arvicoline species and temperatures.

for the mean annual daily temperature, and the lowest for the mean daily temperature of the warmest month. The correlation coefficient reaches 0.92 for the mean annual temperature, is almost 0.88 for the mean temperature of the coldest month, and is a little greater than 0.80 for the mean temperature of the warmest month. This relationship is inverse, as shown by the Figs. 2–4 and by the negative sign of the correlation coefficient and of the slope (Table 3). The determination coefficient indicates that almost 80% of the variation observed in mean annual temperatures ( $R^2 = 0.85$ ) and mean monthly minimum temperatures ( $R^2 = 0.78$ ) can be explained by the variation in the number of arvicoline species in the faunas, whereas it is only 65% for the mean monthly maximum temperatures ( $R^2 = 0.65$ ).

This very high relationship between the two kinds of parameters is the basis for proposing a linear regression equation to estimate temperatures from the number of arvicoline species found in fossil faunas. This equation has been calculated for the complete data set (i.e. 253 faunas), with the least square regression technique, using temperature parameters as dependent variable. The equation parameters (determination coefficient, slope, intercept, error of the predicted mean) are given in Table 4.

The same techniques were used after separating Old World and New World data, with respectively 121 and 132 faunas. Statistical comparison of linear regression parameters produced an *F*-value indicating no differences between the two data sets (Table 5).

Table 4

Parameters of the least square regression of the number of arvicoline species on mean daily temperatures (annual, minimum monthly, and maximum monthly)

Temperature	<i>N</i>	<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>	Slope	Intercept	Error
Mean annual	253	0.85	−2.82	20.07	3.74
Mean monthly minimum	253	0.78	−4.13	13.12	6.48
Mean monthly maximum	253	0.65	−1.61	27.52	3.52

Parameters of the least square regression between the number of arvicoline species and temperatures.

Table 5

Parameter values of the least square regression between number of species, and mean annual temperature, monthly minimum temperature, and monthly maximum temperature for The Old World and for the New World, and *F* value obtained for the statistical comparison of Old and New World parameters

Temperature		<i>N</i>	<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>	Slope	Intercept	Error
Mean annual	Old	121	0.84	−2.83	20.46	3.88
	New	132	0.86	−2.88	20.25	3.24
	<i>F</i> -value		0.41	0.09	0.82	
Mean monthly minimum	Old	121	0.75	−3.95	13.21	7.14
	New	132	0.82	−4.36	13.27	5.68
	<i>F</i> -value		2.33	2.19	2.29	
Mean monthly maximum	Old	121	0.63	−1.67	27.67	4.03
	New	132	0.67	−1.53	27.31	2.98
	<i>F</i> -value		0.40	0.97	0.35	

Parameters of the least square regression between the number of arvicoline species from the Old World and from the New World and temperatures.

Calculations after the resampling test by bootstrap for mean annual temperatures confirm these results. The various values of the parameters are very similar and are normally distributed (Figs. 5–7). When the bootstrap technique is applied after separating the Old World faunas and New World faunas from the database, the relationships remain identical as those obtained from the complete data set, and the parameter values are of the same order (Table 6; Figs. 5–7). Randomized data sets show that the correlation coefficient and the slope are very similar for both the Old and the New World (Fig. 8).

Thus, it can be concluded that the relationships between the temperature and the number of arvicoline

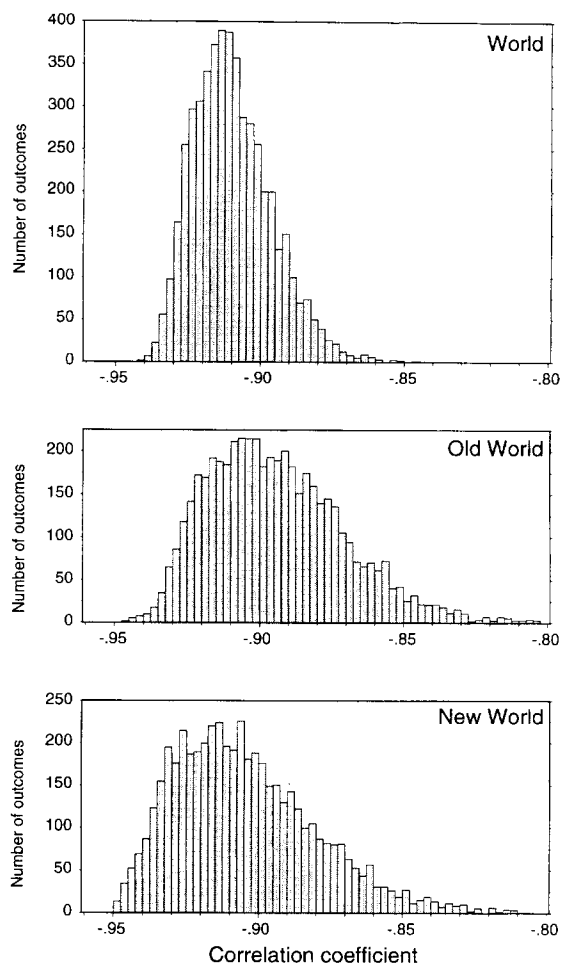


Fig. 5. Comparison of the distribution of the correlation coefficient calculated on 5000 bootstrap resamplings run on the data from the Holarctic ( $N = 253$ ), Palaearctic ( $N = 121$ ), and Nearctic regions ( $N = 132$ ) for the mean annual daily temperature.

line species in mammalian communities do not depend on the palaeobiogeographical history of each continental domain, the Palearctic realm and the Nearctic realm.

## 6. Example of climatic estimations

In order to exemplify the use of the method, calculations have been run to estimate temperature values for two of fossil fauna sequences: the last

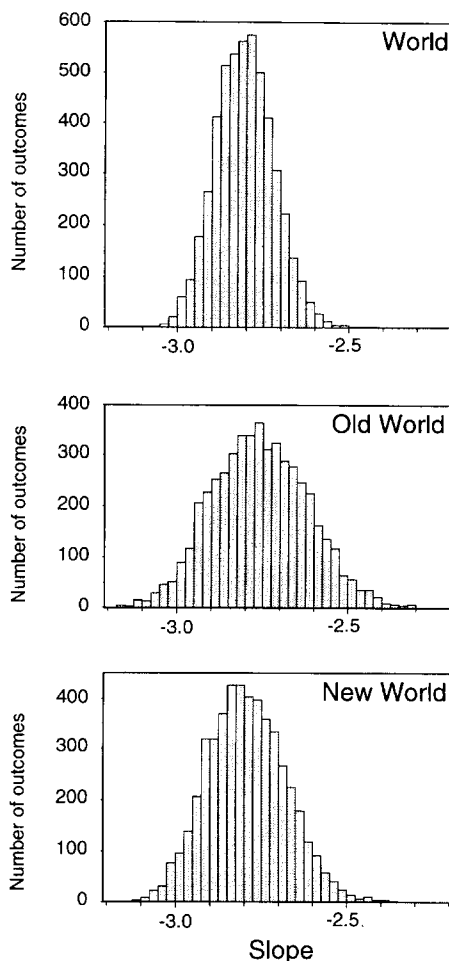


Fig. 6. Comparison of the distribution of the slopes calculated on 5000 bootstrap resamplings run on the data from the Holarctic ( $N = 253$ ), Palaearctic ( $N = 121$ ), and Nearctic regions ( $N = 132$ ) for the mean annual daily temperature using the least square regression method.

100,000 years in Hungary and the Baume of Gigny in France.

## 7. Hungary

First the method has been applied to a Plio-Pleistocene sequence in Central Europe (Montuire, 1994, 1996). The results for Hungarian localities from the last 100,000 years are presented here as an example (Fig. 9). They have been compared

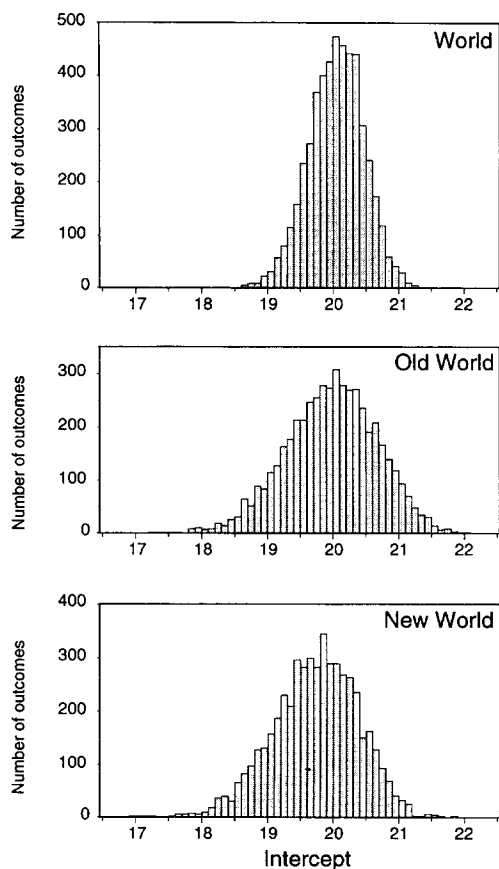


Fig. 7. Comparison of the distribution of the intercept calculated on 5000 bootstrap resamplings run on the data from the Holarctic ( $N=253$ ), Palaearctic ( $N=121$ ), and Nearctic regions ( $N=132$ ) for the mean annual daily temperature using the least square regression method.

with those obtained with other methods, first with the climatic characteristics proposed by Jánossy (1986), and second with the temperatures given by oxygen isotopic curves (Fig. 10).

Jánossy (1986) has discussed the local climatic and environmental changes. In a study of mammals and plants, for example, for the fauna of Tokod Nagyberek dated at around 36,200 yr B.P., a cooling is indicated by the composition of the mammalian fauna (*Megaloceros*, *Dicrostonyx* and *Microtus gregalis*) and plants. The fauna of Pilisszántó 1 dated at around 25,000 yr B.P. suggests a rather cool environment that corresponds to the present-day Asiatic tundra. The Arctic fox

Table 6

Mean values of the parameters for the least square regression calculated for 5000 bootstrap resamplings run on the original data given in Tables 1 and 2

Temperature		$R^2$	Slope	Intercept	Error
Mean annual	All World	0.83	-2.81	20.05	3.75
	Old World	0.80	-2.76	19.97	4.25
	New World	0.82	-2.79	19.73	3.64
Mean monthly minimum	All World	0.77	-4.08	12.88	6.49
	Old World	0.74	-3.88	12.81	7.15
	New World	0.81	-4.28	12.81	5.72
Mean monthly maximum	All World	0.58	-1.56	27.22	3.88
	Old World	0.54	-1.60	27.16	4.63
	New World	0.54	-1.43	26.73	3.72

Parameters of the least square regression between the number of arvicoline species and temperatures. Mean values of 5000 bootstrap resamplings on data from the Holarctic Regions ( $N=253$ ), from the Old World ( $N=121$ ), and from the New World ( $N=132$ ).

(*Vulpes lagopus*), the Arctic lemming (*Dicrostonyx*), some voles (*Microtus gregalis* and *Microtus nivalis*) are characteristic. For the Rejtek fauna dated at around 12,000 yr B.P., Jánossy (1986) notes a change in response to the warming-up that corresponds to the beginning of the deglaciation at the end of the Quaternary. The estimates of the mean annual temperatures of this study coincide with the results of Jánossy (1986) based on his analysis of mammals and plants.

From the oxygen isotope curve (after Martinson et al., 1987), coolings are noted at around 120,000, 80,000–70,000 and 25,000–20,000 yr B.P. There is an important temperature increase at 135,000 yr B.P., and the warming-up at the end of the Quaternary (Duplessy et al., 1981) is dated at around 15,000 yr B.P. The estimates show low temperatures at 100,000 yr B.P. for Hórvölgy and coolings from 50,000 to 36,000 yr B.P., and at around 25,000 yr B.P. A temperature increase occurred for the Rejtek fauna at about 12,000 yr B.P. Thus, the temperature trends as given by the isotope curves agree with the estimates calculated from arvicolines.

## 8. Baume of Gigny, France

Rodents from the sequence of the Baume de Gigny (Jura, France) have been studied by Brochet

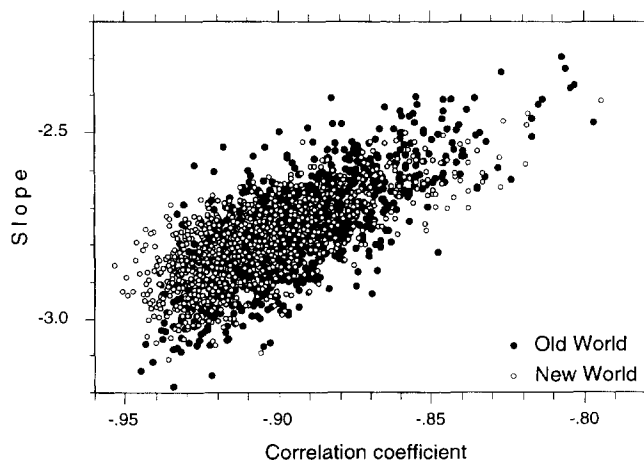


Fig. 8. Scatter diagram of the correlation coefficient and of the slope of the least square regression calculated on  $2 \times 1000$  bootstrap resamplings run on the data for the mean annual daily temperature of the Old World and of the New World.

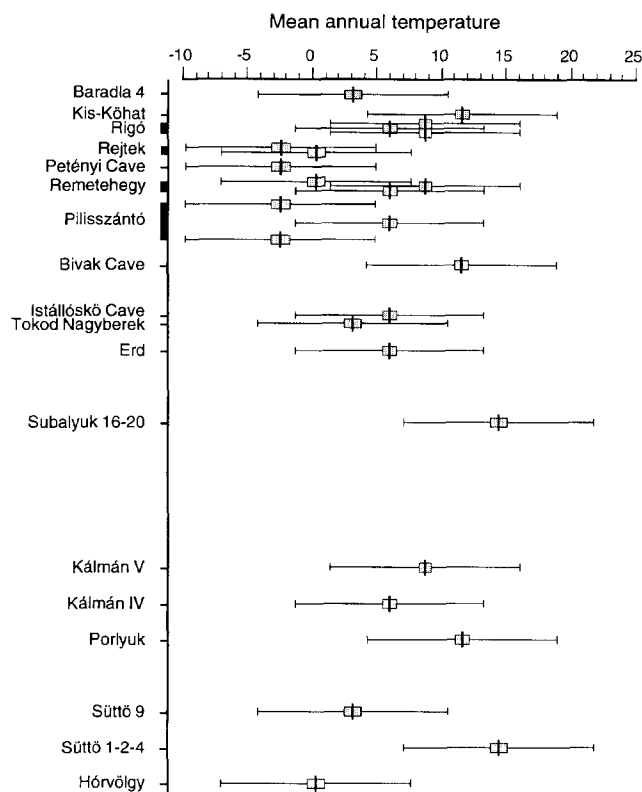


Fig. 9. Temperature estimates for Hungarian localities from the late Pleistocene using the regression parameters from Table 3 (after Montuire, in press). Errors of the estimates (areas) and of the predictions (lines) are given. Difference between the two error types is that the  $X$ -value is a value used for the establishment of the model for an estimate, whereas it is not for a prediction (see, for example, Scherrer, 1984).

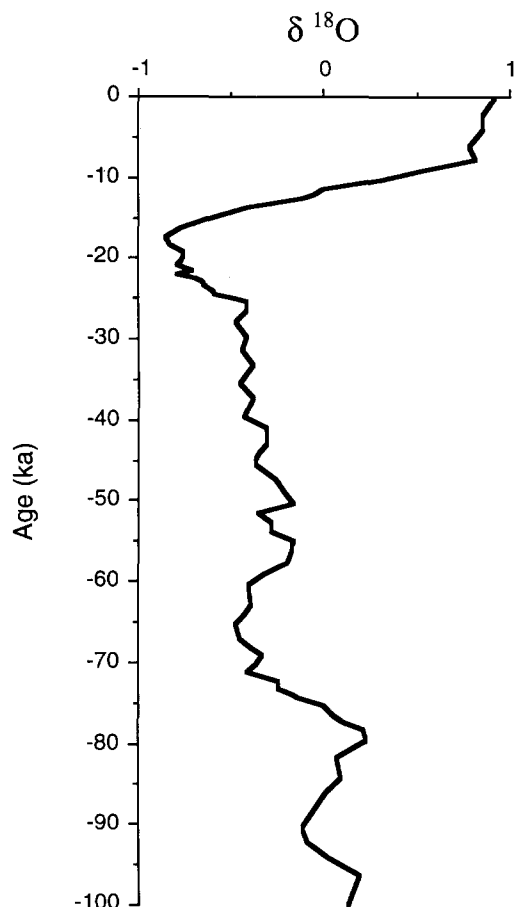


Fig. 10. Synthetic isotopic curve for the last 100,000 years (after Martinson et al., 1987).

(1981), Chaline and Brochet (1989) and Chaline et al. (1995). The results obtained (Fig. 11) can be compared with those deduced from a multivariate analysis of the rodent associations (Chaline et al., 1995) and from a synthetic analysis provided in the same paper using the qualitative composition of the fauna (birds and mammals), pollen analysis, and the sedimentological characteristics of the site (Chaline et al., 1995).

As can be observed in Fig. 11, the results obtained in this study show some differences with those of Chaline et al. (1995).

The estimates obtained with our method (Fig. 11: *a*) present an opposite trend with that proposed by fig. 19 of Chaline et al. (1995) (see Fig. 11: *b*), who interpreted the first axis of a

multivariate analysis ran on the rodent associations from the sequence as representing the variation in temperature. Differences also exist with the synthetic climatic evolution proposed by table 1 of Chaline et al. (1995), repeating the results of Campy et al. (1989, 1990), and schematically reproduced in Fig. 11: *c*. The comparison of both results from Chaline et al. (1995) (fig. 19 and table. 1) given here as Fig. 11: *b* and Fig. 11: *c*) shows also differences, which are not discussed in their paper.

Moreover, none of the three curves from Fig. 11 shows any similar trends with the isotopic curve (Fig. 10).

In order to explain the contradiction obtained with our method, a sampling origin could be invoked. A warming trend can be due to a sampling bias, the species list being incomplete. This explanation is valid if the fossil sample for the rodents is poor, but it is likely not accurate when the fossil sample is rich. On the contrary, a low temperature value is obtained with a high number of species, thus a sampling bias would only minimize this number, and the estimated temperature can be even lower. The lack of similarity with the isotopic curve can primarily be due to a dating problem: only four levels from the Baume de Gigny sequence are physically dated.

The contradictory results obtained by the three methods imply further analysis to explain the lack of concordance in the quantitative temperature estimates obtained with these techniques. Comparison of the techniques should improve the methodological conditions needed to apply the various approaches—or determine the technical limits.

## 9. Conclusion

This method based on the Arvicolinae completes that based on preliminary results of the Murinae (Aguilar et al., in press; Montuire, 1994), that will be extended to a more complete analysis of this last subfamily (Montuire et al., in prep.). Whereas the murines are useful for a more tropical climate, the method based on the arvicolines can be applied for estimating temperate climates. Two other reasons justify their use. Firstly, arvicoline taxa

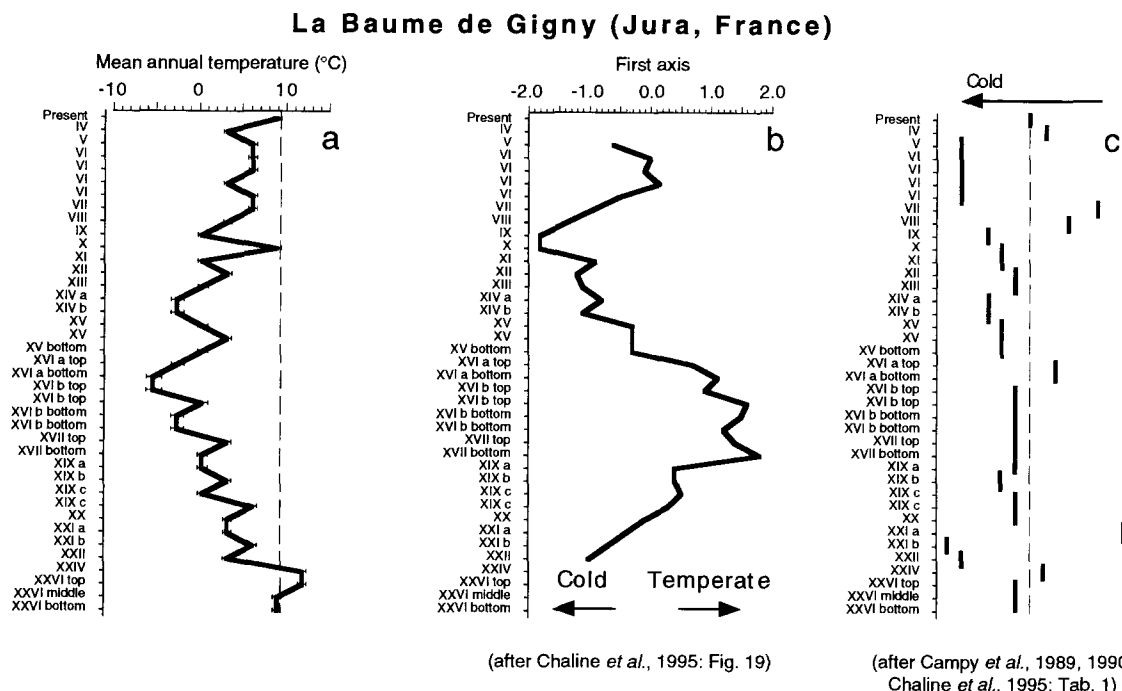


Fig. 11. Comparison of temperature estimates for La Baume de Gigny (Jura, France). *a*: calculations on arvicolid data from Brochet (1981), Chalaine and Brochet (1989), and Chalaine *et al.* (1995) using the regression parameters from Table 3. *b*: after fig. 19 from Chalaine *et al.* (1995), based on a component analysis of the rodent associations. *c*: after table 1 from Chalaine *et al.* (1995), based on a synthetic interpretation of faunal, pollen, and sedimentological data. The vertical dotted lines refer to the extant mean annual daily temperature. Some physical ages are available for the sequence (Campy *et al.*, 1989, 1990; Chalaine *et al.*, 1995): level IV: 12,370 and 13,620; level V: 22,430; level VIII: 28,500 and 29,500; level IX: > 32,000; level XIXc: > 32,000; level XXIa: 145,000 (-18,000, +15,000).

are generally abundant in the fossil record from the late Tertiary and the Quaternary of Europe, Asia and North America. Secondly, because of their good biostratigraphical value, arvicolines are generally a well studied group among rodents.

The results obtained with the method for Hungary show a good agreement with the temperature trends indicated by oxygen isotope curves, and with hypotheses proposed on the ecology of plants and mammals. Principally due to correlation problems, the results for the Baume de Gigny sequence are less convincing.

The limit of the method is the same as that using murines: it corresponds to the geographical and stratigraphical limits of the distribution of this subfamily. Thus, the method can be applied to Eurasian and North American mammalian faunas from the Pliocene to the Present.

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