

Informationen zur Umwelt und für Naturreisende auf Kreta:
Information about the Environment and for travellers in Crete:

Fossil find spots on Crete (IV)

Fossil find spot Tsoutsouros (Miocene / Southcrete)



With reference to the leaflets of the CRETE environmental forum No. **017●04/E**, **054●04/E** (about the geology of the island) and **011●04/E**, **036●04/E** and **040●04/E** (to Miocene fossil find spots on Crete), here further information to fossil find possibilities at this point. The publication is primarily limited (besides the location description of the likely and the digestion conditions) to the **photo documentation** of the fossils finds "in situ". Due to an lack of space an accurate and detailed description (or provision) of the findings and the general geological conditions (as they already provided within above named documents) is here renounced.

The outcrop is located on the south coast of the island, directly after the village exit of *Tsoutsouros*. Best way to get here is via the main road in the south from *Ano Viannos* towards west to *Pirgos*. Within the first third of this route you come through the villages *Skinias* and *Demati*. Right after *Demati* turn left in south direction towards *Tsoutsouros*. Keep left within the village Tsoutsouros and pass through towards East to *Keratokambos/Kastri*. The find spot is approx 500 m after the village exit within a sharp deviation to the left on the right side. (Alternative: from *Ano Viannos* in South direction to *Keratokambos/Kastri* and from there towards West to *Tsoutsouros*. The find spot than is on the left side of the road within the last right corner in front of the village)

The site consists of a "slope outcrop" (on a hillside) of about 2.5 m height which measures around 20 meters lengths on the road side and continues in a left bend around the hills around for another 15 m. The overlying cap ("cultural layer") is approximately 60 cm thick; the area (Miocene sand and clay) reaches a thickness of up to 2 m and thin out, according to the Hill form on both sides, up to 60 cm thick. Many vessel shards (about 3500 years old) can be found in the contact area of the surface to the bedrock, which could indicate a (Minoan) ancient settlement site on this Hill. But this has not been studied Archaeological so far.



The pictures are showing (from left to right) the "slope outcrop" when coming from Tsoutsouros and "around the corner" towards the sea. The small pictures show a "vessel shard layer" (approx 50 cm under ground edge); countless shards (sluiced out by water) cover the ground along the base of the closure. **Pictures:** H. Eikamp (12/2004)

The fossil content of bedrock consists predominantly of bivalve molluscs (*Monia sp.*), Pecten (*Amusium sp.*), oysters (*Ostrea sp.*), Sea snail (*Turitella sp.*), sea urchins (*Cidaris sp.*, *Conoclypeus sp.*) and occasional barnacle (*Megabalanus sp.*) as beach fazies indicator from the age of the Miocene, about 23 million years ago. The following **photo documentation** shows a small selection of **Fund opportunities locally and "in situ"**:



Besides the pictures of a small selection of fossil find possibilities at this crop (mainly molluscs, oysters and snails) the last 2 pictures (lower row right) the transition area of coarse gravel (at the base) to fine sand (clayey) sediments of the crop.

Pictures (10): U. Kluge / **(1):** H. Eikamp (12/2004)

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