
BRIEF NOTE**NEW MASTADON FINDS FROM
SOUTHWESTERN OHIO.¹**

The first recorded find of mastadon remains in the Midwest was by Captain Charles LeMoyne de Longueil in 1739 at Big Bone Lick, Kentucky (Bellin, 1744; see Jillson, 1950 for details). This region has been the source of numerous mastadon remains, and many finds were made in Ohio. Data concerning most Ohio finds since the early 1800's have been compiled by Forsyth (1963). My note describes four new occurrences of mastadon remains in southwestern Ohio, three of these are from counties where mastadon remains were previously unreported by Forsyth (1963).

In 1970, a mastadon tooth and numerous bones were recovered from excavations for the Cincinnati Sash & Door Company at the corner of Container and Centron Place in Springdale, Hamilton County (fig. 1, no. 1). The remains were found in organic-rich, dark gray lake clays overlying oxidized Wisconsin till. Associated with the bones were many molluscan shells identified as *Sphaerium* sp., a freshwater pelecypod, *Physa* sp. and lymnaeid fragments, both freshwater pulmonate gastropods, and fragments of polygyrid land gastropods (A. R. LaRocque, written communication, 1970). The locality occurs on the Hartwell Moraine (fig. 1) suggesting a swampy, ephemeral lake in a closed de-

pression on the moraine. The freshwater molluscs were indigenous to the lake, but the land gastropods were apparently transported by streams or sheet wash from higher ground. The mastadon bones and tooth were randomly scattered in a local area. An entire skeleton was not present. Circumstances suggest that either the bones were washed into the lake from higher ground, or that a mastadon became mired in the swampy lake sediments and died there. Many skeletal parts were evidently carried away by animals or transported to other places in the lake before complete burial. The bulldozer operator claimed the single tooth, but all salvageable bones are in the collections of the Geology Department, University of Cincinnati.

Circumstances surrounding the other three mastadon occurrences are less certain because the remains are isolated skeletal fragments from Wisconsin outwash deposits. One find is a mastadon femur uncovered by Dr. Franklin McCamey in 1967 from an outwash terrace at the confluence of Hall's Run and the Little Miami River in Clermont County (fig. 1, no. 2). This bone is displayed at the Cincinnati Nature Center.

The Kipp Gravel Company on State Route 222 in Batavia (fig. 1, no. 3) has been the site of many other finds in Clermont County. The quarry was developed in an outwash deposit, and the owner, Mr. Kipp, stated that during the last five years a number of bones and tusks have been uncovered. Most of these remains were destroyed in attempts to extricate them. The latest find (1974) was a 1.8 m (6.0 ft) mastadon tusk col-

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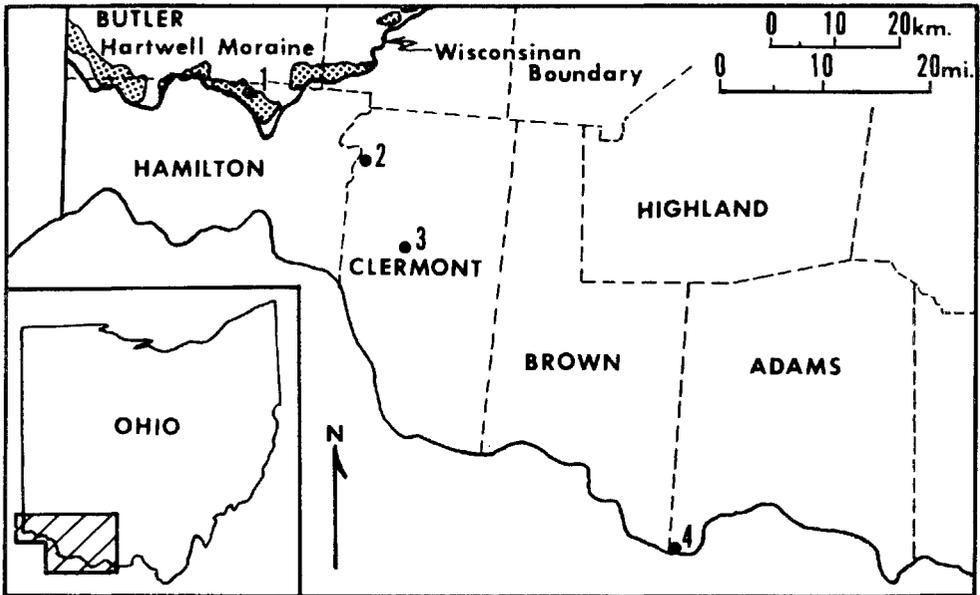


FIGURE 1. County map of southwestern Ohio locating the sites of four new mastodon finds (1967-1974).

lected by the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History.

A small mastodon tooth approximately 10 cm (4 in) long from the southwest corner of Adams County is probably the first record of mastodon remains from the county. The tooth, probably that of a juvenile, was found in 1970, approximately 20 m (66 ft) beneath the surface of an outwash terrace in excavations for additions to the J. M. Stuart Electric Generating Station, 5.5 km (3.3 mi) east of Aberdeen on U. S. Route 52 (fig. 1, no. 4). The tooth was found and claimed by the backhoe operator.

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