

**Informationen zur Umwelt und für Naturreisende auf Kreta:**
Information about the Environment and for travellers in Crete:**Fossil find spots on Crete (V)****Fossil find spot Pachia Ammos (Miocene) / North Crete**

With regards to our leaflets No. **017-04/E** and **054-04/E** (to the Geology of the Island) and **011-04/E**; **036-04/E**; **040-04/E** and **069-05/E** (to Miocene fossil find spots on Crete), at this point we introduce another crop of fossil find possibilities. The publication is limited this (besides the location description of the likely and the digestion conditions) mainly the **photo documentation of the fossils "in situ"**. The publication is limited this (besides the location description of the likely and the digestion conditions) mainly the photo documentation of the fossils "in situ".

The crop is located on the north coast of the island, around 0.6 miles after the village exit (coming from east) of Pachia Ammos. You get here via the North coast road *Sitia* (E75) – *Agios Nikolaos* (90). The village is close to the branch towards the shortest North-South-bound of the island to *Ierapetra*, e.g. from West to East via the North coast road *Agios Nikolaos* – *Ammoudasa* – *Vathi* – *Istro* – *Pachia Ammos* (in this case the find spot is located 0.6 miles before the village) or from East to West coming from *Sitia*, pass the village *Pachia Ammos* (towards *Agios Nikolaos*). At its village exit the road leads in serpentine into the foothills.

After a right turn and a sharp and narrow left turn (where the coast and the sea disappear from the rear-view mirror) follows another right turn again, immediately directly behind comes a gravel road on the right which leads after a few meters to the crop. If you missed this, you have another opportunity to turn right after approx 100 m (the gravel road is created like our highway parking areas but not visible because the way is behind a hill).



The picture left shows the bank crop with a light slant from West to East. Rainwater changed the unstable sediment into a "limy pap" from where the over 20 million year old fossils emerge (fig. right). Gently "free washed" it indicates a West-Eastern alluvial soil (direction).

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

The site is for the most part a "bank crop", although the upcoming Miocene layers are also near-surface in the proximity (in smaller bleeds). The sediments of the up to 2.0 m high crop wall consist of very fine (almost "dust-like") yellow liming. The fossils are usually individually scattered embedded therein (not as "Bank" washed together) but numerous. Fossil leading horizons are not clearly discernable. The fossil content is predominantly Pecten, oysters and mussels of genus *Monia*. An extrication of the fossils from the water-soluble chalk sediment is without any problems and particularly easy after rains because they then "free flushed" from the upcoming sediment wall. They are found "washed out" at the foot of the bed-rock where they only "must be collected". The following **photo documentation** shows some pictures of find opportunities locally and "in situ":



The fig. of the upper row shows oyster shells and mussels (middle row) "in situ" on site. Complete exemplar can be found under much "shell fracture". Endurance finding is certainly rewarded!

The figure below left shows an imagination inspiring structure: draining off rain water has left "form giving" tracks in different hardened sediment and created a "brain" that reflects the artistically formative "force of nature".

Pictures: (6) *U. Kluge* / (1) *H. Eikamp* (12/2004)

