differs by rich amount of material, presence of fired clay objects and by lithic typology. The three C 14 data are clustered in a relatively short time-span between 26 660 - 25 290 B.P. With high probability we may therefore assume that this dwelling, including the burial DV XVI, is not contemporary with the other two. Basing ourselves on the Groningen data only, we could conclude that this settlement unit is more recent.

THE MAMMOTH BONE DEPOSIT

In an ancient water-filled basin under the western slope, the site was accompanied by a mammoth bone deposit (Fig. 27). Two C 14 data from Groningen and Prague (26 100 ± 200 B.P.; 22 368 ± 749 B.P.) suggest contemporaneity with settlement of the western slope. The same is true for the scarce archaeological material: three backed blades, a retouched blade, a splittered piece, a core, a burin waste, a blade, six flakes, two chips and a pierced Melanopsis shell. Different is only the coarse industry made of various rocks, connected most probably with specific human activities at the mammoth deposit: a large, atypical chopper, a side-scraper and three flakes.

The deposit is composed by two crossing zones of mammoth bones. Most frequent were ribs and vertebrae, mean representation reach finger bones, long bones of extremities and teeth. Less numerous are bones of pelvis, shoulder-blades and bones of skull (Svoboda 1989b; in press). The bones are complete; splitted and modified bones, frequent in the settlement area, were absent in this deposit.

Disputes concerning explanation of such deposits have a long tradition in Moravia. Before the contemporaneity of humans with mammoths was definitively acknowledged, the arguments of J. Steenstrup (1890) have widely influenced understanding of this problem. In the sense of his theories, the bone deposits are due to natural extinctions and were later exploited by reindeer hunters as source of bone materials. K. Absolon (1938a, 35) who called these features "Kjökkenmöddings", i.e. man-made deposits, recognized their human origin. Further research, based on new excavations of mammoth accumulations, usually in wett environments or even water reservoirs (Klíma 1969, etc.), explained them as areas of storage and/or waste in optimal hygienic conditions: it is supposed that water prevented meat from carnivores and insects while ice prevented meat decompositon. Actually, the possibility that mammoth deposits are of natural origin was reopened to discussion, under the influence of L.R. Binford's studies (1981, etc.), of comparison with mammoth burial sites in the USSR (i.e. Soffer 1985) and other evidence.

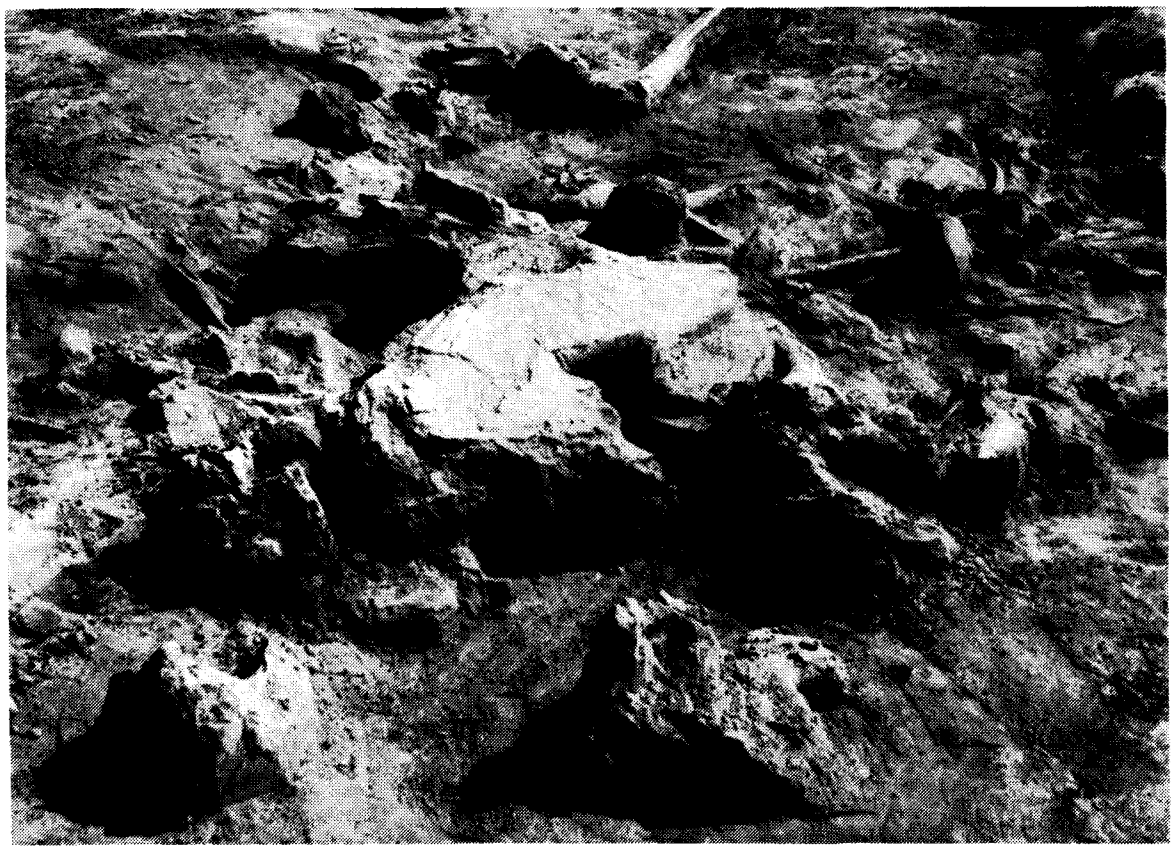

Fig. 28 (above). The mammoth bone deposit, part of the excavated area. - Fig. 29 (below). Water snails Lymnaea palustris (Müll.) filling one of the bones.