

# Kadarići:

## One Step Beyond Human Evolution



▲ Photo: Giant fossilized footprint discovered near the village of Kadarići, Bosnia & Herzegovina

### Photographic Report

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## A trip into an alternative human past

Imagine walking through a wetland or along a lake shore and having someone stumble on your footprints thousands of years from now. That's just what happened last summer on a hillcrest in Bosnia few kilometers from Visoko. Our team has discovered thousands years old footprint, maybe one of the oldest known tracks of a human<sup>(?)</sup>.

Discoveries of early human footprints are very rare in the fossil record. A survey of the literature reveals only few well documented and dated cases. Here, I report the first clear out-of-place footprint. It was found near the village of Kadarići, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The footprint was left by someone who stepped into calcareous mud that later hardened.

Latest discoveries tell us that the oldest hominin footprints found in Europe probably belonged to the species *Homo heidelbergensis*. The footprints have been found preserved on the side of an Italian volcano. They are three sets of tracks, known locally as “*Ciampate del diavolo*” (devils’ trails). They were left there by ancient relatives of man between 325,000 and 385,000 ago on the slopes of the Roccamonfina mountain in Campania, southern Italy. The size of the footprints suggests that they were left by a bipedal specimen significantly shorter than modern man. Each print is about 20 cm (7.9") long and 10 cm wide, the equivalent of a boy’s size 13 (EU size 31).

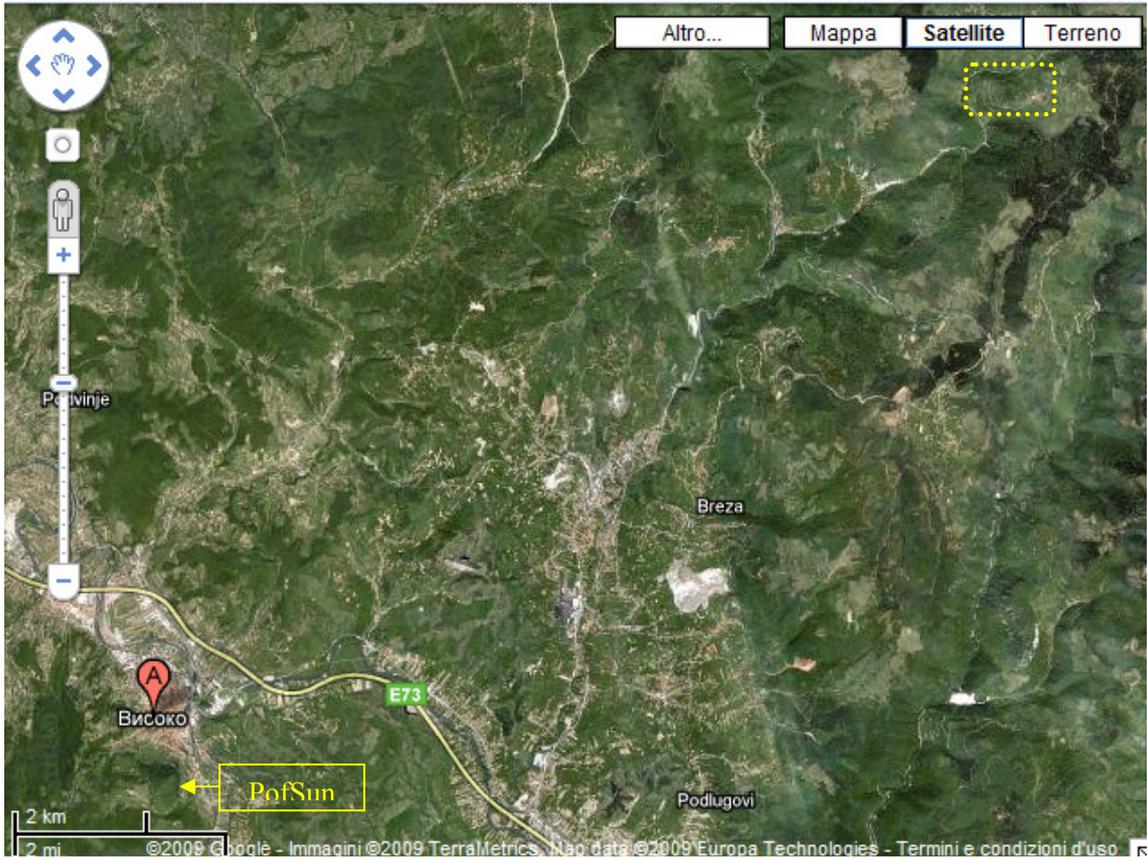
*Homo heidelbergensis* however, is generally thought to have grown to an average height of 180 cm (5' 10.9"), suggesting that the tracks belong to adolescents. As foot size generally measures about 15 per cent of a person’s height, this suggests a maximum height for the hominids of 150 cm (4' 11.1"). Before the discovery of the Roccamonfina tracks, the oldest footprints left by a member of the genus *Homo*, which most mainstream scientists consider as the first true human beings, came from South Africa, where three prints in the Langebaan lagoon have been dated to 117,000 years ago. The oldest footprints from any hominid or human ancestor are about 3.7 million years old, from Laetoli near the Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania. They belong to the more primitive species *Australopithecus afarensis*, the most famous example also known as Lucy. Moreover, according to the official version of human migrations the first homo sapiens reached Europe somewhen between 52,000 – 45,000 years ago when the Aurignacian Upper Paleolithic culture moved from Turkey into Bulgaria, the Balkans.

The petrified human<sup>(?)</sup> right footprint found in the vicinity of Kadarići, a village faraway from the main roads but not so distant from Visoko, suggests a very old age, since it was found several hundred meters above mean sea level in a mountainous environment. After a preliminary inspection of the calcareous rock and surrounding area it seems that the footprint was left there thousands, maybe millions of years ago by a bipedal specimen when the place was a wetland or the shoreline of an ancient lake. The footprint is of surprising size. Its length is  $\pm 36$  cm (1' 2.2") and the width from the big toe to the little toe is almost  $\pm 20$  cm (7.9"). Compared with the footprints of other species of the genus *Homo* and modern men’s shoe sizes it resembles the footprint of a giant.

Calculation formula:  $15/100 = \text{Length of Foot}/x$  (person's height)

The calculation formula suggests that the approx. height of the bipedal specimen might have been:

**$\pm 2.5$  m equal to 8' 2.4"!**



Map: The area of Kađarići is indicated with a yellow dotted rectangle in the upper right corner



Photo ▲: Kađarići, an idyllic Bosnian village where no one would ever look for you.



**Photo ▲** : the place where the footprint has been found imprinted into hard calcareous mud



**Photo ▲** : the extraordinary size of the petrified footprint caught immediately our attention



Photo ▲: the giant footprint of Kadarići, detail



Photo ▲: Kadarići footprint, side-top view



Photo ▲: imprint of the forefoot; the outline of the big toe is slightly visible, detail



Photo ▲: imprint of the hind foot, side view, detail



Photo ▲: the length from the talon until the big toe is approx. 36 cm (1' 2.2")



Photo ▲: the width from the big toe until the little finger is approx. 20 cm (7.9"). Amazing!



Photo ▲ : comparison between modern mans foot and the Bosnian "Bigfoot" imprint.



Photo ▲ : the length of my foot is 27 cm = 10.6" (EU shoe size 45/ UK 11 / US 11 ½). My height is 185 cm ( 6' 0.8")

## Conclusion and Recommendation

The sensational discovery of a 36 cm (1' 2.2") long right footprint near the village of Kadarići, Bosnia and Herzegovina, suggests a body height of the unknown bipedal specimen of:

$$\pm 2.50 \text{ m (8' 2.4")}$$

During a preliminary examination of the footprint it was not possible to determine with certainty if it was generated by a barefoot, flat feet or sandal/shoe. However, the slightly visible big toe of the footprint is inline with the foot and does not jut out to the side like apes while the imprint itself suggests that the bones were relatively straight disposed rather than curved and grasping like ape toes. Moreover, it was not possible to tell with absolute certainty whether the footprint were left behind by an adolescent, female or male adult.

The footprint in Kadarići surpasses considerably in length and width the foot size of any other known species of the genus *Homo*: *homo erectus*, *homo heidelbergensis*, *homo neanderthalensis*, *homo sapiens*, *Cro-Magnon* and/or modern man. The petrified footprint is 12 cm (4.7") longer than my foot which is 27 cm = 10.6" long (EU shoe size 45/ UK 11, US 11½), while the width of the forefoot imprint from the big toe to the little toe is  $\pm 20$  cm (7.9"), which means it is almost twice as large as mine. Numbers that will surely smack up the head of mainstream anthropologists!

The fact that it was left there by someone thousands, maybe million years ago when the area was a wetland makes it a discovery of exceptional importance. It may represent an extraordinary occasion for anthropologists, geo-archaeologists and scholars to study and shed more light on the possible discovery of a new bipedal specimen that long time ago inhabited that area.

I suggest an involvement of anthropologists and geo-archaeologists into the research in order to subject the petrified footprint and sediments above and below the trace fossil to further analysis and various dating techniques, including Uranium series dating. The footprint should be mapped and scanned using laser technology in order to be reproduced and studied as 3-d images and models at the Sarajevo University or other foreign anthropological institutions.

For the meanwhile we asked local villagers to build a small wooden roof in order to protect the footprint artifact from weathering and accidental damage. Future examination of the footprint and surrounding area might eventually help to shed light on one of the most contentious debates in the Evolution of human history: **who was there, when, and how did he get there?**

**Notice:** anthropologists, geo-archaeologists and scholars who are interested in having more information (incl. high resolution photographs) or wish to examine directly the footprint please submit your requests to: [hyperborean@hotmail.it](mailto:hyperborean@hotmail.it)

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