Pig exploitation during Chalcolithic-Bronze Age transition in Romania

Luminita Bejenaru, Simina Stanc
Faculty of Biology, "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University, Carol I Bd., 11, Iasi 700506, Romania
lumb@uaic.ro; siminams@yahoo.com

Introduction

Pig (Sus scrofa domesticus) skeletal remains of the transition sites from Chalcolithic to Bronze Age in Romania are described in terms of their frequencies based on the number of identified specimens (NISP). A summary of previous studies on Chalcolithic and Bronze Age samples in the area shows that among the animal resources, the domestic mammals constitute the majority, and the pig remains have both regional and diachronical variation.

The pig has been a constant part of the life since Neolithic until present in Romania (considering suited environmental conditions and the ability of pig to use nutritional value from diverse sources including waste and providing in turn protein food back to people). The pig has been a constant part of the life since Neolithic until present in Romania (considering suited environmental conditions and the ability of pig to use nutritional value from diverse sources including waste and providing in turn protein food back to people). The pig has been a constant part of the life since Neolithic until present in Romania (considering suited environmental conditions and the ability of pig to use nutritional value from diverse sources including waste and providing in turn protein food back to people). The pig has been a constant part of the life since Neolithic until present in Romania (considering suited environmental conditions and the ability of pig to use nutritional value from diverse sources including waste and providing in turn protein food back to people). The pig has been a constant part of the life since Neolithic until present in Romania (considering suited environmental conditions and the ability of pig to use nutritional value from diverse sources including waste and providing in turn protein food back to people). The pig has been a constant part of the life since Neolithic until present in Romania (considering suited environmental conditions and the ability of pig to use nutritional value from diverse sources including waste and providing in turn protein food back to people).

Case study

The tell of Poduri-Dealul Ghindaru is located in the county of Bacau, in eastern Romania. The site stands at 425m ael on a 30m-high terrace on the right bank of the Târzu Sărat river and has a known extent of c. 1.2ha. Excavators studying the stratification over some 27 campaigns have identified levels belonging to both the Precucuteni and Cucuteni Chalcolithic cultures and to the Bronze Age (Monah et al. 2003).

Diachronic frequency distributions of pig remains (NISP) are presented in Figures 2 and 3. The change in the subsistence economies appears in Chalcolithic-Bronze Age transition and in Early Bronze Age. Pig became less important probably because of the increased people mobility. Also, we have to take in consideration the environmental changes at the end of Chalcolithic, when an dryness has been estimated through archaeobotanical evidences (Monah & Monah, 2008).

There is an exception, represented by the region of Banat – here the pig frequency appear unchanging in Chalcolithic-Bronze Age transition, probably due to particular environmental conditions (mixed deciduous forests and marshy ground).

In Moldavia, Muntenia, and Transylvania, pig seem to became more important later, in Middle Bronze Age, once the human communities developed the sedentary style life.

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References

Bejenaru, 2009; Balasescu & Monah, 2008).

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"Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University

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