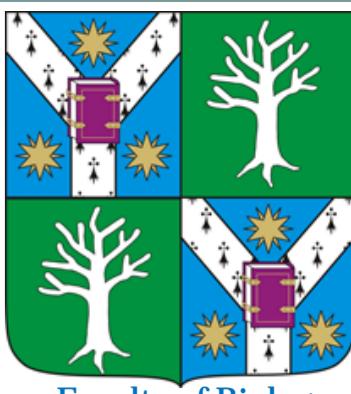




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# Animal resources in the Chalcolithic subsistence economy: settlements of Cucuteni culture in Eastern Romania



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The Cucuteni-Tripolye cultural complex comprises the Precucuteni, Cucuteni and Tripolye cultures. The complex flourished in the area of southeastern Transylvania, central and northern Moldavia and Bessarabia, and western Ukraine. Dated to between ca. 5050 and 3500 Cal BC, the complex can be attributed to the Chalcolithic.

Cucuteni	years BC	Tripolye	years BC
Pre-Cucuteni I-III	5050-4600	Tripolye A	4800-4500
Cucuteni A1-A4	4600-4050	Tripolye A2-B1	4500-4000
Cucuteni A/B	4050-3800	Tripolye B2	4000-3800
Cucuteni B	3800-3500	Tripolye CI-CII	3800-3500



This study summarises previous and recent archaeozoological analyses dealing with subsistence practices in the area. The analysis includes 20 faunal assemblages, corresponding to the Cucuteni A and Cucuteni B cultural levels recognized for Romania. Domestic and wild mammal remains discovered in the Chalcolithic Cucuteni sites from Eastern Romania are described in terms of their frequency, based on the number of identified specimens.

The Cucuteni-Tripolye culture is known by its distinctive settlements, architecture, decorated pottery and anthropomorphic and zoomorphic figurines, which are preserved in archaeological sites.

Particularly in the Cucuteni culture and the Tripolye BI-Cl, ceramic painting develops to a great extent. Many of the vessels from this period are true masterpieces. The Cucuteni-Tripolye art is characterised by a rigorous stylisation, even though realistic or even naturalistic depictions are not absent.

The Cucuteni culture was a society of farmers. The archaeobotanical research led to the identification of about 50 plants out of which at least 10 cultivated species (e.g. wheat, oat, plum, grapevine, pease). The archaeozoology indicate that the inhabitants practiced animal husbandry, hunting and also mollusk gathering.



Cucuteni A

Cucuteni B

There are some limitations to this study that concern with several variables. Some of the samples do not display significantly comparable frequencies, due to their small size. All the assemblages were collected by hand, and this caused an underrepresentation of medium and smaller species.

Table 1. Frequency of mammalian taxa from Cucuteni A sites (NISP=number of identified specimens).

Species	Cucuteni (Haimovici, 1969)		Trusesti (Haimovici, 1960)		Poduri (Cavaleriu & Bejenaru, 2009)		Tirpesti (Necrasov & Stirbu, 1981)		Draguseni (Bolomey & Susi, 2000)		Dumesti (Haimovici, 1989)		Baltati (Haimovici, 1997)		Pretesti (Haimovici, 2003)		Hoisesti (Cavaleriu & Bejenaru, 2009)		Fetesti (Cavaleriu & Bejenaru, 2009)	
	NISP	%	NISP	%	NISP	%	NISP	%	NISP	%	NISP	%	NISP	%	NISP	%	NISP	%	NISP	%
<i>Bos taurus</i> (cattle)	92	58.60	69	17.51	1895	58.1	1034	68.70	1225	49.58	47	39.50	42	42.42	25	29.07	222	14.26	24	23.30
<i>Ovis aries/Capra hircus</i> (sheep/goat)	20	12.74	49	12.44	519	15.9	74	4.92	213	8.62	19	15.97	13	13.13	14	16.28	222	14.26	25	24.27
<i>Sus scrofa domesticus</i> (pig)	6	3.82	53	13.45	339	10.4	220	14.62	288	11.65	38	31.93	24	24.24	22	25.25	451	28.96	26	25.24
<i>Canis familiaris</i> (dog)	1	0.64	3	0.76	57	1.7	19	1.26	23	0.93	4	3.36	1	1.01	-	-	26	1.67	4	3.88
<b>Total domestic mammals</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>75.80</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>44.16</b>	<b>2810</b>	<b>86.2</b>	<b>1347</b>	<b>89.50</b>	<b>1749</b>	<b>70.66</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>90.76</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>80.81</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>70.93</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>59.15</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>76.70</b>
<i>Bos primigenius</i> (urochs)	2	1.27	13	3.30	43	1.3	11	0.73	13	0.53	1	0.84	-	-	-	-	8	0.51	-	-
<i>Bison bonasus</i> (bison)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Cervus elaphus</i> (red deer)	21	13.37	103	26.14	170	5.2	87	5.78	436	17.64	4	3.36	9	9.09	11	12.80	158	10.15	2	1.94
<i>Capreolus capreolus</i> (roe deer)	1	0.64	27	6.85	53	1.6	34	2.26	50	2.02	2	1.68	2	2.02	5	5.81	118	7.58	9	8.74
<i>Dama dama</i> (fallow deer)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Alces alces</i> (elk)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Sus scrofa fera</i> (wild boar)	11	7.01	66	16.75	133	4.08	11	0.73	205	8.30	3	2.52	8	8.08	2	2.33	328	21.07	10	9.70
<i>Castor fiber</i> (beaver)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> (red squirrel)	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	0.19	-	-
<i>Lepus europaeus</i> (hare)	1	0.64	2	0.51	3	0.09	1	0.07	1	0.04	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	0.83	2	1.94
<i>Canis lupus</i> (wolf)	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Vulpes vulpes</i> (fox)	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.25	3	0.20	1	0.04	-	-	-	-	-	4	0.26	1	0.97
<i>Ursus arctos</i> (bear)	-	-	-	-	-	2	0.51	24	0.7	2	0.13	5	0.20	-	-	-	1	0.06	-	-
<i>Martes</i> sp. (marten)	-	-	-	-	-	2	0.06	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Mustela putorius</i> (polecat)	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.03	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Meles meles</i> (badger)	-	-	-	-	-	2	0.06	-	-	1	0.04	-	-	-	-	5	5.81	-	-	
<i>Felis silvestris</i> (wild cat)	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.06	-	-	
<i>Lynx lynx</i> (lynx)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	0.12	-	-	
<b>Total wild mammals</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>22.93</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>55.56</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>10.03</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>29.17</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9.24</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19.19</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>27.91</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>40.78</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>23.30</b>
<i>Equus caballus</i> (horse)	2	1.27	5	1.27	7	0.2	7	0.46	4	0.16	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1.16	1	0.06
<b>Total identified mammals</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3260</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1505</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2475</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1557</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>100</b>
<i>Mollusca+Fish+Aves</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	512	-	2	-
Total identified remains	157	-	-1000	-	-3320	-	-1505	-	-2471	-	-119	-	-99	-	-86	-	-2069	-	-105	-

