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Archaeozoological data concerning the Animal Food Resources used in the Roman and post - Roman Settlements in Dobrudja (Romania)
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The archaeozoological quantification (number of identified specimens and minimum number of individuals) aimed at evaluating the relative frequencies of identified species in order to estimate the animal resources and subsistence practices (animal husbandry, hunting, fishing) such as animals used as food in each settlement.

The archaeozoological data used in the present paper, proceeding from previous studies (Isaccea, Horia, Telita Amza, Niculitel, Adamclisi, Dinogetia, Slava Rusa, Capidava, Histria, Jurilovca, Murighiol, Ovidiu), are mainly based on specimen identification and quantification.

In all samples, the remains of domestic mammals have the highest proportion (between 85% and 98%) indicating the importance of animal husbandry (figure 2). The domestic mammals species identified are *Bos taurus* (cattle), *Ovis aries* (sheep), *Capra hircus* (goat), *Equus caballus* (horse), *Equus asinus* (donkey), *Felis domesticus* (cat) and *Canis familiaris* (dog).

Cattle have the highest frequencies in all settlements, ranging between 41% (Slava Rusa and Dinogetia) and 71% (Niculitel and Jurilovca). On second place is sheep/goat, which has a frequency between 12% (Niculitel) and 26% (Horia, Slava Rusa) and then; generally, on the third place is the pig, from 7% at Niculitel and Jurilovca till 23-24% at Dinogetia and Murighiol, excepting the last two assemblages where pig is on the second place, after cattle (figure 3).

The occurrence frequency of the horse within the frame of the roman and post-roman samples is generally low and varies from one site to another.

Domestic species with no direct economical relevance, such as the dog and the cat were identified in nine and respectively, five assemblages.

The identified domestic birds are *Anser domesticus* (domestic goose) and *Gallus domesticus* (domestic hen).

The wild birds are: *Cygnus olor*, *Perdix perdix*, *Corvus frugileus*, *Corvus monedula*.

Fish remains has the highest proportion in Slava Rusa assemblages (52.5%), and the lowest at Telita Amza (1.7%), Isaccea (3.23%) and Horia (4.37%).

The fish species identified in the sample from Slava Rusa are identical to those found today in the area between the Danube and the Black Sea. The majority of the identified species are fresh water species, belonging to the Acipenseridae, Esocidae, Cyprinidae, Siluridae, Percidae families. There was not identified marine fish species.

There were identified 13 species of fish: *Acipenser* sp., *Esox lucius*, *Abramis brama*, *Aspius aspius*, *Blicca bjoerkna*, *Cyprinus carpio*, *Pelecus cultratus*, *Rutilus rutilus*, *Scardinius erythrophthalmus*, *Tinca tinca*, *Silurus glanis*, *Perca fluviatilis*, *Stizostedion lucioperca*.

In all the samples the best represented species is the common carp, followed by the wels catfish, pikeperch and pike.

In the majority of sites the remains of wild mammals account for only a small portion of the samples. The occurrence frequencies of wild mammals have been estimated from the total number of the identified remains. The percentages varies from 1-2% at Isaccea and Horia to 21% at Murighiol.

The list of wild mammals is long enough, 15 taxa being identified: *Cervus elaphus* (red deer), *Sus scrofa ferus* (wild boar), *Capreolus capreolus* (roe deer), *Bos primigenius* (aurochs), *Lepus europaeus* (hare), *Castor fiber* (beaver), *Vulpes vulpes* (fox), *Canis lupus* (wolf), *Ursus arctos* (bear), *Meles meles* (badger), *Martes martes* (marten), *Lutra lutra* (otter), *Vormela peregusna* (marbled polecat), *Delphinus* sp. (dolphin), *Phocaena relicta*.

Among wild mammals, red deer and wild boar appear in all samples and have the highest percentage; red deer percentage varies from 1% (Isaccea, Histria and Ovidiu) at 7-8% (Capidava and Murighiol).

Within the group of hunted mammals the large-sized animals are better represented (*Cervus elaphus*, *Sus scrofa*, *Capreolus capreolus* and *Bos primigenius*). Aurochs, beaver, red deer and bear are identified in the settlements from first millennium AD, but today there are not found in the area.

Conclusions

Animal breeding had a major importance in the economy of the settlements in roman and post-roman periods in Dobrudja. Most households had focused on breeding cattle, pig and sheep-goat; the relative representation of these species varying from one settlement to other. Livestock was dominated by bovines.

In all the samples of the roman period, the percentage of the fish remains is very small, not more than 5%. For the Slava Rusa assemblage the fish proportion remains is high (52.5%) and this fact proves a great interest manifested by the inhabitants at Slava Rusa.

The remains of wild mammals are in small percentages in comparison with the domestic mammals, indicating the fact that hunting was a less important occupancy for the roman and post roman populations.

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Figure 1. Map of Romania.

The faunal remains identified in the studied samples belong to a varied class of animals (mollusc, fish, reptiles, birds, mammals), among which are predominant the mammals (in 12 samples) and the fish (at Slava Rusa) (table 1).

Table 1. Quantification of the faunal remains (NISP).

Samples	Datation (centuries)	References	Molluscs	Fish	Reptiles	Birds	Identified mammals	Unidentified mammals	Total sample
Isaccea	2-3	Stanc, Bejenaru, 2009	0	12	0	10	232	118	372
Niculitel	2-3	Haimovici, 1996	0	2	0	1	189	54	246
Horia	2-3	Haimovici, 1996	0	11	0	0	241	0	252
Telița Amza	2-3	Haimovici, 2003	2	7	0	2	341	60	412
Telița Amza	4	Haimovici, 2003	0	4	0	0	406	60	470
Slava Rusă	4-6	Stanc, 2009	31	9131	0	186	4001	4044	17393
Adamclisi	4-6	Stanc 2006; Haimovici, 2001	0	3	1	1	199	37	241
Jurilovca	6	Stanc, 2006	0	0	0	0	38	11	49
Dinogetia	4-6	Haimovici, 1991	16	28	0	7	157	23	180
Capidava	4-6	Haimovici et al., 2006	0	14	0	3	161	0	178
Murighiol	4-7	El Susi, 2008	9	0	0	87	2849	608	3553
Ovidiu	4-6	Haimovici, 2007	0	0	0	0	83	90	90
Histria	6	Haimovici, 2007	0	0	0	0	533	37	570

Figure 2. Frequencies of domestic and wild mammals remains.

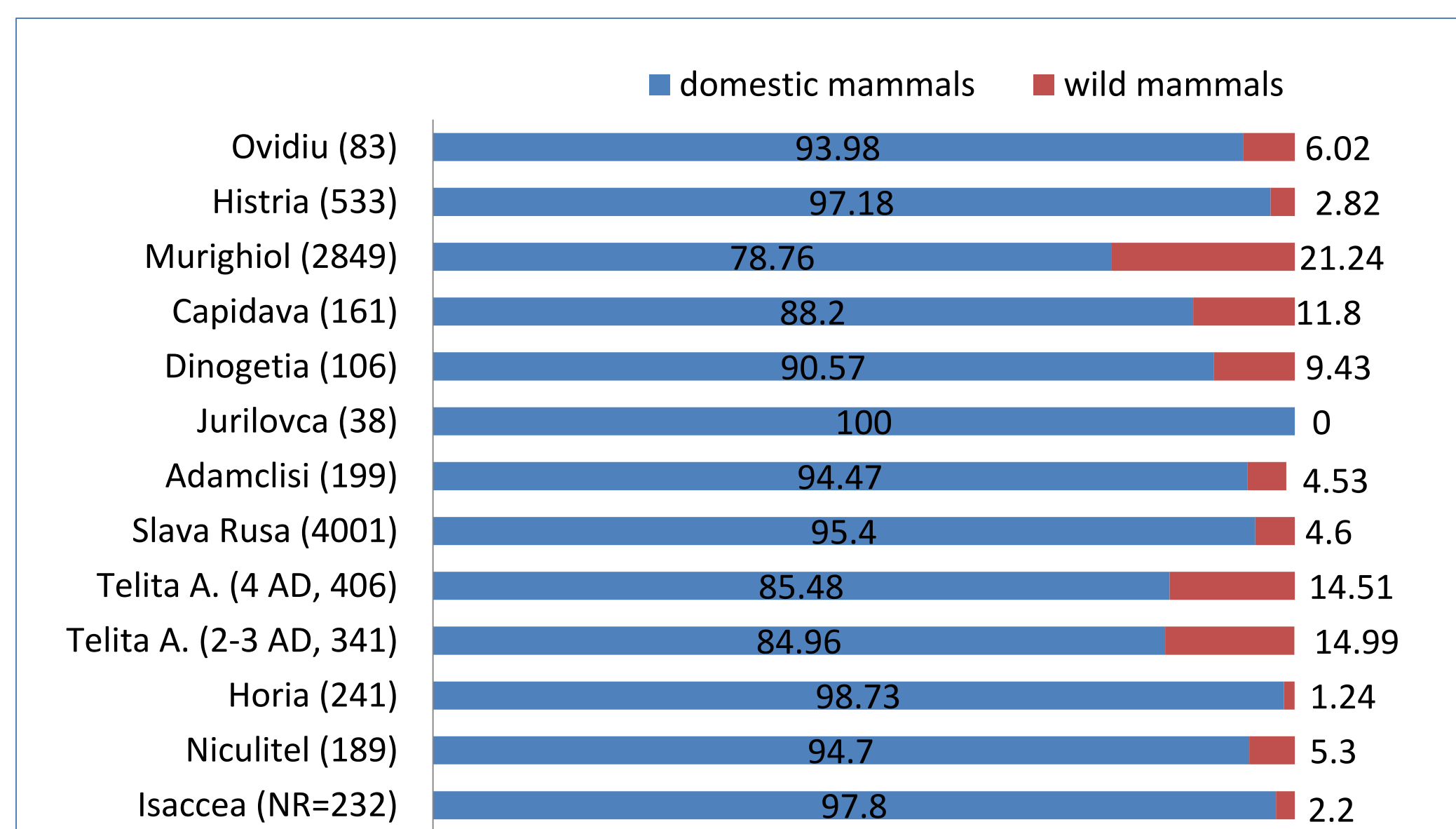


Figure 3. Frequencies of identified domestic mammals (%NR).

