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Pig bone & tooth artefacts from Chalcolithic settlements (Cucuteni culture), Romania

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Map showing the extent of the Cucuteni-Tripolye culture (1 = Hoisesti; 2 = Poduri-Dealul Ghindaru).

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.

Particularly in the Cucuteni culture and the Tripolye *BI-CI*, 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.

Cucuteni	years BC	Tripolye	years BC
Pre-Cucuteni I-III	5050-4700	Tripolye A	4800-4500
Cucuteni A1-A4	4700-4050	Tripolye A2-B1	4500-4000
Cucuteni A/B	4050-3800	Tripolye B2	4000-3800
Cucuteni B	3800-3500	Tripolye CI-CII	3800-3500



In this work, Chalcolithic (Cucuteni culture, 4700-3500 BC) artefacts made from pig bones and teeth are presented. The analyzed objects were found at the Hoisesti site, as a result of two rescue archaeological campaigns in 2003-2004, and at the Poduri-Dealul Ghindaru *tell*, along the many years of archaeological investigations (2005-2008).

The artefacts made from bone and tooth of pig (*Sus scrofa domestica*) and wild boar (*Sus scrofa ferus*) are rare, although the frequency of pig remains is important in the refuse assemblages (Table 1).

The raw material belongs to adult individuals and consists in astragals, fibula, incise teeth and tusks. In terms of functionality, the worked objects represent spatulas, pointed and cutting tools, beads/pendants, game pieces or smoothers.



Game piece/smoother from pig astragal and spatulas from fibulae.



Pointed tools from wild boar canines.



Bead/pendant from pig incise.

Table 1. Taxon	Hoisesti Cucuteni A (Cavaleriu & Bejenaru, 2009)		Poduri-Dealul Ghindaru			
			Cucuteni A (Cavaleriu & Bejenaru, 2009)		Cucuteni B (Oleniuc, 2010)	
	NISP	%	NISP	%	NISP	%
<i>Bos taurus</i>	222	14.26	1895	58.13	3465	38.64
<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	451	28.96	339	10.40	3029	33.78
<i>Ovis aries/Capra hircus</i>	222	14.26	519	15.92	1402	15.64
<i>Canis familiaris</i>	26	1.67	20	0.61	134	1.49
Total domestic mammals	921	59.15	2810	86.20	8030	89.55
Total wild mammals	635	40.78	443	13.59	929	10.36
<i>Equus caballus</i>	1	0.06	7	0.21	8	0.08
Total identified mammals	1557	100	3260	100	8967	100
Total unidentified mammals	1406	-	5061	-	7484	-
Total mammals	2963	-	8321	-	16451	-



Pointed tools from wild boar lower canines.



Split lower canines of wild boar.



Spatula from pig fibula.

The examination of the artefacts made from pig bones and tooth, discovered in the Cucuteni levels of Hoisesti and Poduri-Dealul Ghindaru sites, reveals different stages of manufacturing and also different wear levels.

References

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