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ABSTRACT BOOK



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ELEMENTAL ANALYSIS OF SKELETAL SAMPLES FROM THE CSENGER-JÁNOSI SITE (HUNGARY) DATED TO THE 16TH-17TH CENTURY

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In the present work, elemental analysis of ancient bone samples, which derived from the 16th-17th-century cemetery of Csenger-Jánosi (Hungary), was carried out. Bone samples from femur belonging to 50 individuals were analysed by using flame atomic absorption spectrometry (FAAS) and graphite furnace atomic absorption spectrometry (GFAAS). The following chemical elements were determined in the samples: Ca, P, Zn, Sr, Mn and Fe. We were inquisitive about how the past life (predominantly the nutrition) affected the elemental concentration values in skeletal samples. Furthermore, we wanted to get information about the effects of the burial environment on the bone elemental composition. It is known that the Zn and Sr detected in bones are good indicator of the consumed food during ancient life. The bone Zn concentration is increasing in case of consumption of meat, whereas Sr content can be higher in samples belonging to persons maintaining nutrition predominantly by plants. Bone Mn and Fe is thought to be of external origin. These two elements mainly derive from the burial environment (soil). The results indicated post mortem mineral exchanges (Ca-Mn and Ca-Fe) between the burial environment and bone samples. It is quite feasible that the Mn (II), Fe(II) and Fe(III) ions have parallel mobility towards the bone tissue according to their concentrations replacing the Ca. However, Zn and Sr seemed to be accumulated in the bones during the past life. The enhanced Zn levels might be in connection with the notable meat consumption of individuals in the past. It seems to be quite probable, that the population had mixed diet rich in animal protein.

CURRENT RESEARCH ON THE LATE PLEISTOCENE AND EARLY HOLOCENE IN THE LIM CHANNEL, ISTRIA, CROATIA

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In 2014 a project entitled „Archaeological investigations into the Late Pleistocene and early Holocene of the Lim Channel Istria“(ARCHAEOLIM), started. The main aims of this 3 year project financed by the Croatian Science Foundation are to provide data for better understanding of a number of important issues regarding behavioral and possibly biological aspects of human groups during a time when Late Glacial hunter gatherers were forced to change and adapt to a changing environmental and other pressures. Project concentrates on the archaeological fieldwork on four sites where preliminary survey or small scale excavations yielded evidence of human occupation: Romualdova cave (Middle and Upper Paleolithic sequence), Pećina kod Rovinjskog sela 1 (Late Upper Paleolithic and Mesolithic), Abri Kontija (Late Upper Paleolithic) and Lim 001 (Late Mesolithic), all in the Lim Channel. Here we provide a summary of the project and preliminary results of the first two excavation seasons.