
Mortuary programmes and bioarchaeology of the Danube Gorges Mesolithic foragers in the central Balkans

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Abstract

The paper reviews mortuary programmes and bioarchaeological aspects of the Mesolithic forager populations in the Danube Gorges of the central Balkans. A large number of skeletal remains in the excess of 500 individuals were found at a dozen of sites located along the Danube in this region on the Romanian and Serbian banks of the river. A large suite of now available aDNA genome-wide data, multi-isotope data, including carbon, nitrogen, sulphur, and strontium, along with data on sex and age profiles, dental calculus, tooth wear and microstructure, paleopathology, and musculoskeletal stress markers allow for fine-tuned reconstructions of human physical plasticity in this key European Mesolithic hotspot.

Keywords: stable isotopes, aDNA, bioarchaeology, mortuary programmes

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