

A PRESENTATION OF THE BONE FRAGMENTS FROM TWO PITS: 72 AND 100, BELONGING TO THE TRUȘEȘTI – ȚUGUIETA SETTLEMENT – CUCUTENI A CULTURE

BY

SERGIU HAIMOVICI

Keywords: *archaeozoological remains, Cucuteni culture, Trușești settlement*

The well known Cucutenian settlement from Trușești about which a comprehensive archeological monograph was written in 1999¹ and whose archaeozoological material was studied by us in two papers², is situated in the North of Moldova province, nearby the present commune Trușești (Botoșani county), on the – Țuguieta hill– by the Jijia river meadow, which passes the so-called plain of the Northern Moldova, also known as the Jijia plain.

Organizing some materials from the Animal Morphology laboratory we found a little box containing three packages with fauna remains from the excavations executed in that settlement and we considered these fragments are worth publishing because they present some rather special particularities. We found fragments belonging to an animal, let us say an individual in pit 72, 1953 excavations campaign, fragments that were separated in two packages by the archaeologists, one of them containing skull fragments and the other one trunk and limbs bone fragments. At first sight we could ascertain that the animal is a sheep (*Ovis aries*). In the pit 100, 1958 excavations campaign whose explanatory note was mentioning “the antler pit” we could find both *Cervus* antler fragments and a relatively well preserved elk antler (*Alces alces*), evidently a male; after a thorough study of the bone material we identified the fragmentary diaphysis of a human thighbone (*Homo sapiens*).

We will further present a full description of the animal fragments discovered in the two pits, adding new data to the ones mentioned in the two papers mentioned before.

Pit 72

The discovered bone fragments really belong to one individual as it may be stated after studying the material and also on the basis of the executed measurements. We underlined the fact that the individual was a young male adult whose age was of 15–16 months (taking into consideration that the M₃ with both superior and inferior jaw is hardly detectable and so do the definite premolars on the mandible; all the long bones have their epiphyses slightly non-epiphysed and the I phalanges still have the epiphysing line; the vertebrae are non-epiphysed too. I can say that the individual was sacrificed (or died) during summer. The skull is much deteriorated. Only its posterior part was integer, going to the occipital – parietal suture which was evidently

¹ Petrescu Dâmbovița M., ș.a. *Trușești – Monografia arheologică*, Ed. Academiei Române 1999.

² Haimovici S. *L'étude de la faune néolithique de Trușești*, in *An. St. Univ.*, Iași, SII, Șt. Naturale, T.VI, p.2, 1960, p. 355–376 și anexe; idem, *Studiul arheozoologic al materialului din faza Cucuteni A de la Trușești – Țuguieta*, p. 679–682 in *Trușești – Monografia arheologică*, Ed. Academiei Române, 1999.

still opened, the form of its margin indicates its belonging to the *Ovis* gender; the area above *foramen magnum* and through *acrocranium* is thickened, the traces leaved by the muscle insertion line being visible – we considered that the individual was a male. The anterior part of the neuroskull is completely missing, as well as the upper part of the skullcap, indicating the human intervention in order to remove the brain or rather the horns for different uses; only the inferior and superior jaws were relatively preserved. The skeleton of the trunk is rather well preserved with all the vertebrae non-epiphysed (including the atlas and the axis), and many of the ribs (some of the bone fragments, especially the small ones, might have remained in the pit during the gathering of the individual remains). As regarding the limbs skeleton, it is almost complete, the non-epiphysed epiphysis being united with the diaphysis by us in order to be measured. We mention that according to the axis vertebrae and most of the long bones we could state that the individual belongs to the *Ovis* gender and due to its massivity it is clearly a male.

We shall render the results of the main measurements executed on the founded bone materials.

NEUROCRANIUM (posterior part)	
Condyles breadth	50
<i>Foramen magnum</i> breadth	21
Jugular apophyses level breadth	65
Ba-Acr highness	53
<i>Foramen magnum</i> highness	21
SCAPULUM	
Greatest length of artic head	36
Artic. surface length	30
Artic. surface breadth	24
Width of colum	23
HUMERUS	
Greatest length	(165)
Distal breadth	34
Distal artic. surface breadth	32
RADIUS	
Greatest length	(173)
Proximal breadth	35
Proximal artic. surface breadth	32
CUBITUS	
Radial surface breadth	21
COXAL	
Acetabular diameter	30
THIGHBONE	
Greatest length	(205)
Distal breadth	43
TIBIA	
Greatest length	
Distal breadth	
METACARPUS	
Greatest length	(147)
Proximal breadth	27
PHALANGX I	
Greatest length	41 42 43 43 44
Proximal breadth	13 14 14 14 14
Smallest diaphysis	11 11 11 12 12
PHALANGX II	
Greatest length	25 27
Proximal breadth	12 12
PHALANGX III	
Artic. surface breadth	10

The measurements executed on the long bones offered us the possibility to determine the individual shoulder height (in mm) as it follows: Humerus 706,20; Radius 695,46; Thighbone 723,65; Tibia (right and left) 689,29; 692,30. A variation has been established: 689,29 – 723,65 and an average (for six measurements) of 704,29 (the variation amplitude is not great but less than 35 mm). A height of 70cm is rather big for the sheep in the Romanian Eneolithic, for the Cucuteni culture when the average height was about 60cm; we must take into consideration the fact that the individual was a male, and as we know, there is a sexual dimorphism with the sheep, maybe even more pronounced than nowadays.

In conclusion we may say that the skeleton found in the pit comes from ram and it was deposited as a whole and not partially (excepting the skull); we cannot ascertain the character of this storage and we cannot make suppositions.

Pit 100

The quantity of bone fragments found in the pit is not too big, only 46 fragments, all of them coming from Mammals, for 38 and another one we could establish the specific identity, the last one being a human thighbone. In the following table there are all the determined animal species and the remains organization on bone fragments; another table represents the fragments measurements (in mm), on species.

We may say that the fragments belong to four domestic species (the “ovicaprinae” gathering fragments of small horns coming either from *Ovis* or *Capra* gender) considered the commonest and another four wild species, of which three of them are very common for the Cucutenian fauna materials and one of them, the elk, rather rare.

We shall not establish the number of the individuals and the frequency of each species as the material is in a small quantity, so the results obtained can be absolutely random. We shall present only some of the clear results.

The bovids (*Bos taurus*) are represented by three fragments of which only one is measurable. It is remarkable the low frequency of this species that used to be higher for the Eneolithic settlements (evidently the Cucutenian ones); we may state that both morphoscopic and biometrical analysis of the fragments indicate high sized bovids, typical for the Neo -Eneolithic.

Goats (*Capra hircus*) are represented only by a horncore cut almost by its root (that is why we made measurements) and also at its tip. Its bulky aspect indicates a male, but it is of „*prisca*” type. We can include in the artificial group „ovicaprinae” a fragment of a mandible with the M₁ present, and Pd₃ easily eroded indicating an age of about 8 – 9 months, the individual being sacrificed at the end of autumn.

Pigs (*Sus domesticus*) are represented by two fragments of mandible: one with M₂ present but without erosion – of about 1,5 years and the other with M₃ at the level but without erosion – about 2 years, typical sacrificial ages for the primitive pig.

The dog (*Canis familiaris*) is represented by an almost integer atlas, coming from a low sized individual, the so-called „*pallustris*” type, characteristic for the Neo- Eneolithic.

Among the wild species the wild boar (*Sus scrofa ferrus*) is best represented by many and very diverse fragments that allowed the measurements execution. It is of big size, characteristic for Neo-Eneolithic, some considering it a subspecies (*Sus scrofa attila*).

The red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) is present with fragments of the three parts of the antler: the branches, pole and crown, almost all of them with cutting traces; they are evidently rejects. The so-called crown ends with three longer branches with an individual forming a kind of trident. This species is characteristic for the Neo-Eneolithic and is quite bulky and big, so we can establish a sub-species we may name *Cervus elaphus romanicus*.

The roe (*Capreolus capreolus*) has two antler fragments coming from two individuals: one representing the distal part with its two tips and the other is a “fallen” antler with the rosette partly cut and a tear at about four cms from the basis.

A part of the antler’s branch coming from an elk (*Alces alces*) has been preserved. It is cut at some distance from the rosette, so we cannot say if it is a “fallen” antler or it comes from a hunted individual; the branches tips are mostly removed by cutting or tearing. This is a very rare species in Romania being present in some Cucutenian settlements. It seems that the Northern and central Moldavia represents the South-Eastern limit for this species. A relatively northern species typical for the big wet forests of taiga type, even marshy, used to find a favorite biotope in the Jijia river meadow, at Trușești.

The human fragment is represented by a thighbone diaphysis broken at both ends, the tear being almost straight on one side and on the other side absolutely oblique. On the posterior part of the bone fragment we may distinguish the so-called rough line and to its inferior part a beginning of a kind of doubling which will limit the so-called popliteal surface. The rough line looks like a palpable protuberance, proving that the muscles inserted on it was massive and strong – that is why the bone may belong to a male. It is known that there have not been discovered necropolis for the Precucuteni and Cucuteni culture and at the same time in some of the settlements may appear isolated human bone fragments. We shall not insist on this aspect, we only wanted to evidence the presence of a human bone fragment in the 100 pit from the Truşeşti settlement.

Translated by Monica Popa

Pit no. 100 The distribution upon skeletal parts

SPECIA	Horn cores – antlers	Mandible	Vertebrae	Scapula	Humerus	Ulna	Coxal	Femur	Tibia	Talus	Calcaneus	Metacarpus	Metatarsus	Metapodalus	Phalange I	Fragments
<i>Bos taurus</i>						1		1						1		3
“ovicaprines”		2														5
<i>Capra hircus</i>	1															1
<i>Sus domesticus</i>		2														3
<i>Canis familiaris</i>			1													1
<i>Sus ferus</i>		1		1			1		1	2	3			1	1	11
<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	7								1			1	2			11
<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	2															2
<i>Alces alces</i>	1															1

TOTAL

38

Pit no 100. The table with measurements

	<i>Bos taurus</i>	<i>Capra hircus</i>	<i>Sus dom.</i>	<i>Sus ferus</i>	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>
HORNE CORE, ANTLER						
Greater diameter		37				38
Smallest diameter		21				(35)
Circumference		106 ♂				120
MANDIBLE						
M ₃ length			27			
Simphysis length				112		
Canin alveolus length				35		
SCAPULUM						
Greatest length of artic head				55		
Artic. surface length				38		
Artic. surface breadth				33		
Width of colum				29		
CUBITUS						
Radial surface breadth		37				
TIBIA						
Distal breadth				39		
METACARPUS						
Distal breadth					44	
Distal diameter					30	
METATARSUS						

Proximal breadth					(41)	
CALCANEUS						
Greatest length				105; 108; 112		
Greatest breadth				29; 33; 35		
TALUS						
Lateral greatest length				53; 56		
Distal breadth				32; 33		
PHALANGX I						
Greatest length				59		
Proximal breadth				25		



Foto 1. *Alces alces*: antler.



Foto nr. 2. *Homo sapiens*: Thighbone.