NEW ARCHAEOZOOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN MONTEORU CULTURE SITES FROM EASTERN ROMANIA

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Keywords: Monteoru Culture, Pietroasa Mică, wild taxa, elk, bison.

Abstract: The paper put into question recent data on the exploitation of animals in settlements of the Monteoru culture, located in eastern Romania, in the light of the samples from Costişa (Neamţ county) and Pietroasa Mică – *Gruiu Dării* (Buzău county). 8,535 bones were taken into consideration, of which 2,755 are from the settlements mentioned above, the rest from others already published. Statistics show that hunting would have had a minor role in economy, since in most sites wildlife remainders do not exceed 8.5%, excepting sites from Sărata Monteoru with 12% and Costişa with 28.8 %. Most settlements are situated in the Sub-Carpathian Hills area, management of large and small ruminants was favoured by location, the Monteoru tribes specializing in their exploitation. After a review of inter specific relations, assessments on morpho-dimensional features and age profiles of domestic species are emphasized.

Cuvinte cheie: Cultura Monteoru, Pietroasa Mică, specii sălbatice, elan, bizon.

Rezumat: Materialul pune în discuţie date recente asupra exploatării animalelor în aşezări ale culturii Monteoru, amplasate în sud-estul şi estul României, pornind de la eşantioanele faunistice de la Costişa (jud. Neamţ) şi Pietroasa Mică – *Gruiu Dării* (jud. Buzău). S-au avut în vedere ca. 8.535 oase, dintre care, 2.755 provin din aşezările mai sus-amintite, restul din altele deja publicate. Conform statisticilor, vânătoarea avea un rol minor în economia comunităţilor monteorene, în mai toate siturile resturile speciilor sălbatice nu depăşesc 8,5 %, cu excepţia locuirii de la Sărata Monteoru, cu 12% şi Costişa cu 28,8%. Majoritatea aşezărilor fiind amplasate în zona dealurilor subcarpatice, creşterea rumegătoarelor mari şi mici a fost avantajată de poziţia geografică, triburile monteorene specializându-se în exploatarea lor. După o trecere în revistă a raporturilor interspecifice, se fac aprecieri asupra trăsăturilor morfo-dimensionale şi asupra vârstelor de tăiere a speciilor domestice.

The paper aims to present recent data on livestock management in the settlements of the Monteoru culture, located in eastern Romania, according to new faunal samples from Costişa (Neamţ county) and Pietroasa Mică – *Gruiu Dării* (Buzău county). 8,535 bones were taken into consideration, of which 2,755 are from the above mentioned sites, the rest from others already published (Table 1, fig. 1). *Gruiu Dării* is the name of a promontory with an oval shape and a height of 534 m belonging to the hills of Istriţa, a unit of Buzău Sub-Carpathians, located between the Romanian Plain and the Buzău Mountains. Under massive it stretches the Istriţa Glacis, a plain with heights of 200-300 m, representing a stage of transition towards the Bărăgan low plain. Basically the area is a mixture of biotope belonging to both Sub-Carpathian chain (dominated by deciduous forests – durmast oak woods mixed with lime-tree, flowering-ash, and horn-beam) and steppe, including secondary meadows and agricultural crops[1]. On that height, which gave good foresight and excellent natural protection to the field, there were found remains of the Eneolithic (Cernavodă Ic and Cucuteni B), Bronze Age (Monteoru culture), the 4th-3rd c. BC (only a few complex) and La Tène epoch[2]. The Bronze Age habitation belongs to an early phase of Monteoru culture (circa 2400-2100 BC), starting in the phase Ic4-2, also developing during the phase Ic3[3]. The 2,130 animal bones were harvested from dwellings and waste pits, by excavations performed during 2001-2009 campaigns.

Below we present the main results of sample analysis from Pietroasele a detailed analysis, being in print. According to it, hunting has a reduced contribution in providing of some products as meat, fur, leather, and raw material for tools, the bones of wild species totalling 8.47%. Red deer prevails among the game meat, but its remains do not exceed 5% as fragments, in terms of number of individuals it reaches 7.48%. Overall, the wild mammals adapted to an open landscape (roe deer, aurochs and hare) come to the same percent of the red deer, 7.48% as NMI; so we can speak of the

[1] Posea *et alii* 1982, 321-322.

[2] Sîrbu *et alii* 2010.

[3] *Ibidem*.