

FAUNAL REMAINS FROM THE BRONZE AGE OCCUPATION OF EL ACEQUIÓN (ALBACETE, CASTILLA-LA MANCHA, SPAIN)

El Acequi3n (Albacete, Spain) is an archaeological site located at the bottom of an endorheic lake. It was inhabited during the Bronze and Iron Age, with a hiatus of approximately 1,200 years between the two occupations, during which the site was abandoned. The Bronze Age phase had an occupation of approximately 510 years, dated to between 2275 cal BC and 1765 cal BC from short-lived samples. The record of this site consists of lithic, bone industry, metals (copper), pottery and bone remains. Here, we analyse the fauna sample. A total of 8529 bones have been identified, mainly comprised of domestic (horse, cow, sheep, goat, pig and dog) and wild faunal remains (red deer, red fox, badger, wild cat and Iberian lynx). The most represented taxonomic group are Caprinos (*Ovis aries* and *Capra* sp.). The second are equids, followed by bovids, suids and cervids. To study the age at death of the fauna, the remains have been classified into three age categories (juvenile, adult and senile). The carnivore sample includes 213 remains, of which 180 have been identified as canids (dogs and foxes), 23 as felids (cats and lynxes) and 10 as mustelids (badgers). The presence of domestic fauna is interpreted as meat exploitation (as most bones present thermal alteration and cut marks), companion or herd animals (dogs) and animal traction (bovids and equids). Some dog remains show cut marks, which indicate that dogs may have been occasionally consumed. The presence of wild fauna could indicate natural contributions to the site or sporadic hunting activity.

by

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