13TH ICAZ
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

ABSTRACTS

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A series of suggestions and drawings for the conference logo were submitted by METU, Ankara University and Hacettepe University students. After a vote by the members of the Scientific and Organizing Committee, the drawing proposed by Zeynep Ece Sahin was chosen. It encircles a number of bone "shadows" topped with the statue of a deer drawn after a metal find from the "Kings' tombs" at Alacahöyük. This statue is displayed at the Anatolian Civilizations Museum in Ankara.

ICAZ
International Council for Archaeozoology

ODTÜ
METU

International Council for Archaeozoology

Middle East Technical University

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Exploatation of freshwater mussels in the late prehistory of Southeast Europe: Case study of an Early Bronze Age settlement in Kostolac (Eastern Serbia)

Freshwater shell remains in late prehistoric faunal assemblages of Southeastern Europe have often been neglected and usually just counted, while their species level was rarely determined. Based on ethnographic data, they were usually interpreted as remnants of additional food resources, but also as food for pigs and as fish baits. Several pits filled with unionid shells have been dug up in 2012, in the course of salvage archaeological excavations of late prehistoric settlements located at the bank of the River Klepecka, near its confluence with the Danube (in the surroundings of the later Roman city of Viminacium). According to other archaeological finds, the pits were dated to the Early Bronze Age. The assemblage of more than 1000 valves offered an opportunity for a detailed morphometric study of mollusk remains. The research included taxonomic identification, specific measurements of each valve and recording of taphonomic data, such as shell color, fragmentation and artificial modifications. Three species have been identified: Unio crassus, Unio pictorum, and Unio tumidus. We discuss whether the species significantly differ according to their length, breadth and height, as well as morphological traits of the hinge area. According to contextual and overall distribution we will discuss possible cultural preference towards these species. Finally, based on contextual data and taphonomic features, we will discuss their purpose and significance within the studied settlement. The results will be placed in regional and temporal context in order to suggest freshwater shell significance in the life of people who occupied Southeastern Europe in late prehistory.

Keywords: *Early Bronze Age, Kostolac, Serbia, freshwater shell*

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New numerous finds of *Dama dama* (L.) from the Neolithic of Bulgaria support the hypothesis of the autochthonous origin of the early Holocene Balkan population of the fallow deer

The Fallow deers, is a game species, which has been introduced by man into today's fauna of Europe, including Bulgaria. According to a number of opinions, this species was imported during the Roman period in Western Europe. For a long time this has been the explanation for the existence of remains found in archaeological sites in the Balkans. Some authors suggest acclimatization of the species in Europe from the east, still in the prehistoric times. In recent years, however, the species is often found (often with significant amounts of bones) in prehistoric archaeological sites, mainly in Southeastern Bulgaria, but also in Greece since early Neolithic. The species was found in the late Pleistocene on the territory of Former Yugoslavia, and in the Neolithic of Northern Dobrudzha (Romania). During new studies in archaeological sites in Southeastern Bulgaria, a large number of remains of fallow deer were discovered. Their comparative analysis gives new data about the time of the existence and the area of distribution of the prehistoric fallow deer in the Balkans. These studies give new grounds for supporting the hypothesis of the autochthonous origin of the early Holocene Balkan population of the fallow deer.

Keywords: *Neolithic, Bulgaria, Dama dama*

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