Zooarchaeological Remains from el-Munṭar el-Abyad

Moshe Sade

A very small assemblage of zooarchaeological remains was recovered from the excavation of the Middle Bronze Age II settlement (Stratum III) at el-Munṭar el-Abyad (see Atrash and Golani, this volume). The items were all hand-collected and sieving was employed only selectively. Despite the relatively large size of the excavation, the limited assemblage of identifiable animal bones may also reflect their extremely poor preservation, making the identification of taxon and species difficult.

The identifiable faunal material originated from 18 loci. Except for one seashell (*Glycymeris violascens*), all the other finds are domestic mammal bones of sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*), cattle (*Bos taurus*) and pig (*Sus scrofa*). No taphonomic data, such as butchery or burning marks, were apparent. The MNI of the entire assemblage shows one sheep/goat, one cattle and one pig, making any demographic conclusions irrelevant. Since the beginning of husbandry in the Southern Levant, these domesticates constitute the primary species found; however, the scant assemblage does not allow for any further conclusions.

Table 1. Distribution of Domestic Mammal Bones

Species / Bone	*Ovis aries/ Capra hircus*	*Bos taurus*	*Sus scrofa*	Total
Maxilla			2	2
Molar	4	2	3	9
Premolar			3	3
Incisor	1			1
Scapula	2	1		3
Humerus	1			1
Pelvis			1	1
Tibia		1		1
Metapod	10	1	1	12
Total	*18*	*5*	*10*	*33*
%	*54.5*	*15.2*	*30.3*	*100.0*

Reference

Atrash W. and Golani A. This volume. El-Munṭar el-Abyad: A Middle Bronze Age IIB Village and a Persian- and Roman-Period Cemetery near Bet She'an.