

FAUNAL REMAINS FROM TEL MALOT (EAST)

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A small assemblage of 36 bone fragments was recovered from the excavations at Tel Malot (East). The faunal remains derived from loci attributed to the Late Bronze Age, Middle Bronze Age and the Pottery Neolithic (PN) unearthed within Features 4, 7, 8 and 10 in Field I (see Parnos, Milevski and Khailaly, this volume). Only 60% of the faunal remains were identified; the remaining 40% were either too small or too damaged to be identified. The predominant species in the assemblage were sheep and goats; few remains were attributed to bovine species.

Methods

The bones were in a very poor condition. They were compared with modern specimens from the Hebrew University faunal collection at Giv'at Ram. An analysis of the body-part representation was conducted and the bones were grouped into five categories, following Horwitz (1988): (1) cranial—skull, maxilla, mandible and teeth; (2) forelimb—scapula, humerus, radius, metacarpal, carpals; (3) hind limb—pelvis, femur, tibia, patella; (4) trunk—vertebrae and ribs; and (5) foot—phalanges.

The Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI) was determined on the basis of the most frequently represented bones. All faunal remains were individually checked for modifications, such as cut marks and signs of burning; the results are presented in Table 1. Faunal remains identified as goat (*Capra hircus*) and sheep (*Ovis aries*) could not be distinguished from one another, and therefore, are discussed below as 'Ovicapra' (sheep/goat).

Table 1. NISP of Bones according to Features

	NISP	Unidentified Bones
Feature 4	8	0
Feature 10	7	0
Feature 7	6	14
Feature 8	0	1
Total	21	15

Results

Feature 4, a well dated to the Middle and Late Bronze Ages, yielded one molar of an equid, one tibia and one femur of a sheep/goat, one cattle femur and four fragments, three of which belonged to a large mammal(s) and the fourth belonging to a medium-sized mammal.

Feature 10, dated to the PN period, yielded one cattle molar and six postcranial fragments, four of which were long bone fragments belonging to a large mammal(s) and two long bone fragments belonging to a medium-sized mammal.

Feature 7, a pit dated to the PN period, yielded three mandibles of mature sheep/goats (all from L404) and two postcranial bones belonging to a sheep/goat; one metapodial and one scapula. In addition, one cattle phalange and one cattle sesamoid bone were identified. Fourteen small fragments of long bones, all burnt, were found in the same context, but could not be identified. The burnt bones indicate direct evidence of human activity associated with the bone assemblage. No other marks were visible on the bones.

Feature 8, another pit dated to the PN period, yielded only one fragment of a mammalian long bone.

Summary

This small faunal assemblage offers a limited view of the human/animal related activities at the site of Tel Maloṭ (East). The bones of mature ovicaprids could possibly provide evidence

of animal husbandry and use for secondary products at the site. The 14 charred bone fragments suggest the likely use of mammals for meat.

REFERENCES

Horwitz L.K. 1988. Animal Bones from Horvat Rimmon. Hellenistic to Byzantine. *'Atiqot* 35: 65-76.

Parnos G., Milevski I. and Khalaily H. This volume. Remains from the Late Prehistoric to Early Islamic Periods at the Foot of Tel Maloṭ (East).