

# SOME DATA ON LIVESTOCK AND HUNTING IN THE BRONZE AGE SETTLEMENT (COSTIȘA CULTURE) AT COSTIȘA (NEAMȚ COUNTY)

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**Abstract:** During 2001-2008 campaigns 71 animal bones were collected from plateau A and 91 on plateau B, in the site Costișa, belonging to the Middle Bronze Age. Unfortunately, we do not pass any information about fauna from settlements of a Costișa-type. This was a decisive reason to put into scientific circulation, such a small sample. Cattle predominate, followed by pig, caprinae, horse and dog in the first location. The game had a significant participation in the diet (Tables 1, 2). On the plateau B, one keeps the same order of species, but other frequencies (Tables 6, 8). Bone distribution according to body parts show more teeth and small elements in both locations (Tables 3, 4, 7). In case of cattle, the age profiles suggest 55.5% of specimens slaughtered for beef and 44.5% for by-products (haulage, dairy products) (Table 7). Small ruminants exploitation was mainly focused on dairy products, wool and meat subsidiary. The few metric assessments did not provide consistent data about the size and conformation of animals identified.

**Cuvinte-cheie:** Bronz mijlociu, cultura Costișa, oase de animale, oase prelucrate, vânătoare.

**Rezumat:** Prin cercetările dintre anii 2001-2008 s-au recoltat 71 de oase de animale de pe platoul A și 91 de pe platoul B, din stațiunea Costișa (aparținând bronzului mijlociu, cultura Costișa). Întrucât nu există, până în prezent date despre situri Costișa din regiunile noastre am considerat necesară prezentarea acestor loturi faunistice mici. Pe platoul A, predomină vitele, urmate de porc, ovicaprine, cal (5%) și câine. Speciile vâdate au o participare importantă în alimentație (Tabele 1, 2). Pe platoul B se păstrează aceeași ordine a speciilor, evident cu alte frecvențe (Tabele 6, 8). Distribuția oaselor pe regiuni corporale evidențiază în ambele locații dentiție și elemente osoase mici (Tabele 3, 4, 7). În privința estimărilor vârstelor de tăiere, în cazul vitei se constată un procent de 55,5% sacrificări pentru carne și 44,5% pentru produse secundare (Tabel 8). În cazul ovicaprinelor, exploatarea viza în principal lâna, lactatele și subsidiar carnea. Puținele dimensionări nu au oferit date substanțiale despre talia și conformația corporală a animalelor identificate.

*Costișa* village lies towards the south-eastern limit of the Neamț County, in Cracău-Bistrița Depression (Moldavian Subcarpathians), medium altitudes, with terraces and alluvial plains dominate the landscape, deciduous forests, especially sessile and oak grew over them. A meadow vegetation developed along the floodplain of the Bistrița River. Secondary meadows and farmlands replaced most of these forests, cut off over time<sup>1</sup>. The site is located on the eastern edge of the village Costișa; it occupies both an ellipsoidal shelf of a promontory, named "Cetățuia" (plateau A) and the saddle that

connects it to the high terrace of the Bistrița River (plateau B). The west, south and east sides of the headland are steep and the northern slope leading down to the saddle is smoother. Archaeological research focused on examining the structure of the deposits from the Middle Bronze Age, on the plateau A, during 1959-1960, 1962 and 2001-2007' campaigns. Two contemporary communities of the Middle Bronze Age, belonging to Costișa and Monteoru cultures occupied the plateau at a time<sup>2</sup>. Although there are only 160 wastes, we think is necessary their publication, doubly so as there is little information about fauna from that epoch. The

<sup>1</sup> Collective 1982, 609-615.

<sup>2</sup> Popescu 2003-2005, 319.