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150 μm . The Zagreb Radiocarbon Laboratory approach to radiocarbon analysis of the MODIS2 samples was to separate 32 – 63 μm particle size fraction and to collect three CO_2 – gas fractions by sequential dissolution with acid. The first fraction was reported as the age of the mortar, while others were used for the characterization of mortar. Data extrapolation of the result was also used (but not reported to MODIS2) and gave results closer to the expected historical age for some samples. Here we also present different approaches to radiocarbon mortar dating.

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Absolute and relative chronology of the Early Bronze Age necropolis in Mokrin, Serbia

Mokrin necropolis, situated in northeastern Serbia, is one of the most important Early Bronze Age and Maros culture cemetery sites. Osteological remains and grave goods have been featured in a number of studies aiming to answer important questions about social structure, division of labor, health, diet and ancestry of the Early Bronze Age communities. However, the chronology of the necropolis is still poorly understood. With only six published radiocarbon dates so far, dating the necropolis between circa 2100 and circa 1800 BC, the reconstruction of the chronological sequence of graves and the manner in which the necropolis had formed was difficult. In this study, we revisit the issue of the absolute and the relative chronology of the Mokrin necropolis. We present 10 new radiocarbon dates and we use all available radiocarbon evidence to test two hypotheses regarding the relative chronology of the Mokrin burials: 1) a seriation sequence of burials based on the forms of ceramic vessels found in 165 graves 2) a relative chronological sequence proposed in the literature which assumes a specific spatio-temporal pattern for the expansion of the necropolis in the southeast-northwest direction. The new radiocarbon dates confirmed the previously established chronological span for the necropolis. The seriation sequence based on the pottery forms is moderately and significantly correlated with the radiocarbon dates, suggesting that the seriation sequence recovers the true relative chronology in general, but not in details. On the other hand, the hypothesis which assumes that the necropolis expanded from the southeastern to the northwestern corner was not supported by the radiocarbon data, as the correlations between calibrated dates and the sequence based on this hypothesis was low and not statistically significant.