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# **26th EAA Virtual Annual Meeting**

## **Abstract Book**

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# 26th EAA Virtual Annual Meeting

## Abstract Book

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### 26th EAA Virtual Annual Meeting - Abstract Book

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on animal breeding, specialising in pork, sheep and goat. The history of Villa del Casale is similar to other Villas in southern Italy, suggesting that economic changes in this part of the Roman Empire during Late Antiquity were not necessarily a sign of decline.

## 9 CHANGES IN LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT BETWEEN THE LATE ROMAN AND EARLY MEDIEVAL PERIODS IN THE BALKAN DANUBE REGION: EVIDENCE FROM SERBIA

**Abstract author(s):** Markovic, Dimitrije - Vuković, Sonja (Laboratory for Bioarchaeology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade)

**Abstract format:** Oral

The weakening of the Roman Danube limes in the course of the 4th and 5th centuries AD, caused by the invasions of Germanic tribes and of the Huns, brought about the destruction of the once-powerful Roman fortifications and towns within the borders of the Balkan provinces of the Empire. According to historical and archaeological research, it is well known that a significant ruralisation of former Roman cities and fortifications took place. Although it is plausible to suspect that such developments impacted greatly on livestock management practices, direct evidence on changes in animal exploitation is missing due to the absence of faunal assemblages from the transition period between Late Roman and Early Medieval times.

This paper aims to explore this topic, by integrating the scarce archaeozoological data from the periods in question from the Danube region in Serbia. We will analyse and compare species frequencies and biometrical data of the most common domesticates from two temporally distant (but so far the only available) faunal assemblages, i.e. the one from the Late Roman layers of the city of Viminacium (4th century AD; analysed by the authors), and that from the Early Medieval features of the fort of Pontes (9th/10th century AD; published by L. Bartosiewicz in 1996). In order to bridge the significant chronological gap between these two sites, we will also discuss specific archaeological finds from the fortifications, which might be considered as indirect evidence of animal husbandry strategies, as well as published archaeozoological data from sites located in the hinterland of the Central Balkans. This will allow to characterize changes in livestock management from the Late Roman to the Early Medieval periods in the Danube region of present-day Serbia.

## 10 LATE ROMAN ZOO-ECONOMICAL TRANSITIONS FROM WESTERN PANNONIA (PODERSDORF AM SEE, AUSTRIA): ARCHAEOLOGICAL, ARCHAEOZOOLOGICAL AND GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

**Abstract author(s):** Saliari, Konstantina (Natural History Museum of Vienna) - Tobias, Bendeguz (Austrian Academy of Sciences) - Draganits, Erich (University of Vienna)

**Abstract format:** Oral

Since 2015 systematic research excavations at Podersdorf am See, a village directly east of Lake Neusiedl/Fertő tó in the western-most part of the Pannonian Basin, brought to light several archaeological sites and abundant finds dating from the Roman period to the High Middle Ages. The archaeological site presented here is located 1.7 km east of Lake Neusiedl, in a flat, slightly raised area, which is usually dryer than neighbouring spaces. During the excavation campaigns 2018-2019, settlement features were discovered with a respectable number of archaeological finds and biological remains dating from the Roman period to the Late Antiquity. A series of interdisciplinary investigations have been carried out, including archaeozoological analyses combined with radiocarbon dating, and geoarchaeological research in order to better understand the nature and timing of Roman influence during the transformation processes of the Roman Empire. Significant factors that have been taken into consideration include cultural parameters, such as the survival of local (Iron Age) practices in livestock farming and exploitation, as well as the effectiveness of Romanisation in Pannonia. In addition, the environmental setting, local ecology, topography, availability of natural resources and accessibility played a decisive role. Our research suggests that the Late Roman faunal assemblages present a mixture of Iron Age and Roman elements, suggesting a relatively gradual process of transition between both periods.

## 11 ANIMAL HUSBANDRY IN TIMES OF CHANGE: THE ZOOARCHAEOLOGY OF COLOGNE (GERMANY) DURING THE EARLY MIDDLE AGES

**Abstract author(s):** Grau-Sologestoa, Idoia (University of Basel)

**Abstract format:** Oral

The Roman city of Colonia Claudia Ara Agrippinensium was founded in 50 AD by the river Rhine and, for centuries, it remained as one of the political and economic centres of the northernmost limes region. The Late Roman political crisis and the pressure from the Germanic tribes, presumably, had a deep effect on this city, but archaeologically, little is known about it.

In the context of a larger research project (ZooRoMed, MSCA-IF), the faunal remains recovered between 1996 and 1998 at the excavation of Heumarkt in Cologne (Germany) have been examined. Special attention has been paid to the taxonomic frequencies, the kill-off-patterns, and biometrical data of the main domesticates (cattle, sheep/goat and pig), in order to understand animal husbandry practices at the site, and to investigate possible changes derived from the socio-political upheavals that the city underwent in this period of crucial transformations. This large faunal assemblage was recovered in contexts dated between the 5th and the mid-10th century AD, therefore covering the Merovingian, Carolingian and Ottonian periods. The results of this analysis show substantial changes in animal husbandry practices during this long period of time, in line with other patterns discussed for other European regions, in relation to the development of medieval socio-economic structures.

## a. ESTABLISHING A STRATEGY FOR THE EXPLOITATION OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS ON THE SITE JERININ GRAD-BRANGOVIĆ THROUGHOUT THE CENTURIES

**Abstract author(s):** Brancic, Anastasija (University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philosophy, Department of Archaeology)

**Abstract format:** Poster

The site of Jerinin grad – Brangović is located in the eastern part of today's Serbia, and is dated between the middle of the 3rd century AD and the 8th century AD. This Byzantine fortification was located near an important ancient road that allowed the communication of various areas with significant ore deposits, and its size and position indicate its importance. Thus, it represents a valid case-study for questioning potential changes in the economy between the Late Roman and the Early Medieval periods. Many years of research have produced a large number of finds, including faunal remains, which were analysed in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2016 by the high-school participants of the Archaeology Program in Petnica SC, while being guided by trained archaeozoology professionals. This paper aims to provide an insight into whether the mode of animal exploitation of the site in question changed between the 3rd – 4th, and the 5th – 6th centuries. This will be accomplished by looking at species ratios from both phases, as well as creating mortality profiles for the four main domesticates, by using mandible and maxillary teeth eruption and wear, as well as the epiphyseal fusion of the long bones.

## b. ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND AGRICULTURE IN THE ROMAN-BYZANTINE SETTLEMENT OF IBIDA (SOUTH-EAST ROMANIA)

**Abstract author(s):** Cabat, Alexandra (Faculty of Biology, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi) - Danu, Mihaela (Faculty of Biology, Research Department, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi) - Stanc, Simina (Faculty of Biology, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi) - Bejenaru, Luminita (Faculty of Biology, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi; Romanian Academy – Iasi Branch, “Olga Necrasov” Center of Anthropological Research)

**Abstract format:** Poster

The Roman-Byzantine settlement of Ibida, with an area of 24 ha, is located in Slava Rusă, Tulcea County. Our study focuses on a site researched in 2014, named “Andrusca property”.

Ibida settlement has preserved archaeozoological and archaeobotanical remains (phytoliths) that allowed an evaluation of the human-environmental interactions during that period. Bringing together bioarchaeological data, this study contributes to understand the subsistence economy during a period of socio-political changes in this region. The stratigraphical sequences and the preliminary observations made on the archaeological materials indicate a relative chronology beginning with the 2nd-3rd centuries AD and lasting until the 6th century AD.

The inhabitants of Ibida relied on a subsistence economy mainly based on plant cultivation, animal husbandry, hunting and fishing.

The archaeozoological sample contains 956 remains belonging to fishes and mammals. Seven domestic mammal species were identified: cattle, sheep, goat, pig, horse, donkey and dog. The list of wild mammals includes red deer, wild boar, roe deer, hare, aurochs and fox.

The phytolith analysis highlights the clear domination of grasses (Poaceae) and indicates the presence of cereals within the fortress. In the surroundings of the fortress it appears to have existed an open environment. Although modest, the percentage of the SPHEROID phytoliths suggests the presence of woody dicots, indicating the fact that wooded surfaces existed near the fortress. The archaeozoological data confirm the fact that the fortress was placed in an open environment, where people bred especially cattle and sheep/goat flocks, and they hunted species such as hare; also, the forest existed nearby, as it indicated by the remains of red deer and wild boar. We identified also wild species living between forest and open field (roe deer, aurochs).

## c. ANIMAL FOOD RESOURCES IN THE LATE ROMAN SETTLEMENT OF SACIDAVA (CONSTANȚA COUNTY, ROMANIA)

**Abstract author(s):** Stanc, Simina Margareta (Faculty of Biology, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi) - Mototolea, Constantin - Potârniche, Tiberiu (Museum of National History and Archaeology Constanța)

**Abstract format:** Poster

The fortress of Sacidava is located 5 km to the North-East of the village of Dunăreni, on the Danube bank (Constanța County, Romania). Sacidava is part of the military complex (limes), built along the Danube, starting from the first century AD, developed and maintained until the end of Antiquity (7th century AD).

The archaeological research carried out until 1979 revealed the existence of two gate towers (on the east and west sides). In 2014 a section S1 was researched and in 2019 the research continued by opening section S2, arranged parallel to S1, oriented in the North-South direction. During the archaeological research, nine complexes were identified: two late Roman dwellings, a pit used to produce concrete, a road segment which corresponds to the access axis from the East and part of the perimeter walls of a large building. All identified complexes are dated to the 6th century AD. This detail is confirmed by the discovery of two coins dating during the time of Justin II, recovered in the archaeological layer, as well as ceramic fragments.

During the archaeological research carried out in 2019, faunal remains were recovered. Archaeozoological quantification aimed at evaluating the relative frequencies of identified species in order to estimate the animal resources and subsistence practices (an-