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THE ANIMAL BONES FROM A FURTHER GROUP OF EARLY BRONZE AGE PITS AT OSTIANO, S. SALVATORE (Cremona)

SUMMARY - The faunal remains from a group of pits excavated at Ostiano, S. Salvatore (Cremona - Northern Italy) are represented by bones of cattle, sheep/goat, pig and hare. Together with the archaeobotanical and archaeological data, they reveal a well balanced, mixed subsistence strategy, combining cereal agriculture and stock raising, adapted to the geographical and environmental location of this Early Bronze Age settlement.

RIASSUNTO - I resti faunistici di un altro gruppo di pozzetti del sito del Bronzo antico di Ostiano, S. Salvatore (Cremona). I reperti faunistici di Ostiano, S. Salvatore sono rappresentati da resti di bovini, capra/pecora, maiale e lepre. Unitamente ai reperti archeobotanici ed archeologici, questi documentano una strategia di sussistenza ben bilanciata fra allevamento ed agricoltura che concorda con la localizzazione geografico-ambientale del sito dell'età del Bronzo antica.

A sample of 522 fragments of animal bone has been studied from a further group of Early Bronze Age pits at Ostiano, S. Salvatore. This material complements and adds to the material from this same site which has been published already (CLARK 1980, 1982). Bones from the following pits were studied: 8, 12, 20, 27, 31, 35, 37, 39, 41, 57, 58, 59, 61, 62, 64, 65, 70, 72, 74, 75, 78, 81, 83, 87, 91, 92, 101, 103, 104, 113. The amount of material found in each pit varied considerably from single fragments in, for example, pits 31, 37 and 91 to 83 fragments in pit 72 and 131 in pit 103. Given the small overall size of the sample it is unrealistic to consider at all stages of analysis the material from each pit separately. Therefore, the data will in most instances be considered as a single unit: however, a catalogue at the end of this report does list the material studied from each individual pit and, in some cases, from particular levels of the pit. The bones were very fragmented although reasonably well preserved: it was possible to identify 34.1% of the fragments to species and 41.2% to bone.

The composition of the sample is shown in table I. It was impossible to identify 267 fragments and a further 39 fragments could only be said to be of the shafts of the long bones of small (sheep/goat-pig size) and large (cattle size) animals. One fragment which displays a pathological condition may be identifiable to bone and species at a later date. Few vertebra fragments were found although rib fragments are not infrequent. Bones of four species were identified: cattle, sheep/goat, pig and hare. Hare is represented by perhaps two fragments in total, a right distal tibia fragment, the distal end of which is unfused, and possibly a rib fragment. Cattle are the most common animal, both in terms of the number of fragments and the minimum number of individuals: this predominance is even more marked if the potential meat weight represented is considered. Sheep/goats appear to have been slightly

Tab. I - Ostiano, S. Salvatore faunal sample: number of fragments and minimum number of individuals.

	Number of fragments	Minimum number Minimum distinction	of individuals Maximum distinction
Cattle	90	4	21
Sheep/goat	48	4	17
Pig	39	4	15
Hare	1	1	1
TOTAL	178	13	54
Rib: hare size	1		
sheep/goat - pig size	23		
cattle size	6	Percentage ic to species	lentifiable 34.1
Vertebra: sheep/goat - pig size, lumbar	4	-	
indeterminat	e 1	Percentage ic to bone	lentifiable 41.2
cattle size, thoracic	1		
indeterminate Unidentifiable: shaft fragments of sheep/goa	l ut		
- pig size animal shaft fragments of cattle	24		
size animal	15		
intederminate	267		
To be identified	1		
TOTAL	522		

Tab. II - Anatomical elements present in the sample.

	Cattle	Sheep/goat	Pig
horncore	1	1	· _
cranium	7	4	2
maxilla	1	_	1
tooth-upper	7	12	5
tooth	9		2
tooth-lower	8	8	11
mandible	4	3	7
atlas			1
scapula	5	3	1
humerus	15	3	2
radius	5	2	1
ulna	3	1	
carpal	2	_	
metacarpal	3	1	1
pelvis	5	1	1
femur	2	·	1
tibia		5	
fibula			3
astragalus	3		
calcaneum	1		_
metatarsal	1	2	
metapodial	4	1	
proximal phalanx	3	1	
distal phalanx	1		
TOTAL	90	48	39

more numerous than pigs. The dominance of domestic animals should be obvious from table I.

The frequency of fragments of the different bones is illustrated in table II.

Tab. III - Mortality data.

Key: Fusion: P proximal; D distal; NF not fused; F fused

Dentition: D deciduous molar; M molar; P premolar.

The data are arranged so that the bones at the top of each sequence fuse/erupt first, the bones at the bottom of the sequence, last. The sequences are based on the following works: cattle - SILVER, 1969; sheep/goat - BULLOCK and RACKHAM, 1982; pig - BULL and PAYNE, 1982. Assessments of the tooth wear are based upon GRANT, 1982.

	FUSION				DENTITION		
		NF	F		Absent	Present	Tooth wear
CATTLE							
scapula	D		2	D4		1	
humerus	D		1	M1		6	gkk
radius	Р		3	M2		4	
proximal phalanx	Р		2	P3		3	
metacarpal	D		2	M3		2	k
metapodial	D	2	2	P4	1		
radius	D		1				
humerus	Р	1					
ulna	Р		1				
SHEEP/GOAT							
scapula	D	1		M1		4	egh
tibia	Ď	î	1	M2		6	i
metapodial	Ď	î	_	P4		1	g
	-	-		M3		3	cgg
PIG							
radius	Р		1	M1		3	b
metacarpal	D	1	_	M2	2	3	с
fibula	D	2		P4-2		2	ae
				M3	2	2	с

For cattle a wide range of elements is present whilst for sheep/goats and pigs the sample is dominated by cranial and dental elements. This latter phenomenon may be due primarily to the fragmentary nature of the sample for tooth fragments may, even when shattered, be fairly easily identifiable to species whereas small limb bone fragments are not. Bones of the limb extremities are rare for sheep/goats and totally lacking for pigs.

Mortality data for cattle, sheep/goats and pigs are given in table III. Whilst some cattle died before reaching 2.25-3 years of age (P4 absent, metapodial distal unfused), it is clear that animals did survive often beyond this. At least one old animal is indicated by tooth wear stage 'k' on a lower third molar. One sheep/goat died soon after birth although most survived beyond 36 months (third molar eruption point). Whilst one animal died soon after this (wear stage 'c'), another survived well beyond this (wear stage 'g'). The majority of the pigs had died whilst young: although at least one animal survived beyond 19-23 months (M3 eruption point), it had been killed soon after this, given wear stage 'c'. At least one pig died before reaching 7-11 + months (M2 eruption point).

The presence of both sheep and goats is attested in this sample. In pit 65 there were a cranium plus horncore fragment and a pelvis fragment of a goat whilst in pit 113 there was a proximal phalanx fragment of a sheep. All of the five canine fragments of pigs are of male animals. A cattle radius fragment, from pit 103, had been cut, slices having been removed from the dorsal and medial surfaces around the distal fusion point. Burnt fragments were noted in various pits: pit 12 - 1 (6.7%); pit 20 - 25 (46.3%); pit 31 - 1 (100%); pit 35 - 1 (5.3%); pit 72 - 47 (56.6%);

pit 91 - 1 (100%); and pit 113 - 2 (66.7%). Measurements taken of the bones, according to the criteria presented by von den DRIESCH (1976), are given in the catalogue which is at the end of this report.

DISCUSSION

As was stated above, the material discussed here is only part of the sample from Early Bronze Age contexts at Ostiano, S. Salvatore: material from area 2 and another group of pits has already been discussed in detail (CLARK 1980, 1982). The data presented here must now be interpreted in the light of this earlier information. An initial point to note is the absence of the bones of red deer and roe deer. No satisfactory explanation can be put forward for this, given that sample size cannot alone be the critical factor (for both species were noted in the smaller sample (total sample of 230 fragments) from the other group of pits). Hare bones had not been noted previously for this site. The ranked order of cattle, sheep/goats and pigs is similar in area 2 and the second group of pits although this differs from the first group of pits for in the latter sheep/goats are dominant. In all cases pigs seem to have been least numerous. The range and frequency of anatomical elements is remarkably similar in all three areas of the site. The mortality data from this third sample confirm the impression gained from area 2: that is, whilst some animals died whilst young, others reached full maturity. However, there is now evidence for one old animal, evidence which was previously lacking. Similarly for sheep/goats the picture of a few deaths of young animals but of most animals reaching adulthood is contributed to by all samples. For pigs a somewhat different impression, albeit based on a small amount of data, is obtained. Previously it had seemed that pigs had died at a very wide range of ages whereas from the material from this further group of pits a concentration of deaths within the first two years of life was noted.

The metric data now available indicate that cattle at Ostiano, S. Salvatore may on average have been larger than thought previously. Few comparisons are possible for the sheep/goat data, although, on the basis of the lower third molar measurements, it may be suggested tentatively that the animals were slightly larger than had been noted previously. It is impossible to assess further the size of the pigs. The presence of goats as well as sheep is now confirmed by the material presented here.

CONCLUSION

The overall impression of the stock economy at Ostiano, S. Salvatore remains to be of a generalised strategy with a range of animals being raised for various products. However, the picture has been refined and slightly modified by this new group of material. Firstly, the role of wild animals in the provision of food seems to be reduced. As a result, the sample in this respect becomes more similar to Monte Covolo (phase 4) (BARKER 1977-79), but more dissimilar to Barche di Solferino (RIEDEL 1976, 1977). Secondly, the pig raising regime appears to have been more intensive at Ostiano, S. Salvatore than was apparent before, this comparing closely with the situation observed by Riedel at Barche di Solferino (RIEDEL 1976, 1977). Thirdly, the use of cattle for traction might be suggested by the presence of an old individual: however, its long life may result from other factors such as its being a prized breeding animal. Fourthly, it is now certain that both goats and sheep were exploited. In brief, as I concluded previously (CLARK 1982: 201), the faunal remains from Ostiano, S. Salvatore, together with the archaeobotanical and archaeological data, reveal a well balanced, mixed subsistence strategy combining cereal agriculture and stock raising (the latter itself mixed and well balanced), adapted to the geographical and environmental location of the settlement.

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APPENDIX

CATALOGUE OF ANIMAL BONES

Context	B	one
8	1 2 1	long bone shaft fragment of a small (sheep/goat - pig size) animal unidentifiable fragments pig tooth fragment, very worn
12A	2 3 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	long bone shaft fragments of a small animal unidentifiable fragments unidentifiable fragment, burnt sheep/goat tibia, distal end unfused, distal unfused surface plus c. third shaft, lateral split sheep/goat tibia, shaft fragment cattle horncore fragment cattle lower incisor, left pig upper third molar, left, second and third columns only pig scapula, left, distal blade fragment pig metacarpal IV, proximal end fused, distal end unfused, left, not well formed = neonatal
20	18 19 1 1 1 2 1	unidentifiable fragments unidentifiable fragments, burnt small rib large vertebra, barrel fragment large thoracic vertebra, base of spine fragment cattle molar fragments pig lower second premolar fragment
20A	3	unidentifiable fragments, burnt
20M	3 2	unidentifiable fragments, burnt long bone shaft fragments of a small animal
20M	2 1	unidentifiable fragments pig lower canine, left, male
27M	1	unidentifiable fragment
31	1	unidentifiable fragment, burnt
35	1	unidentifiable fragment
35alto	10 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	unidentifiable fragments unidentifiable fragment, burnt long bone shaft fragment of a small animal long bone shaft fragment of a large (cattle size) animal rib of a small animal rib of a very small (hare - cat size) animal sheep/goat lower molar fragment sheep/goat radius, medial shaft split cattle scapula, left, distal end fused, caudal split, glenoid and neck cattle scapula, cranial blade fragment
35F	1 1	unidentifiable fragment cattle metapodial, distal end fused, one condyle and minimal shaft
37	1	long bone shaft fragment of a small animal
39 41	2 3 1	cattle cranium fragments, one basilar tubercle, other temporal unidentifiable fragments sheep/goat humerus, right, distal shaft fragment
57D	1 1 1	unidentifiable fragment cattle cranium, frontal fragment pig fibula, right, distal end unfused, distal unfused surface plus c. third of shaft

58A	12 1 1 1	unidentifiable fragments cattle lower first molar, left, wear stage 'g' cattle radius, left, proximal fused, volar/lateral split cattle ulna, left, central fragment, attached to radius
59A	1 3	cattle lower third premolar, right cattle molar fragments
61A	3 1 1	unidentifiable fragments cattle lower first molar, left, wear stage 'k' cattle astragalus, left, recently fragmented
62	10 1 1 1 1 1	unidentifiable fragments sheep/goat tibia, proximal shaft fragment cattle mandible, right, sockets for first and second molars cattle mandible, ramus fragment cattle upper first molar, left, buccal fragment cattle upper second molar, left
64A	1 1 1	unidentifiable fragment vertebra fragment of a small animal sheep/goat metatarsal, distal shaft fragment
65	2 1 1 1 1 1	unidentifiable fragments sheep/goat cranium fragment goat cranium plus horncore, left, base of horncore measurements - circumference 82.3 mm, greatest diameter 31.8 mm, least diameter 20.5 mm goat pelvis, right, part of ischium, peripheral acetabulum, ilium, part of ala, length of the acetabulum including the lip 25.7 mm, length of the acetabulum on the rim 22.0 mm. cattle upper second molar, left, second column cattle metatarsal, left, proximal end fused, proximal end plus c. third of shaft, recent breaks
70	1 1	unidentifiable fragment cattle tooth fragment
70A	3 3 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	unidentifiable fragments long bone shaft fragments of a small animal bone to be identified, including pathological condition sheep/goat upper second molar, left, fragment sheep/goat upper molar fragment cattle humerus, shaft fragment cattle ulna, proximal fused, olecranon fragment cattle ulna, olecranon fragment cattle ulna, olecranon fragment cattle pelvis, left, peripheral caudal acetabulum fragment cattle pelvis, left, peripheral caudal acetabulum fragment cattle pelvis, left, axial caudal acetabulum fragment cattle metapodial, distal end fused, 1 condyle plus minimal shaft cattle proximal phalanx, left, anterior, proximal and distal ends fused, greatest length of the peripheral half 57.2 mm, greatest breadth of the proximal end 32.0 mm, smallest breadth of the diaphysis 25.8 mm, greatest breadth of the distal end 30.5 mm pig lower canine, right, male pig lower incisor, left pig lower incisor, right
70B	1 1 1 1	unidentifiable fragment sheep/goat lower fourth premolar, left, wear stage 'g' cattle upper first molar, left cattle molar fragment cattle metacarpal, left, distal end fused, distal end plus c. half shaft, breadth at the distal fusion point 57.0 mm, breadth across the condyles 62.2 mm, depth at the distal fusion point 25.9 mm.
70C	1 1 1 1	small rib sheep/goat lower first molar, right, wear stage 'e' cattle calcaneum, left, central fragment cattle radius, left, proximal shaft
70D	1 2	unidentifiable fragment cattle scapula, blade fragments

- cattle scapula, right, distal fused, glenoid and neck, greatest length of the glenoid process 68.5 mm, length of the glenoid cavity 56.2 mm, breadth of the glenoid cavity 49.2 mm, smallest length of the neck of the scapula 51.8 mm.
 cattle radius, left, proximal fused, medial/dorsal split, proximal end plus minimal shaft
- 70E 1 cattle astragalus, right, fragment 1 pig lower incisor, right
- 72 8 unidentifiable fragments, burnt 1 large rib, burnt
 - 1 long bone shaft fragment of a small animal
- 72 17 unidentifiable fragments
 - 34 unidentifiable fragments, burnt
 - 1 long bone shaft fragment of a small animal
 - 7 rib fragments of a small animal
 - 3 rib fragments of a large animal
 - 1 rib fragment of a large animal, burnt
 - 1 sheep/goat scapula, right, blade fragment, neonatal
 - 1 sheep/goat humerus, shaft split fragment
 - 1 sheep/goat ulna, right, proximal part missing, neonatal
 - 1 sheep/goat tibia, right, almost all shaft, neonatal
 - 1 cattle lower third premolar, left
 - 1 cattle humerus, shaft split, burnt
 - 1 cattle carpal (capitato-trapezoid), left
 - 1 cattle pelvis, right, cranial acetabulum plus fragment of ilium, burnt
 - 1 pig upper premolar, fragment
 - 1 cattle distal phalanx, right, fragment, burnt
- 74C 1 cattle upper first molar, right
 1 cattle astragalus, right, recent break on lateral proximal edge, greatest length of the medial half 54.9 mm, greatest breadth of the medial half 30.8 mm, greatest breadth of the distal end 39.2 mm.
 - 1 pig humerus, right, distal shaft
- 75 3 unidentifiable fragments
- 78 1 unidentifiable fragment
 - 1 cattle maxilla, right, deciduous fourth molar
 - 1 cattle humerus, proximal end unfused, ball epiphysis fragment
 - 1 cattle metacarpal, left, proximal end fused, recent breaks
 - cattle metacarpal, left, distal end fused, recent breaks, breadth at the distal fusion point 53.1 mm, breadth across the condyles 62.7 mm, depth at the distal fusion point 27.9 mm
 cattle proximal phalanx, left, distal end fused, distal end plus c. half shaft, greatest breadth of the distal end 24.3 mm.
 - 1 pig mandible, left, first molar wear stage 'b', fourth deciduous molar
 - 1 pig pelvis, fragment
- 81 5 unidentifiable fragments
- 83 1 pig mandible, right, first incisor, socket for second incisor, third incisor erupting, canine (male) erupting, first premolar, second premolar visible in crypt, third premolar, fourth premolar wear stage 'a'
- 83A 3 long bone fragments of a small animal
 - 1 rib fragment of a small animal
 - 1 cattle femur, distal lateral shaft split
 - 1 pig maxilla, left, upper first molar, socket for unerupted second molar
 - 1 pig humerus, left, almost all shaft
 - 1 pig femur, shaft fragment
- 83B 3 unidentifiable fragments
 5 long bone fragments of a small animal
 1 lumbar vertebra fragment of a small animal
 1 cattle pelvis, right, cranial peripheral acetabulum plus part of ilium
 1 cattle pelvis, ischium fragment
 1 pig cranium, right, temporal fragment
 1 hare tibia, right, distal end unfused, distal end plus almost all shaft
- 87 3 unidentifiable fragments2 long bone shaft fragments of a large animal

1 sheep/goat upper first molar, left 1 cattle upper second premolar, left 1 pig mandible, left, third molar wear stage 'c', second molar wear stage 'd' 1 pig mandible, left, fourth premolar wear stage 'e', third premolar, socket for second premolar 1 pig mandible, angle fragment 91 1 unidentifiable fragment, burnt 92B 1 rib fragment of a small animal 2 sheep/goat cranium fragments 1 sheep/goat mandible, right, third molar wear stage 'g', length of the biting surface 20.9 mm, breadth of the biting surface 8.3 mm 1 sheep/goat lower second molar, right, wear stage 'i' 1 pig fibula, shaft fragment 101 1 pig mandible, right, third molar erupting, second molar wear stage 'c' 101 20 unidentifiable fragments 6 long bone shaft fragments of a small animal 2 rib fragments of a small animal 1 sheep/goat lower first molar, left, wear stage 'h' 1 sheep/goat lower third molar, right, wear stage 'g', length of the biting surface 19.5 mm, breadth of the biting surface 7.3 mm 4 sheep/goat upper molar fragments 1 sheep/goat radius, shaft fragment 1 sheep/goat tibia, right, distal end fused, distal end plus small amount of shaft, rubbed articular surface, greatest breadth of the distal end 26.5 mm, greatest depth of the distal end 20.3 mm 1 sheep/goat metatarsal, right, proximal end fused, lateral/plantar split, proximal end plus small amount of shaft 1 sheep/goat metapodial, distal end unfused, single condyle 1 cattle mandible, right, condyle and coronoid process 2 cattle metapodial, distal end unfused, single condyle 1 cattle proximal phalanx, right, proximal and distal ends fused, anterior, recent breaks, greatest length of the peripheral half 57.8 mm, greatest breadth of the proximal end 32.5 mm. 1 pig mandible, left, condyle, angle, third molar not erupted 1 pig lower incisor, right 1 pig lower incisor, left 1 pig upper second molar, left, not erupted 1 pig atlas fragment 103 8 unidentifiable fragments 6 long bone shaft fragments of a large animal 1 pig lower molar fragment 1 pig upper second molar, left 9 unidentifiable fragments 103 2 long bone shaft fragments of a large animal 1 cattle humerus, right, distal end fused, distal end plus c. two thirds of shaft, greatest breadth of the distal end 74.4 mm greatest breadth of the trochlea 68.2 mm, height of the trochlea 40.4 mm. 3 cattle humerus, left, shaft split fragments 103 4 unidentifiable fragments 1 cattle radius, proximal fused, medial split, proximal end plus c. sixth of shaft 1 pig lower canine, right, male 103 11 unidentifiable fragments 4 long bone shaft fragments of a large animal 4 rib fragments of a small animal 1 rib fragment of a large animal 1 fragment of a lumbar vertebra of a small animal 1 lumbar vertebra of a small animal, barrel epiphyses unfused 1 epiphysis of a barrel of a lumbar vertebra, joins with above 1 sheep/goat lower second molar, left, first column 1 sheep/goat upper second molar, left. 2 sheep/goat scapula fragments, distal axial split of blade 2 cattle humerus shaft fragments, left

- 4 cattle humerus shaft fragments
- 1 pig lower canine, right, male
- 1 pig radius, right, proximal end fused, proximal end plus c. quarter of shaft, greatest breadth of the proximal end 23.5 mm, greatest depth of the proximal end 15.9 mm. 1 pig fibula, left, distal end unfused, distal surface plus minimal shaft

103 35 unidentifiable fragments

- 1 sheep/goat lower second molar, left, wear stage 'g'
- 1 sheep/goat mandible, left, socket for second molar, socket for first molar
- 1 sheep/goat mandible, right, third molar wear stage 'c', second molar wear stage 'g'
- 1 sheep/goat upper second molar, right
- 1 sheep/goat metacarpal, shaft fragment
- 1 cattle mandible, ramus fragment
- 1 cattle lower first molar, left, wear stage 'k'
- 1 cattle lower third molar, left, wear stage 'k', length of the biting surface 34.5 mm, breadth of the biting surface 12.8 mm
- 1 cattle lower third molar, right, fragment
- 1 cattle tooth fragment
- 4 cattle cranium fragments
- 1 cattle humerus, left, distal medial cranial fragment 1 cattle humerus, shaft split fragment
- 1 cattle radius, left, distal fused, medial split, burnt, cut c. distal fusion point on the dorsal and medial surfaces, i.e. slices removed from the surface
- 1 cattle femur, left, distal shaft fragment
- 1 pig cranium, left, frontal fragment
- 1 pig upper first molar, left
- 1 pig upper second molar, left
- 1 pig molar, fragment
- 1 pig distal phalanx, left, diagonal length of the sole 22.8 mm, length of the dorsal surface 20.7 mm, middle breadth of the sole 8.5 mm.
- 104 3 long bone shaft fragments of a small animal 3 sheep/goat upper molar fragments
- 113A 1 unidentifiable fragment, burnt 1 sheep proximal phalanx, distal end fused, split, burnt 1 cattle molar fragment