Emmanuelle Vila

Animal Bone Deposits under Sidon's Minoan Cup

25

About a hundred and eighty small fragments of bones were found under the Minoan cup. Some of the fragments are splinters of long bones (of limbs), some come from the axial skeleton: ribs and vertebrae. The fragments that have been positively determined are all the remains of sheep, except for one cervical vertebra (axis) which could be from a goat. A large number of splinters could not be positively determined as to species or even anatomically. At least three individuals are represented in this assemblage: one goat (axis) and two sheep (two axes). The bones come from sub-adult animals between one and three years old. No butchering marks or cutmarks were visible on the surface of the bones. This assemblage may represent a deposit. Elements of skulls and of the extremeties of limbs (phalanges of feet) are absent. The parts that bear meat appear to have been selected (limbs, axial skeleton).

Inventory of the Skeletal Remains

Axial Skeleton (sheep or goat)

1 atlas

2 axes: sheep

1 axis: goat?

4 centra of cervical vertebrae

2 centra of thoracic vertebrae

1 lumbar vertebra

1 fragment of a sacrum

± 40 fragments of vertebrae

 \pm 75 fragments of ribs

Limbs (sheep or goat)

2 fragments of scapulae, right and left: sheep

1 proximal fragment of a left ulna, epiphysis unfused

1 carpal bone, left triquetrum: sheep

1 fragment of left half of a pelvis: ewe

1 diaphysis of a left femur, epiphyses unfused

1 patella

1 distal end of a left tibia, epiphysis fused: sheep

1 distal part of the diaphysis of a left tibia

2 unfused proximal ends of tibia, 1 right and one left

1 fused end of a right metatarsal: sheep

 \pm 40 splinters of long bones