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# Zooarchaeological record of the last hunter-gatherers of the steppe region of Eastern Europe

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## Résumé

The steppe region of Eastern Europe during the Pleistocene refers to the southern area of the Eastern European Plain where the grass flora was more ubiquitous than the tundra flora and marked by a rare presence of large megafauna (i.e. mammoths and rhinoceroses). Here, we summarize the recent zooarchaeological record from the southern steppe region of Eastern Europe from the Epigravettian period (20,000-~10,000BP). We will also present an application of complementary analytical approaches to the study of animal remains with the aim to reconstruct the duration of the accumulation and seasonality of the site occupations. The archaeological sites reveal the presence of several open air sites with abundant faunal remains, calling into question the settlement system and mobility patterns of hunter-gatherers. Ultimately, an overview of the large regional or pan regional patterns will help us connect the isolated sites and contribute to the general knowledge concerning the last phases in the evolution of the Eurasian hunter-gatherers.

**Mots-Clés:** Epigravettian, subsistence practices, zooarchaeology, steppe, stable isotope, usewear

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