
Human skeletal remains from the Eneolithic of Spinosa Cave (GR- Tuscany) Italy.

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Résumé

The Spinosa Cave is near the city of Massa Marittima in Central Italy (Tuscany). Systematic excavations at the site were carried out from 2001 to 2003 by the Soprintendenza Archeologia della Toscana, under the direction of Biancamaria Aranguren and the anthropological supervision of Elsa Pacciani. The osteological, archaeological and paleontological data consistently suggest two different moments of occupation of the site, during the Neolithic and the Eneolithic respectively. The human skeletal remains were found in secondary depositions. In this work we show that the data coming from Stratigraphic Unit 4, 5 and 8 (US4, US5 and US8) belong entirely to the Eneolithic. Our aim is the analysis of bio-anthropological data on the sample, MNI, sex, age at death and pathological conditions. Despite that the skeletal remains are in a very poor state of preservation, we have observed multiple traumatic fractures. With reference to the US4-5, we have calculated the percentages of fractures to evaluate the state of preservation. Of great interest appears the hypothesis of accumulation, given the numerous presence of old fractures. The final aim of the project will be to assess and publish the total accumulation of humans that are present in the site, together with their demographic composition and the interpretation of rituals that allowed this particular context. Furthermore, the site find comparisons with others important prehistoric area such as Riparo Cavallino (Brescia, Lombardy),(Barfield et al. 1995).

Mots-Clés: Anthropologic, Eneolithic, Burials, Excavation, Human remains

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