

ANIMAL MANAGEMENT IN THE MEDIEVAL BANAT: FAUNAL REMAINS FROM THE SETTLEMENT AT THE PANČEVO – LIVADE SITE (SERBIA)

Teodora MLADENVIĆ

Laboratory for Bioarchaeology, Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, Serbia, e-mail: teodoramladenovic@hotmail.com

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Abstract: This paper presents the results of the faunal remains analysis from the medieval settlement of the Pančevo – Livade site, discontinuously occupied between the 8th and the 13th centuries. The animal remains represent food leftovers as indicated by the butchering marks and mortality profiles. Apart from mammalian remains, which are the most numerous, bird, micromammal, and mollusc remains are also present. Animal husbandry was of great significance to the economy, although not highly developed – domestic animal breeds were small and primitive. During the earlier phase of the settlement (8–9th centuries), domestic pig was the main source of meat, with cattle, sheep, goats, and horses herded as well. During the later phase of the settlement (10th–11th centuries), cattle were the most important among the domestic species. Pig continued to be the main source of meat, while the secondary products of cattle, sheep, and goats gained greater significance. Hunting played a somewhat more significant role in the economy of the later phase, as indicated by a greater number of hunted wild species – boar, red deer, and mallard.

Cuvinte-cheie: resturi faunistice, așezare medievală, Banat, economie, creșterea vitelor, vânătoare

Rezumat: Studiul de față prezintă rezultatele analizei arheozoologice asupra materialului faunistic din situl arheologic de la Pančevo – Livade, care prezintă o locuire discontinuă între secolele VIII–XIII. Resturile faunistice sunt reprezentate de deșeuri alimentare așa cum indică urmele de descârnare și profilurile de abataj. În afara resturilor de mamifere care sunt cele mai numeroase, sunt prezente de asemenea și oase de pasăre, micro-mamifere și scoici. Creșterea animalelor deține un loc important în economia nu foarte bine dezvoltată a comunității, speciile identificate având statură mică și caracteristici primitive. Pe durata locuirii mai timpurii a sitului (secolele VIII–IX), principala sursă de carne a constituit-o porcul domestic, dar sunt prezente și vitele și ovicaprinele. În timpul locuirii mai târzii (secolele X–XI), vitele devin specia cea mai importantă. Porcul continuă să fie principala sursă de carne, iar produsele secundare obținute de pe urma vitelor și ovicaprinelor cresc în importanță. Rolul vânătorii crește relativ în ponderea economică a acestei faze târzii, așa cum este indicat de numărul mai mare de specii sălbatice – porc mistreț, cerb și rață sălbatică.

INTRODUCTION¹

This paper presents the results of the archaeozoological analysis of the faunal material from the Medieval settlement at the Pančevo – Livade site. The degree of the archaeozoological research of Medieval settlements in the Serbian Banat is extremely low. Namely, the published results include those of archaeological sites Kopovo – *Sanad* (9th century) and Dobrica – *Velike njive* (9th–10th centuries), but archaeozoological data are modest and they consist of the lists of represented animal taxa in faunal samples². In the case of Jaruga – *Uljma* site (11th–13th centuries) there is more information about diet, animal husbandry, and hunting³. On the other hand, archaeozoological data for the sites Gornea – *Căunița de Sus* (8th century), Gornea –

Zomonite (8th–10th centuries), Gornea – *Țărmuri* (11th–13th centuries), Ilidia (11th–13th centuries), Moldova Veche – *Rât* (11th–13th centuries), Parța (11th–12th centuries), and Berzovia – *Pătruieni* (14th century) in Romanian Banat provide more information about characteristics of the faunal samples⁴. In archaeological literature, there are many irrelevant conclusions about animal husbandry, hunting, and fishing, made without prior animal bone analysis and interpretation of the results by archaeozoologists. Therefore, one of the goals of this research is to get an insight into the strategy of animal exploitation in the territory of Medieval Banat, but also a reconstruction of the diet and animal exploitation by the inhabitants of the settlement at the Pančevo – Livade site during this period.

¹ This paper presents a summary and a corrected version of the master thesis *Importance of animals in the economy of the 7 – 13th centuries settlement at the Pančevo – Livade site (southern Banat)*, defended on September 29, 2015, at the Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade.

² Blažić 2000.

³ Mladenović, Mladenović (in press).

⁴ El Susi 1996, p. 91–104.