

ANTHROPOLOGICAL REMAINS FROM A MIDDLE BRONZE AGE II SITE WEST OF TELL QASILE

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Human skeletal remains were found in graves dated to MB IIB, west of Tell Qasile (see Kletter, this volume). Following the collection of basic anthropological data in the field, the bones were sent for reburial by official representatives of the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

The bones were fragmentary, in a poor state of preservation. For most of the individuals, sex estimation was not possible. However, in Tomb 800 sex could be estimated by measurement of the femoral head diameter (Bass 1987). Age

estimation in the adults was based mostly upon tooth attrition stages (Hillson 1993); in children and sub-adults it was based upon tooth eruption and development stages (Hillson 1993), long bone lengths (Bass 1987) and epiphyseal closure stages (Johnston and Zimmer 1989).

DESCRIPTION OF THE REMAINS

The human remains at Tell Qasile represent at least 26 individuals (Table 1). The skeletal

Table 1. Results of the Anthropological Analysis

Locus/ Tomb	No. of Individuals	Sex	Age (years)	Remarks
101	1	-	5–10	
102	1	-	0–1.5	
103	1	?	15<	Adult
114	1	?	15<	Adult
115	1	?	15<	Adult
203	1	?	15<	Adult
205	1	-	5–6	
207	2	-	2–3	
		?	15<	
209	1	-	9–10	Primary burial, stature estimation 150 cm
209a	1	-	5–7	
212	1	-	6–10	
510	3	?	15–20	Lower individual
		?	15<	Upper individual
		?	30<	Upper individual
606	1	?	40<	Primary Burial
701	1	?	15–20	
704	2	?	60<	Primary burial
		Female	30–50	Scattered bones
800	7	3 males, 1 female	2 individuals aged 18–20, 5 individuals aged 15<	Scattered bones

Table 2. Age and Sex Distribution of the Skeletal Population

Total Number	M	F	0–5	5–10	10–18	18–25	25–40	40<	Adults, unknown age
26	3	2	2	5	1	3	1	3	11

sample included infants, children, sub-adults and adults of both sexes, indicating a normal civilian population. The burial posture of most of the individuals could not be determined. However, several show clear indication of primary burial. Two cases of infant burial in

a vessel were noticed. Most graves contained only one individual, but several graves included more than one individual: children, adults, or both. A summary of the age and sex distribution is presented in Table 2.

REFERENCES

- Bass W.M. 1987. *Human Osteology*. Columbia.
 Hillson S. 1993. *Teeth*. Cambridge. Pp. 176–201.
 Johnston F.E. and Zimmer L.O. 1989. Assessment of Growth and Age in the Immature Skeleton. In M.Y. Iscan and A.R. Kenneth eds. *Reconstruction of Life from the Skeleton*. New York. Pp. 11–22.