

ARCHAEOZOOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY IN MEDIEVAL MOLDAVIA

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Le présent article tente de synthétiser des données fauniques de 23 contextes archéologiques (21 établissements) sur le territoire de la Moldavie Médiévale. Cette approche met en évidence l'importance de l'élevage dans l'économie médiévale régionale, et les espèces d'animaux domestiques identifiées. L'étude traite en particulier la représentation et la morphométrie des trois groupes de base: bovins, ovins-caprins, porcins, et montre certaines caractéristiques zonales du cheptel médiéval.

Key words: Archaeozoology, Medieval Moldavia, Animal Husbandry.

1. INTRODUCTION

Studying the faunal remains recovered by archaeological excavations, the archaeozoology aims at identifying the animal species that were in contact with the ancient human communities and the relations established between the two (hunting, fishing, managing the livestock), at determining various elements related to the geographical environment, at estimating specific spreading areas, especially in reference to certain species that are no longer part of our fauna, or that are extinct (such as the aurochs, for instance). At the present stage of the international scientific investigations, the polyvalent recomposing of the way of life within the ancient societies in general, mediaeval in the case of our project, cannot do without the rather precise reference points provided by archaeozoology in respect of the economic life, of palaeoecology and palaeoethnology. The written testimony concerning the fauna of mediaeval Moldavia is rather deficient and ambiguous; therefore, we have estimated it particularly necessary to consider thoroughly the archaeozoological records and to work out a synthetic study starting from this topic.

2. GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL FRAMEWORK

Medieval Moldavia spread from the Carpathian Mountains to the river Dniester and was characterized by three relief levels: the Oriental Carpathians, the Moldavian