Basic Analysis of the Baraćeve Šplije Human Remains

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Road Map
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• Questions
• Methods
• Results
• Conclusions
Introduction

- Rakovica, Croatia.
- Akinji 15th and 16th centuries
- Local stories
- 2015 University of Wyoming field school
- Excavated 368 individual bones
- Multiple chambers
600m Long
The Dragons Throat

- Located approximately halfway into the cave.
- Single one-meter by one-meter unit
- More remains however were not collected
The Canal

- located deep within the caves.
- large assortment of human remains.
- surface scatter
Questions

- Basic information about the remains
- MNI
- Age
- Sex
- Also examined for any trauma blunt or sharp
- Why were the remains located in this area?
- Massacre?
- Burial ground?
Methods

- Dr. Rick Weathermon
- Accepted Bio-archaeological techniques:
  - Praneatpolgrang et al. 2014
  - Berrizbeitia, 1989
  - Purkait, 2001
  - Singh and Potturi, 1978
Definitions

- Siding
- Axial
- Cranial
- Spinal
- Sternum
- Unknown
- Degraded
- Fragmented
Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI)

- Base number of individuals

\[ \text{MNI} = 1 \]
Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI)

- Base number of individuals

MNI = 2
Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI)

- Base number of individuals

\[ \text{MNI} = 3 \]
Results

- **Dragons Throat MNI:**
  - 1 Adults (18-29y)
    - Ulna and Innominate
    - Various Vertebra and foot bones
  - 1 Young (2-11y)
    - Ulna, Humorous, and Ilium
  - Total MNI of 2

- **Canal MNI:**
  - 2 Adults (18-29y)
    - 1 Male
    - 1 Female
  - 1 Sub-Adult (12-17y)
  - 1 Young (2-11y)
  - Total MNI based on Ilium = 4
  - 1 Infant (0-12 months)
    - Vertebra and long bone
  - Total MNI of 5

Total cave MNI = 7
Total Sides of all Bone Fragments

- Axial: 149, 51%
- Left: 48, 17%
- Right: 49, 17%
- Unknown: 45, 15%
Conclusions

- Uncertainty and more questions.
- Two stories viable
  - the burial theory
    - Cuboid in unit S102,
  - Trauma
- Further excavation and analysis required.
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Sources

Images

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