

The skeletal remains from Babacan Village Early Iron Age (Muradiye, Van, Turkey)

Hakan Yılmaz¹

Abstract

Human skeletal remains were found from tomb dated to Early Iron Age in the Babacan Village in which is a town in the district of Muradiye (18km), Van province (105km), Turkey. Human bones were unearthed from tomb during an illegal excavation in the eastern province of Van's Muradiye Babacan Village district. The bones were examined for age, sex and also presence of pathological. Furthermore, skeletal measurements and indices were calculated. A minimum of five individuals was defined from tomb dated to Early Iron Age. Skeletal remains in Babacan Village are composed of at least five individuals, including adult of both sexes (four male, one female). The average age of five individuals were calculated as > 30 years. This age is similar to other Early Iron Age populations Van area. Assessing the paleopathological lesions were not observed on the skeletal remains Babacan Village burials. Moreover, another paleopathological observation was not found on the human bones, including trauma.

Keywords: anthropological assessment, human bones, early Iron Age

Introduction

Anthropological Analysis

Skeletal remains in a very few numbers of preservation were unearthed during an illegal excavation in the Babacan Village. The bones were found from tomb dated to Early Iron Age. The fragmentary nature of the remains did not allow for a comprehensive study of the skeletal population. The anthropological profile of the collection buried in this tomb was recreated and contains estimation of the minimum number of individuals (MNI) buried in the tomb. Age end sex was shown distribution (Table 1); metric morphological description of the long bones (Table 2) and a brief definition of pathologies.

The skeletal remains in the tomb stand for at least 5 individuals, the all of them identified as adult males and females. The average age at death of adult was calculated at 20 to 35 years. The estimation of age was based on phases of the spongiosa structure of the femur head and cranial suture closure (WEA, 1980). The sex estimations were based upon state of large, gracile and robust of the long bones and cranial morphology (Ubelaker 1989). Especially, maximum diameters of the

¹ Res.Asst. Dr., Yüzüncü Yıl University, Lieracy Faculty, Department of Anthropology, Van, hakanyilmaz@yyu.edu.tr

heads of the femur, humerus, and radius are quite indicators of sex in adults when there are not cranium and pelvis (Ubelaker 1989).

MNI	Sex	Age
Individula 1	Male	Adult (20–30)
Individula 2	Male	Adult (20–25)
Individula 3	Male	Adult (20–30)
Individula 4	Male	Adult >35
Individula 5	Female	Adult (20–30)

Table 1. Anthropological Data of the Skeletal Remains Babacan Village.

Table 2 presents the postcranial skeleton measurements. Measuring technique and standard terminology were basically taken by Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994). All measurements were taken with standard equipment. All indexes were calculated by Microsoft Excel program.

Femur (mm)	M.r.s. ²	F.r.s. ³	M.r.s.	M.r.s.	F.r.s.	M.l.s. ⁴	M.l.s.	M.l.s.
Neck transverse diameter	29,9	22,63					29,39	
Neck vertical diameter	35,11	26,89					36,89	
Medial-lateral subtrochanteric diameter	34,56	30,24	34,47	35,48	31,83	35,72	41,96	37,63
Anterior-posterior subtrochanteric diameter	23,88	17,43	24,9	24,44	23,44	25,63	28,91	28,16
Medial-lateral diameter at midshaft	29,90		28,08	28,94	26,95	29,83	34,37	31,38
Anterior-posterior diameter at midshaft	29,54		27,44	27,96	22,39	28,5	29,42	29,5
Plastric index	98,80		97,72	96,61	83,08	95,54	85,60	94,01
Platymeric index	69,10	57,64	72,24	68,88	73,64	71,75	68,90	74,83

² Male right side .

³ Female right side.

⁴ Male left side.

Table 2. Skeletal Measurements and Indices of the Babacan Village (Femur Measurements)

Tibia (mm)	F.l.s.	M.l.s.	M.l.s.	M.l.s.	M.r.s.
Shaft diameter at nutrient foramen (mediolateral)	18,37		21,41		21,5
Shaft diameter at nutrient foramen (anteroposterior)	28,74		31,43		35,76
Proximal epiphyseal breadth		73,05		74,50	
Platycnemic index	63,92		68,12		60,12

Table 2. Skeletal Measurements and Indices of the Babacan Village (Tibia Measurements).

Humerus	M.l.s.	M.r.s.	M.r.s.
Maximum midshaft diameter	21,22	23,15	21,03
Minimum midshaft diameter	17,92	19,33	16,89
Diaphyseal index	84,45	83,50	80,31

Table 2. Skeletal Measurements and Indices of the Babacan Village (Humerus Measurements).

Paleopathological Analysis

Evidence of a pathological lesion that affected the bones could not be traced in the all of bones.

Conclusions

Despite the very poor state of preservation of the skeletal remains from Babacan village, palaeodemographic analysis was made possible by sorting the long bone collected from this site according to their spongiosa structure of the femur head stages. The results show a minimum of 5 individuals buried in the tomb Early Iron Age.

References

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