

THE MEDIEVAL AND THE PRESENT CATHOLIC
POPULATION IN THE VILLAGE OF RĂCHITENI
(IAȘI COUNTY).
AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDY

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The paper discusses the anthropological structure and biological evolution, in time, of the medieval population of Răchiteni (Iași county), comparatively with the present-day population. Analysis of the main cephalo-facial and bodily sizes and proportions has evidenced a similar biomorphological and typological structure. Thus, the skull of the two series is not different, being, on the average, brachycrane and, respectively, brachycephal, hypsicrane-hypsiccephal, metriocrane-metriocephal, the forehead being eurymetopic and the occipital bone predominantly middle bulged. The face is generally mesenic, the nose is leptorrhine with the old populations and incipiently chamaerrhine with the present ones. Mention should be also made of other modifications that have appeared in time in the biological evolution of the Răchiteni population, expressed by a tendency of brachycephalisation and also by an increase in stature of the present population. Typologically, both populations are characterized by the same Dinaro-Mediterranean-Northern common fund in which the Mediterranean elements represent an irrefutable proof on the presence of the native population in this region, as well as of its continuity along the centuries.

INTRODUCTION

The study of some human osteological elements discovered in the medieval cemeteries of Răchiteni (XVIth–XVIIth centuries) and Gherăești (XVIth century), as well as of the present populations from the same places, provided valuable information on both their anthropological structure and biological evolution in the last 3–4 centuries. At the same time, the data obtained, corroborated by other information offered by archeology, history, linguistics, ethnography, etc., may contribute to the elucidation of the origin and evolution of the much discussed and under debate “Csango phenomenon” (Csango = Hungarians living in the Bacău region, Moldavia).