

SOME PRELIMINARY RESULTS
OF THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS
ON THE SOUTH-MOLDAVIA MEDIAEVAL ROMANIAN
VILLAGE (THE XVIth CENTURY MIDDLE-AGE NECROPOLIS
OF VÂNĂTORI-GALAȚI)

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The study provides some preliminary anthropological data concerning a series of skeletons discovered in the mediaeval (XVIth century) village of Vânători, Galați county. The series is formed of 53 skeletons, out of which 28 belong to 0-14 years old children. Such a high mortality in children, accompanied by a low frequency of deceased older than 60, concludes to a reduced longevity of this population. Thus, the average age of decease for the whole community of only 18.9 years and 34.9 years for the 2-x years old individuals. Typologically, the mediaeval community of Vânători stands as a Mediterranean-Dinaro-Alpine anthropological complex, within which the characters of the Mediterranean type play a significant part. The characters of this type are most frequently met mixed with other structural elements, exclusively Europoid, which leads to some half-breed forms, such as the Mediterranean-Dinaric, Mediterranean-Alpine or Northern-Mediterranean ones.

INTRODUCTION

The archaeological diggings made by Mircea Nicu – an archaeologist from the Tecuci Museum of History – in the village of Vânători, Galați county, revealed the existence of a necropolis belonging – in his opinion – to the XVIth century.

In a first stage of the archaeological investigations, some 70 graves were discovered, the human bony material being sent, for a thorough anthropological study, to the Iași Section of Anthropology. This makes actually the topic of the present work.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

In spite of careful operations, from the partially excavated osteological material, only 53 skeletons more or less complete could be recovered, in view of an individual and, subsequently, a populational study, permitting to evidence the bio-morphological