

ANTHROPOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF HUMAN SKELETAL MATERIAL (7–9TH CENTURY AD, EAST HUNGARY)

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The analysis of the skeletons of past human populations provides data about their biological reconstruction and to the history of significant diseases. The purpose of this study is two-fold: to review the main anthropological results, and to present pathological cases in a region of present-day Eastern Hungary (Berettyóújfalu–Nagy Bócs-dűlő) dated from the 7–9th AD century (Avar period). From the anthropological point of view, the Mongoloid types are noted in addition to the Europoid types. On the basis of the pathological cases above all the osseous tuberculosis cases are important. The results of the anthropological and paleopathological investigation of this skeletal material contribute to the biological reconstruction of the Eastern-Hungary population which lived in the 7–9th century.

Key words: human skeletal material, anthropology, paleopathology, skeletal tuberculosis, Hungary, 7–9th century AD.

INTRODUCTION

An important branch of biological anthropology includes studies of the past human population. This investigation promotes to understand the migration and ethnogenetics of a human community. The study of injuries and disease processes is also important. One major category of pathological process that leaves its mark on bones is infectious disease such as tuberculosis. Interpretation of this disease in skeletons from varied geographical and chronological contexts provides some of the best biological data regarding the history of significant human disease.

The purpose of this study is two-fold: to review the main anthropological results in archeological background, and to present the paleopathological cases with special regard to infectious alterations, particularly to TB of a community from the 7–9th century AD (so called Avar period) in a region of present-day Eastern Hungary.

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