Ivor Jankovic[1] & Siniša Radović[2]

Late Upper Palaeolithic subsistence strategies at Ljubićeva pećina, Istria (Croatia)

Ljubićeva pećina (cave) is situated in Istria, near Marčana and has been recognized as an important archaeological site since the first excavations in 2008 (Percan et al. 2008; Simonet 2013). New excavations at the site started in 2020 as a part of the project funded by the Croatian Science Foundation (grant IP2019-04-7821), concentrating on its Upper Pleistocene deposits that yielded numerous faunal remains in association with Epigravettian lithic assemblage (Percan et al 2020). This study presents the analysis of the mammalian assemblage recovered in the new excavation (2020) and compares them to unpublished data on the material from the previous excavations (2008-11). Taxonomic analysis of the mammalian assemblage shows taxa characteristic of a range of habitats. Majority are adapted to temperate conditions with open steppe-grassland and parkland environments, indicating consistence over time. Detailed taphonomic analysis revealed numerous traces of butchery and food processing, but also the evidence of large predators (cave hyena). Foetal and neonate bones of large game are good seasonal indicators but also may be indicative of choices made by the local Epigravettian hunter-gatherers. Overall, the Ljubićeva pećina faunal assemblage provides important data for understanding of the Late Upper Palaeolithic hunting and consumption practices in the wider region of the northern Adriatic and central Mediterranean.

References:

Percan, T., Komšo, D., Bekić, L. 2008. Ljubićeva pećina. Hrvatski arheološki godišnjak 5/2008:344-347. Simonet, A. 2013. Premier bilan des fouilles effectuées dans la Grotte de Ljubić (2008-2011) (mission archéologique Monaco-Croatie). Bulletin du Musée d'anthropologie préhistorique de Monaco 53, 93-102.

Percan T., Ahern, J.C.M., Komšo, D., Radović, S., Novak, M., Herometta, K., Vidas, L., Janković, I. Istraživanja u Ljubićevoj pećini kraj Marčane u sezoni 2020. Annales Instituti Archaeologici XVI/2020:219-228.

✉ *Ivor Jankovic – ivor.jankovic@inantro.hr*

[1] *Centre for Applied Bioanthropology, Institute for Anthropological Research, Zagreb, Croatia*

[2] *Institute for Quaternary Palaeontology and Geology, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Zagreb, Croatia*

Andrew Kandel[1], Michael Bolus[1], Angela Bruch[2], Claudia Groth[2], Miriam N. Haidle[2], Christine Hertler[2], Julia Heß[2], Volker Hochschild[1], Zara Kanaeva[1], Maria Malina[1], Christian Sommer[1] & Nicholas J. Conard[1]

The ROAD Database: Recent Advances in Archaeological, Paleoanthropological, Paleontological and Paleobotanical Data Science

The ROCEEH Out of Africa Database (ROAD; https://www.roceeh.uni-tuebingen.de/roadweb/) contains data about archaeological, paleoanthropological, paleontological and paleobotanical localities in Africa and Eurasia spanning from three million to 20,000 years ago (Fig. 1). The database was conceived in 2008 as the ROCEEH project (https://www.hadw-bw.de/en/research/research-center/roceeh/home) began, and data entry started in 2009. Since then, the multidisciplinary team has integrated over 2,200 localities containing more than 16,500 assemblages from over 4,300 publications written in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian and Chinese. ROAD serves as a valuable resource for archaeologists and paleoscientists because it contains vast amounts of information that can be explored using innovative methods in data science.

In this talk, we report on some of the recent advances the research team has made with regard to the database, and expound briefly upon the way in which the team innovated methods,