

APPENDIX 2  
 FAUNAL REMAINS FROM THE POST-MEROITIC  
 CEMETERY OF EL-SADDA 1. SEASON 2007

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The assemblage of faunal remains from the burial chambers of two tumuli graves on the post-Meroitic cemetery at El-Sadda 1 was relatively rich compared to the standards of the site. The set counted altogether 52 bones and osteological fragments which were

identified by species and anatomical part. The condition of the bones was good with most bones being preserved intact. The observed bone damage concerned mainly rib fragments and occurred mainly during the plundering of the burial chambers.

*Table 1. Bones of goat from Tumulus 83*

BONE	OSTEOMETRY	QUANTITY
<i>Cranium</i>	—	
<i>Dentes</i>	—	
<i>Mandibula</i>	—	
<i>Vertebrae</i>	—	
<i>Costae</i>	—	12, left
<i>Scapula</i>	HS-129 Ld-88 SLC-18 GLP-32	1, left
<i>Humerus</i>	Bd-31, BT-32	1, left
<i>Radius</i>	Bp-30, SD-14, Bd-27	1, left
<i>Ulna</i>	—	
<i>Ossa carpi</i>	—	
<i>O. metacarpalia</i>	—	
<i>Pelvis</i>	—	½, left
<i>Femur</i>	—	
<i>Tibia</i>	Bd-27 SD-12	1, left
<i>Talus</i>	GLI-30 GLm-27	1, left
<i>Calcaneus</i>	GL-55	1, left
<i>O. metatarsalia</i>	—	
<i>Ossa digitorum</i>	—	

## TUMULUS 83

Tumulus 83 was part of group I, which covered the southern part of the cemetery. The burial chamber had been plundered leaving bones, both human and animal, mixed and in disarray. All were found in the southern part of the chamber. The assemblage of faunal remains comprised 19 bones, all coming from a single individual of the goat species (*Capra aegagrus* f. *domestica*). The recorded bones came from cuts of good meat. No skull bones, teeth and distal parts of limbs were discovered. The offering in the chamber comprised the left side of the animal's body, including ribs, shoulder blade, humerus, radius, left half of pelvis, tibia, talus and calcaneus.

The animal in Tumulus 83 was not fully mature morphologically. The degree of onto-

genic development indicates that it was slaughtered before and very probably close to the age of 15–20 months. Osteometric measurements were taken nonetheless, because the animal had reached almost full size [*Table 1*] and hence the data could be used for comparison with results obtained for the bones of goat from 7th century contexts on the site of Old Dongola (Osypińska 2004). A comparative analysis leaves no doubt that the same species of Nubian Desert goat was represented at both sites (Epstein 1971).

## TUMULUS 67

Tumulus 67 lay among the tombs of group VI, that is, the northern part of the cemetery. In archaeozoological terms, this was undoubtedly the richest of the El-Sadda tombs. Altogether 43 bones were discovered in the

Table 2. Bones of goat from the western chamber of Tumulus 67

BONE	OSTEOMETRY	QUANTITY
<i>Cranium</i>	—	
<i>Dentes</i>	—	
<i>Mandibula</i>	—	
<i>Vertebrae</i>	—	
<i>Costae</i>	—	9, left
<i>Scapula</i>	SLC-17 GLP-30 Ld-87 LG-22 BG-19	1, left
<i>Humerus</i>	Bd-27, SD-13	1, left
<i>Radius</i>	Bp-29, SD-15	1, left
<i>Ulna</i>	—	
<i>Ossa carpi</i>	—	
<i>O. metacarpalia</i>	—	
<i>Pelvis</i>	—	1, whole
<i>Femur</i>	—	1, right
<i>Tibia</i>	Bd-24, SD-12	1, right
<i>Talus</i>	GLI-30, GLm-28, Bd-19; GLI-27, GLm-26, Bd-18	2, left
<i>Calcaneus</i>	GL-60	left and right
<i>O. metatarsalia</i>	—	
<i>Ossa digitorum</i>	—	

two chambers, belonging to two different species, which was also exceptional with regard to this site. Two sheep (*Ovis orientalia* f. *domestica*) and one goat (*Capra aegagrus* f. *domestica*) had been deposited in the two chambers and of this one sheep and one goat in the western chamber. The remains represented only the best cuts of meat.

No skull bones, teeth or distal sections of the limbs were present. The bones of sheep recorded in the western chamber include ribs, shoulder blade, humerus and radius, all from the left side of the skeleton. One whole pelvis and the right femur and tibia bones were also recorded. The goat remains were analogous in terms of the anatomy: ribs, shoulder blade,

Table 3. *Bones of sheep from the western and southern chambers of Tumulus 67*

BONE	OSTEOMETRY		QUANTITY	OSTEOMETRY		QUANTITY
	Western chamber			Southern chamber		
<i>Cranium</i>	—		—	—		—
<i>Dentes</i>	—		—	—		—
<i>Mandibula</i>	—		—	—		—
<i>Vertebrae</i>	—		2, v. <i>lumbales</i>	—		—
<i>Costae</i>	—		—	—		3, left
<i>Scapula</i>	Ld-103 SLC-19 GLP-33 HS-170 LG-25 BG-24		1, left	—		—
<i>Humerus</i>	Bd-31 SD-14 GLC-138 GLI-160		1, left	—		—
<i>Radius</i>	Bp-33 SD-17 Bd-30 GL-170		1, left	—		—
<i>Ulna</i>	—		—	—		—
<i>Ossa carpi</i>	—		—	—		—
<i>O. metacarpalia</i>	—		—	—		—
<i>Pelvis</i>	—		—	—		1, right
<i>Femur</i>	SD-15, Bd-38, GLC-18, GL-19		1, right	—		—
<i>Tibia</i>	SD-14 Bd-28 Bp-41 GL-23 Li-22		1, right	Bd-26 SD-15 Bp-43		1, left
<i>Talus</i>	—		—	GLI-28 GLm-27 Bd-20		1, left
<i>Calcaneus</i>	—		—	GL-56		1, left
<i>O. metatarsalia</i>	—		—	—		—
<i>Ossa digitorum</i>	—		—	—		—

humerus and radius, all from the left side of the skeleton. Also recorded was the pelvis, femur, tibia, talus and two calcaneus bones. The pelvis bone was from the right side of the skeleton and the calcaneus bones were both left and right. Interestingly, in both cases there is a consistency in the deposition pattern with the remains representing the left pectoral limb and the right pelvic one.

The remains found in the southern chamber had been placed by the feet of the skeleton in the western part of the chamber. The animal was identified as a goat. The bones included ribs, half a pelvis, tibia, talus and calcaneus bone, all from the left side of the skeleton except for the pelvis.

The sheep from the western chamber was an adult individual, slaughtered after the age of 3.5 years. Osteometric analysis indicates that it was about 68 cm high at the withers (Driesch, Boessneck 1974) [*Table 3*]. The animal's height and the bone measurements correspond to results for sheep remains from other Christian sites in Nubia (Osypińska 2004). A comparative analysis identified the

species as most probably a thin-tailed sheep of the Sudan Desert group (Epstein 1971), domesticated in antiquity and still living in the region of northern Sudan today. This particular variety is often hornless, has drooping ears, an arched nose and long hanging tail. The wool of these animals is mixed with fairly large amounts of down which is separated from the covering hair. The most frequent coloring is different shades of brown through beige to white.

Goat bones found in the western chamber came from a young individual slaughtered before the age of 3.5 years [*Table 2*]. The bones revealed evidence of quartering in the form of cuts at the epiphysis of the radial and femoral bones.

The bones of the sheep recorded in the southern chamber represented an adult individual, slaughtered after reaching an age of 3.5 years [*cf. Table 3*]. A comparative analysis of osteometric results for this and the animal from the western chamber identified the remains as also belonging to the Sudan Desert thin-tailed group.

## REFERENCES

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