



UNIONE EUROPEA



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REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

Archeological area of Sant'Eulalia

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ Animal bones

An imposing number of animal remains, were found in the layers accumulated through the probable abandon of some areas of the Sant'Eulalia district during the VI century. 667 items were selected to take into consideration from among the thousands found, referring to the remains of meals¹. Analyses performed on the bone fragments ascertained the presence and consumption of farm animals, such as sheep and goats² (mostly found - fig. 2), cows³ (fig. 1), horses, pigs and chickens⁴ (fig. 3); also, to a much lesser extent, the remains of game and shell fish.



Fig. 1 - Jaws and fragments of the jaw bone of large bovine animals (from Zedda 2002, p. 71, fig. 38).



Fig. 2 - Vertebrae of sheep and goats (from Zedda 2002, p. 71, fig. 39).

¹ Zedda 2002, pages 69-74.

² Zedda 2002, fig. 39, p. 71.

³ Zedda 2002, fig. 38, p. 71.

⁴ Zedda 2002, fig. 43, p. 75.



Fig. 3 - Tibia-tarsal bones from hens (from Zedda 2002, p. 75, fig. 43).

This latter group includes a consistent presence of the shells of *ostrea edulis*, oysters⁵ (fig. 4) , proving the close ties with the sea⁶. Using morphometric analysis and analysis of the conformation of bones and teeth, it was possible to determine species, age and diet of the animals; a second level of study allowed an assumption of the relationship developed in the Late Antique period between the latter and man in this area. The study of marks on the bone surfaces showed cuts, truncation, traces of removal of flesh, traces of disjointment⁷, cutting off of horns⁸ and has placed the items into two large groups: waste from slaughtering and fragments used for craft purposes. In fact, at Sant'Eulalia animal bones are certified as being used to create common objects⁹.

⁵ ZEDDA 2002, fig. 42, p.75.

⁶ Zedda 2002, pages 70, 72, 74; fig. 42, p. 75. See De Grossi Mazzorin 2008, pages 9-11.

⁷ The disjointment of bones involved dividing joints of limbs to obtain different cuts of meat associated with different types of cooking. Also, the long bones were often cut to retrieve the marrow (Zedda 2002, p. 72).

⁸ All the sheep-goat processes have the particular feature of having marks showing removal. The fact they were piled up may be as waste from slaughtering or as material for use to make utensils (Zedda 2002, page 74).

⁹ Pisano 2002a, figs. 70a-f, nos. 86-91, pages 144-146; Sogos 2002, fig. 72, n. 93, pages 147-148.



Fig. 4 - Oyster shells (from Zedda 2002, p. 75, fig. 42).



■ Credits

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■ Bibliographic abbreviations

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