

The Mesolithic communities from Portugal

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Portugal owes of the most important Mesolithic osteologic series. Thus, from the famous shell middens from Muge and from the not less important shell middens from Sado river, more then 400 skeletons were retrieved. In the present paper the main anthropological features of these individuals who were the last hunter-gathers of the Portuguese territory (ca. 7000-6000 years), are approached. Paleodemografic aspects are discussed, namely Sex ratio and mortality. Within the morphological context, stature, robustness and limb proportions are focussed. Regarding the general state of health, the most striking pathological cases found are presented. In all, all gathered anthropological data is used to evaluate the life style of these Mesolithic communities.