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The Importance of Bio-distance in Epidamnos (Modern day Durrës)

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The importance of bio-distance in Epidamnos (modern day Durrës)

As Theodore Roosevelt, America's 25th president, postulated, "The more you know about the past, the better prepared you are for the future."

1. A little history

- Greek colonization: The first civilization of Europe in the ancient world; 8-6- th are the centuries of colonization.
- Illyria (modern day Albania) is in the same border as Greece; relationships between each other culminated in 7 Cen. BC.
- Epidamnos founded in 627 B.C; Apollonia of Illyria founded at the end of the 7 Cen. B.C
- Greek authors; they have skimmed some aspects of live, giving few information for the relationship between the two societies.
- Details throughout the Mediterranean at this time are also scant.



Photo 1



Photo 3

3.Methods

-The bio-archaeological discipline studies human skeletons, taking information about the lifespan, gender, diseases of the individuals and food that was eaten.

-Bio-distance is a sub-disciplined of bio-archaeology, measures the relatedness or divergence among groups separated by time and/or geography based on analyzing polytechnic skeletal and dental traits (Clark Spencer, 1997; in Buikstra et al.1990)

-DNA analyzes are expensive and destructive

-Metric and non-metric traits can be used: 200 cranium non-metric traits.

-30 standards non-metric dental traits (morphological variants on tooth crowns and root variation)

-Humeral septal aperture post-cranium, has a high degree of association with a robust bone structure



Photo 4

2.Questions

- After the colonists came to Epidamnos, what was the role of native people? how did they live?
- What was their position in the society?
- How did the health of the population of Durrës change during 7 Cen B.C? Did it improve?
- How was the diet after colonization?
- What was the role of women, did they improve their life?



Photo 2

4.Comparisons and expectations

- Apollonia (of Illyria) has shown that population of Apollonia is more phenotypically Illyrian than Greek colonists

-Phenotypic similarity may have been maintained through continuous migration in the form of traders in the region.

-Bio-archaeological results show that the health conditions in Apollonia after colonization declined, especially was observed the increase of cribraorbitalia and porotic hyperostosis.

-Comparing the outcomes with the historical sources, which says the Greeks colons were more influential on Apollonia than in Epidamnos

-We can compare with the other population in Mediterranean region, trying to fill the information from Epidamnos to Mediterranean map

Knowing the mistakes, disadvantages and ignorance of the past the humans can repair the present understanding and the future, as well as, knowing the advantages that brought the Greek colonization, we can follow those steps.

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