FAUNAL REMAINS FROM KHIRBAT AN-NAWĂFLA JORDAN

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Abstract

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Archaeozoology is the study of the relationship between human and animals over time. The main purpose of this study is to analysed the faunal remains that were recover from the archaeological site of Khirbat an-Nawafla, in order to reach a better understanding of the pattern life of the people who lived at this site at different historical periods. This study yielded new information about the environmental changes through time, and the economic and social system of the middle Islamic period (Ayyubid/Mamluk), because most faunal remains came from these periods. The total faunal bone fragments, which were collects from Khirbat an-Nawafla, were 9669. Only 2612 bone fragments were identifies and classified. The identified bones belonged to five periods: (Nabataean, Roman/Byzantine, Early Islamic, Ayyubid Mamluk, and Late Islamic). The animals classified into eight mammal species (sheep/goats (Ovis orientalis /Capra hircus), cattle (Bos taurus), camel (Camelus dromedarius), donkey (Equus asinus), dog (Canis lupus), cat (Felis sylvestris), and rodent beside bird, fish and shell.
Sheep and goats bone fragments were the most commonly found bones. They had a major economic role in Khirbat an-Nawafla during dispense ages while the cattle occupied second place. Camel used during all periods not only for their meat, but also for transportation of man and goods as well as donkey (*Equus asinus*). Khirbat an-Nawafla during difference periods was poor in vegetation as it is today.

**Key word:** Khirbat an-Nawafla, Bioarchaeology, Faunal remains, Nabataean period to Late Islamic.