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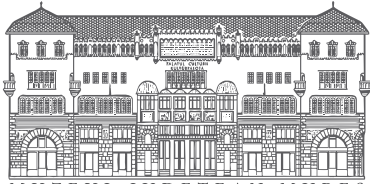
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ARCHAEOZOOLOGICAL INSIGHTS INTO ANIMAL EXPLOITATION DURING THE LATE ROMAN PERIOD AT SÂNGEORGIU DE MUREȘ–SITE NO. 4 (MUREȘ COUNTY)

Imola KELEMEN*

This study presents the archaeozoological analysis of faunal remains from the Late Roman settlement at Sângeorgiu de Mureș (Maroszentgyörgy, Mureș County, RO)–Site No. 4. The assemblage, dominated by domestic cattle, ovicaprines, and pigs, reflects a balanced mixed economy based on meat, milk, and secondary products. Evidence of hunting, carcass processing, and bone tool manufacture reveals efficient resource use and adaptability of the post-Roman community to its environment.

Keywords: animal exploitation, archaeozoology, hunting, Late Roman Period, livestock management

Cuvinte-cheie: exploatarea animalelor, arheozoologie, vânătoare, perioada romană târzie, gestionarea efectivelor de animale

INTRODUCTION

During the rescue excavations conducted at the site of the future bypass of Târgu Mureș (Marosvásárhely, Mureș County, RO), at *Site No. 4*, near Sângeorgiu de Mureș, 946 fragments of animal remains dating from the Late Roman period (also referred to as the post-Roman period) were collected.¹ The site revealed both settlement traces and a necropolis. The faunal remains processed in this report were recovered

from the settlement area. Out of the total 946 animal bones recovered, after cleaning, gluing,

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¹ The dating and interpretation of sites from this period in Romania varies slightly from county to county, or rather from museum collection area to museum collection area. Thus, it may happen that the sites of the period in question are referred to in the literature as Late Roman, Migration Period, Early Migration Period, Post-Roman, Post-Aurelian, Pre-Feudal, Dacian-Roman, Sântana de Mureș, Sântana de Mureș–Cernyahov culture, early Germanic, or less frequently Gothic or even II–III, II–IV, III–IV, IV, IV–V, IV–VI centuries. More recent Romanian studies, in line with European research, already use the term Late Imperial period, and the term post-Cernyahov to refer to the end of the Sântana de Mureș–Cernyahov culture, the great archaeological horizon of the period in Transylvania (KÖRÖSFŐI 2015, 129).

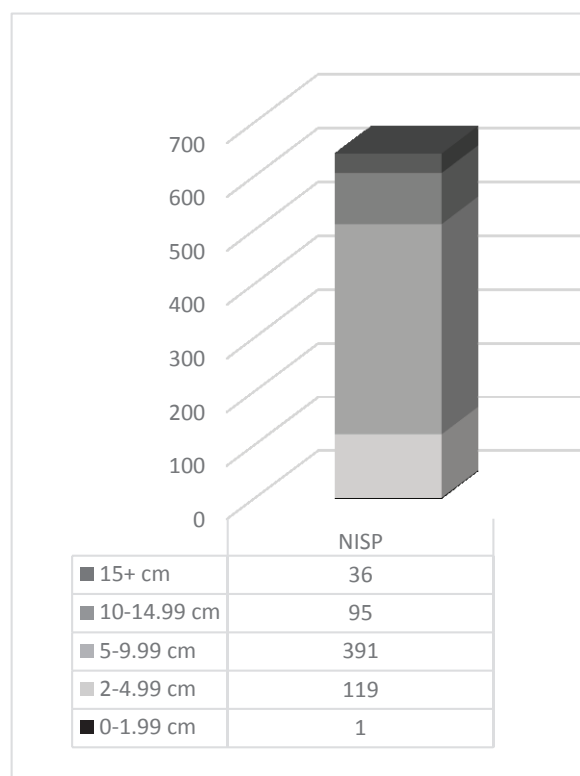


Fig. 1. Greatest length of specimens.

	NISP	NISP %	MNI	MNI %	Avg. NISP-MNI %
<i>Bos taurus</i> (domestic cattle) / <i>Bos primigenius</i> (aurochs), from which:	195	30.37	8	25.00	27.69
<i>Bos taurus</i> (domestic cattle)	75	38.46	6	75.00	56.73
<i>Bos primigenius</i> (aurochs)	16	8.21	2	25.00	16.60
<i>Ovis aries</i> (sheep) / <i>Capra hircus</i> (goat), from which:	156	24.30	8	25.00	24.65
<i>Ovis aries</i> (sheep)	25	16.03	4	50.00	33.01
<i>Capra hircus</i> (goat)	24	15.38	4	50.00	32.69
<i>Sus scrofa</i> (pig)	73	11.37	6	18.75	15.06
<i>Equus caballus</i> (horse)	9	1.40	2	6.25	3.83
<i>Canis familiaris</i> (dog)	11	1.71	3	9.38	5.54
<i>Cervus elaphus</i> (red deer)	31	4.83	3	9.38	7.10
<i>Ursus arctos</i> (bear)	1	0.16	1	3.13	1.64
<i>Aves</i> (bird), from which:	12	1.87	1	3.13	2.50
<i>Gallus gallus domesticus</i> (chicken)	5	41.67	1		
Large sized mammal	106	16.51			
Small-medium sized mammal	48	7.48			
TOTAL specimens	642	100.00	32	100.00	

Fig. 2. Faunal sequence in the archaeozoological material from Sângeorgiu de Mureş–Site no. 4 (NISP = Number of Identified Specimens, MNI = Minimum Number of Individuals).

and restoration, a final number of 642 identifiable fragments were obtained, which constitute the numerical and quantitative basis for the subsequent calculations and analyses.

The distribution of fragments according to their maximum length (Fig. 1) reflects the state of preservation of the faunal remains at the site. The predominance of small and medium fragments suggests natural degradation of the bones over time, whereas larger fragments survived due to higher bone density or more protective depositional contexts. On average, about one third of the material shows traces of post-mortem modifications related to carcass processing (cut marks, burning, gnawing), of which about two-thirds are represented by gnaw marks, most likely produced by carnivores, especially dogs.

Regarding the importance of the animals raised by this community, the evaluation is based on two criteria: the number of fragments discovered and the minimum number of individuals identified (Fig. 2). Both methods have limitations that may cause distortions: the bones of large-sized animals tend to fragment into more pieces than those of small animals, thus overestimating the importance of the former. Conversely, even hundreds of fragments may

not indicate more than one individual, whereas a single bone already confirms the presence of at least one individual of that species, leading to an overrepresentation of rarer taxa. For this reason, we consider that the average of the two values provides a more realistic picture of the relative importance of species in the community's animal economy.²

Taking the above into account, Fig. 2 shows that cattle occupy the primary position in the animal economy of the post-Roman community at Sângeorgiu de Mureş. The cattle category includes fragments attributable to both the domestic species

(*Bos taurus*) and the wild form, the aurochs (*Bos primigenius*). Remains of domestic cattle were identified nearly five times more frequently than those of aurochs, suggesting that domestic cattle were kept within the settlement while aurochs were only occasionally hunted by community members.

SPECIES ANALYSIS

The distribution of fragments (cattle and aurochs combined) by skeletal element (Annex 1) corresponds to a partitioning according to meat value³ as follows: quality A bones (areas

² Both NISP and MNI are affected by well-known biases: NISP tends to overrepresent large species whose bones fragment more easily, while MNI can overrepresent rare taxa when few diagnostic elements survive. See: GRAYSON 1984; LYMAN 1994; MARSHALL 1993; REITZ-WING 2008; CANNON 2013, CRUZ-ROSELLÓ-IZQUIERDO 2017. For this reason, we consider that averaging both values provides a more realistic estimate of the relative importance of species within the community's animal economy.

³ Hans-Peter Uerpmann proposed a classification of animal bones into three categories—A, B, and C—based on the relative meat yield of the skeletal parts: A representing

with abundant muscle mass) – 21%; quality B (skeletal parts with well-developed musculature) – 53%; and quality C (less meaty regions) – 26% (Fig. 4). This distribution suggests the species was used primarily for meat consumption, with a relatively complete exploitation of the carcass. The high proportion of quality B bones may indicate systematic dismembering practices and a balanced exploitation strategy, without an exclusive preference for the most valuable parts. Consequently, cattle likely constituted an important food resource for the community and

were managed in a way that supplied food for a larger number of individuals.

Domestic cattle (*Bos taurus*)

Among the six identified domestic cattle individuals, the juvenile, subadult, and adult categories are represented in equal proportions (two individuals each; Fig. 3). This distribution suggests a balanced herd management strategy, oriented toward obtaining both primary products (meat) and secondary products (milk, and traction for agricultural work). Regarding the sex of the indi-

Age groups	<i>Bos taurus</i>	<i>Bos primigenius</i>	<i>Ovis aries</i>	<i>Capra hircus</i>	<i>Ovis a. / Capra h.</i>	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	<i>Equus caballus</i>	<i>Canis familiaris</i>	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	<i>Ursus arctos</i>	<i>Gallus gallus domesticus</i>
infans					2	1					
juvenilis	2		1	1		2 (♂)	1	1	1		1
subadultus	2 (1♀)	1	2	3 (1♀)		2 (♀)		1	1		
adultus	2 (1♂, 1♀)	1	1			1	1	1	1		
unidentified										1	
TOTAL no. of individuals	6	2	4	4	2	6	2	3	3	1	1

Fig. 3. Distribution of individuals by age.

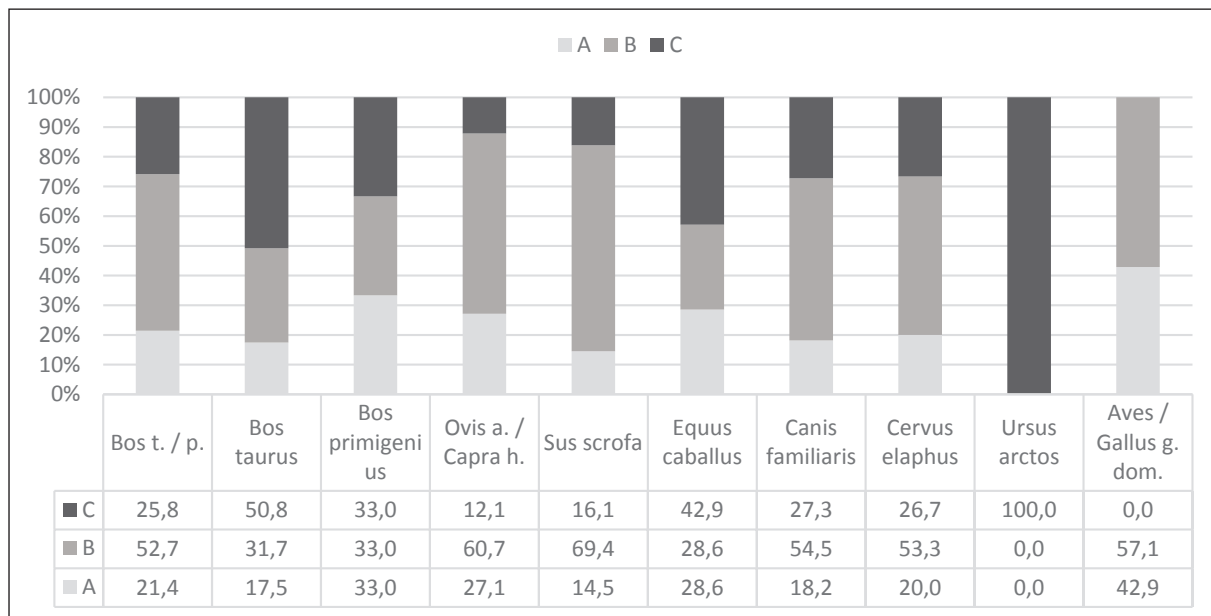


Fig. 4. Distribution of skeletal elements according to meat quality.

the meatiest portions (such as upper limb and axial bones), B medium-meaty parts (lower limb bones), and C the least meaty elements (extremities, head, and feet). This system was intended to aid in interpreting butchering, transport, and consumption patterns in archaeological assemblages (UERPMANN 1973).

viduals, among the two subadults identified, one was female; among the adults, one was female and the other male. Although the small sample size prevents firm conclusions, this distribution may indicate a selective management strategy intended

to ensure both herd reproduction and continuity (through females) and the labour force required for agricultural activities (through males).

Post-mortem modifications associated with carcass processing were identified on approximately one-third of the domestic cattle fragments (Fig. 5). Of these, the majority (around 80%) consisted of gnaw marks produced by carnivores, most likely dogs. Slightly more than one-tenth of the fragments bear cut marks resulting from butchering and the separation of meat from bone, while slightly fewer than one-tenth exhibit traces of burning, ranging from superficial scorching of the bone surface to full calcination. These burning traces may be related either to culinary practices (such as cooking meat on the bone) or to the disposal of remains by throwing them into hearths or domestic fires.

Several cattle bones were suitable for measurement (Annex 2); however, two metatarsals

Sângeorgiu de Mureş were of medium to large size, indicating animals suitable both for meat production and for agricultural labour.

Aurochs (Bos primigenius)

The remains of aurochs (together with those of red deer and bear) provide evidence of hunting as a means of subsistence within the community. Two aurochs individuals were identified – one subadult and one adult – whose carcasses would have provided a considerable quantity of meat. The distribution of aurochs skeletal elements is perfectly balanced among the three meat-quality categories, which most likely suggests that carcass processing took place within the settlement rather than at the hunting site. This situation indicates that the entire animal (or a large portion of it) was transported from the place of killing to the settlement, where it

	Cutting	Burning	Gnawing	TOTAL	% of fragments	Cutting %	Burning %	Gnawing %	Total discovered fragments
Total <i>Bos t. / Bos p.</i>	8	5	51	64	32.82	12.52	7.81	79.69	195
of which <i>Bos taurus</i>	4	4	21	29	38.67	13.79	13.79	72.41	75
and <i>Bos primigenius</i>	0	0	7	7	43.75	0	0	100	16
Total <i>Ovis a. / Capra h.</i>	3	7	43	53	33.97	5.66	13.21	81.13	156
of which <i>Ovis aries</i>	1	0	3	4	16	25	0	75	25
and <i>Capra hircus</i>	1	1	8	10	41.67	10	10	80	24
<i>Sus scrofa</i>	0	3	16	19	26.03	0	15.79	84.21	73
<i>Equus caballus</i>	0	0	1	1	11.11	0	0	100	9
<i>Canis familiaris</i>	0	0	1	1	9.09	0	0	100	11
<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	16	0	2	18	58.06	88.89	0	11.11	31
Total <i>Aves</i>	0	1	0	1	8.33	0	100	0	12
of which <i>Gallus g. dom.</i>	0	1	0	1	20	0	100	0	5
Large sizes mammals	7	8	17	32	30.19	21.88	25	53.13	106
Small-medium sized mammals	1	2	7	10	20.83	10	20	70	48
AVERAGE %					27.89	13.41	21.83	64.76	

Fig. 5. Post-mortem modifications on the animal remains.

and one metacarpal allowed estimation of the animals' withers height. The male specimen measured 116.5 cm, while the two females measured 107.7 cm and 123.1 cm respectively, with an average of 115.8 cm. These values suggest that the cattle from the post-Roman community of

was butchered, processed, and consumed. This practice reflects both the economic importance of the aurochs as a source of meat and the community's capacity to integrate game animals into the same exploitation patterns applied to domestic species. Nearly half of the aurochs

bones show post-mortem modifications, consisting exclusively of gnaw marks produced by carnivores. Altogether, these data indicate that the aurochs was primarily used as a food resource by the community.

Sheep (*Ovis aries*) and goat (*Capra hircus*)

The ovicaprine group occupies the second position in the animal economy of the post-Roman community at Sângeorgiu de Mureş (Fig. 2), according to the average between the number of fragments recovered and the minimum number of individuals identified, being well represented in the archaeozoological assemblage. From an anatomical standpoint, sheep and goats are very similar, and distinguishing between the two species is possible only when better-preserved bones are available. In this assemblage, approximately one-third of the fragments could be identified to genus and species level, resulting in an almost equal number: 25 fragments belonging to sheep and 24 to goats. This distribution suggests a similar importance of the two species and a balanced management of their herds. Economically, in almost all historical periods, sheep were valued primarily for their wool and milk, in addition to meat, whereas goats – being less demanding and easier to maintain – represented a more adaptable resource, capable of exploiting poorer pastures and harsher environmental conditions. Thus, the two species complemented each other, providing the community with a variety of animal-derived products and greater resilience in the face of environmental fluctuations or economic changes.

According to the age distribution (Fig. 3), a relatively balanced proportion can again be observed: one juvenile individual for each species, two subadult sheep, and three subadult goats (one of which was identified as female). The difference lies in the fact that an adult individual was identified among the sheep, whereas none was recorded among the goats. This distribution supports the exploitation model mentioned earlier, according to which sheep may have been kept alive longer to obtain secondary products such as milk and wool. In addition to the individuals identified as sheep and

goats, remains belonging to two very young small ruminants were also recorded, but their extremely early developmental stage (infantile) did not allow determination at genus or species level. The presence of these remains suggests the occasional slaughter of very young lambs or kids, whose meat is considered tender and highly palatable, being commonly consumed throughout many historical periods. This practice may have been linked both to immediate dietary needs and to a culinary preference for the delicate meat of young animals.

Regarding the distribution of fragments by skeletal elements, the ovicaprine remains show a predominance of parts with well-developed musculature (A – 27%, B – 61%, C – 12%), which may reflect a preferential use of these regions and, consequently, a potential dietary importance of the species within the community (Fig. 2). This distribution may also indicate that the animals were butchered and consumed within the settlement, with a relatively complete exploitation of the carcasses.

Approximately one-third of the ovicaprine bones display traces of post-mortem modifications (Fig. 5). As with other groups, the most frequent category consists of gnaw marks (81%), likely produced by carnivores, particularly dogs. Only a small percentage of fragments exhibit burning traces, and an even smaller number show cut marks resulting from butchering and carcass processing. On the other hand, sheep and goat bones provided opportunities for metric analysis (biometric data presented in Annex 2), though none were sufficiently complete to allow calculation of withers height.

A more distinctive find was a fragment of goat tibia, worked and most likely used as a perforator (Pl. I/1). The distal part of the tibia was intact, while the diaphyseal section had been shaped to create the tool. This processing indicates that bones were reused for technological purposes, in addition to their value as a food resource.

Pig (*Sus scrofa*)

Pigs represented the third most important species in the animal economy of the analysed community (Fig. 2). Among the identified individuals, young animals were predominant: one

infant, two juveniles (both males), two subadults (both females), and one adult (Fig. 3). This distribution suggests an exploitation pattern characteristic of nearly every historical period, raising pigs mainly for meat and fat. The age and sex distribution may also indicate that males were slaughtered earlier, while females were kept longer, possibly to ensure reproduction and herd maintenance. Among the pig skeletal elements, most fragments originate from the medium-meat regions of the body (69%), while bones of quality categories A and C are represented in roughly equal proportions (15% and 16%, respectively) (Fig. 4; Annex 1). This distribution may suggest that pigs were primarily valued for meat from muscle-rich areas, while the rest of the carcass was used in a less selective manner. It may also indicate relatively limited or uneven butchering and consumption practices.

In contrast to cattle and ovicaprines, only about one-quarter of the pig remains showed post-mortem modifications. The majority of these (84%) bore gnaw marks, probably caused by carnivores, most likely dogs. The remaining fragments were more or less burned, and no cut marks were identified on any specimen (Fig. 5). This may indicate that pig carcasses were processed less systematically or that the bones were left accessible to animals after consumption without extensive manipulation within the settlement. Because of the predominance of young individuals, very few pig fragments were suitable for measurement. Only one complete phalanx and one fragmentary metatarsal could be measured (Annex 2), but neither was adequate for calculating withers height.

Red deer (*Cervus elaphus*)

The fourth place in the community's animal economy appears to be held by red deer. However, their average percentage – calculated from the number of remains and the minimum number of individuals (Fig. 2) – may be influenced by the presence of numerous antler fragments, which could have been collected even without killing the animals. Despite this, the identification of at least three red deer individuals (one juvenile, one subadult, and one adult; Fig. 3) suggests deliberate and recurring hunting of the

species. Red deer contributed not only to the community's diet but also through their antlers, which were suitable for crafting. The distribution of skeletal elements across meat-quality categories (A – 20%, B – 53%, C – 27%; Fig. 4) supports the interpretation that the species was used for food, and that carcasses were processed within the settlement rather than at the hunting site. This distribution indicates that edible parts were transported to the settlement and butchered there systematically, comparable to the processing of aurochs. Only two fragments showed gnaw marks, but 16 fragments bore cut marks (Fig. 5). Except for one mandible, all such marks were found on antler fragments (Pl. II), indicating that antler processing took place within the community. This observation demonstrates that red deer were valued both as a food source and as providers of raw material for tool or object manufacture. The few biometric data taken from deer bones are listed in Annex 2.

Dog (*Canis familiaris*)

The next species in the faunal sequence is the dog, represented – similarly to red deer – by three individuals (one juvenile, one subadult, and one adult; Fig. 3). This indicates the presence of dogs within the settlement, probably roaming freely around refuse pits. From the adult dog recovered in complex Cx40D, several bones were collected; however, withers height was calculated from another individual in complex Cx46, which measured 51.4 cm (Annex 2). This suggests that the animal was of above-average size, and the index derived from the complete tibia indicates a gracile build. The same tibia also bore gnaw marks, most likely caused by another dog from the settlement. A dog ulna had been shaped into a perforator (Pl. I/2), very similar to the tool made from a goat tibia and discovered in the same complex, Cx46. The compact structure of dog bone made it a suitable raw material for toolmaking, offering strength and durability.

Horse (*Equus caballus*)

The horse follows in the faunal sequence and is represented by two individuals: one

juvenile and one adult (Fig. 3). Most of the bones originate from the less meaty regions of the body (Fig. 4). Only one rib fragment displayed gnaw marks (Fig. 5), suggesting that horse meat was probably not consumed by the community. A complete metacarpal allowed for the estimation of withers height (Annex 2), which measured 146.8 cm for the adult specimen. This corresponds to a medium-sized animal, suitable for riding and light agricultural work – typical for post-Roman communities.

Bird (*Aves*) and chicken (*Gallus gallus domesticus*)

A notable and pleasant finding was the presence of bird bones, specifically those of domestic chicken, suggesting that poultry were raised within the settlement and contributed to the community's diet both through eggs and meat. The identified chicken individual was a juvenile, likely reflecting the same use. Burn marks observed on a tibia may indicate either roasting during food preparation or the disposal of remains in hearths or domestic fires.

Bear (*Ursus arctos*)

The single bear phalanx discovered indicates that the species was not systematically exploited within the community. This bone may have reached the settlement accidentally – through natural transport – or as a result of occasional hunting. The phalanx does not provide sufficient data to assess the animal's age, sex, or manner of use. Overall, this find reflects only the sporadic presence of the bear in the post-Roman landscape, without evidence of significant economic or dietary exploitation.

pastures,⁴ suitable for both livestock raising and hunting of large wild species. In the post-Roman centuries of Transylvania, the persistence of wild taxa such as aurochs, red deer, and bear implies that substantial forest and wetland habitats still existed near settlement areas. Their presence – particularly that of aurochs, which requires access to water meadows and riparian woodlands – suggests limited landscape clearance and continued access to natural hunting grounds. In terms of animal economy, among the 642 identifiable fragments, cattle (particularly domestic) dominate, followed by ovicaprines and pigs, indicating the central role of these species in providing food and secondary products.

Unfortunately, much too few animal bone materials of this period have been analysed from the point of view and with the methods of archaeozoology, and even less are published. The ones we may use for comparison are 6 analyses from South-East Transylvania, from Harghita and Covasna counties (Fig. 6): Olteni-*Carierea de nisip* (Oltszem, Covasna County, RO),⁵ Sâncrăieni-*Kövesoldal* (Csíkszentkirály, Harghita County, RO),⁶ Sântimbru-*Kúria Street* (Csíkszentimre, Harghita County, RO),⁷ Miercurea Ciuc/Şumuleu-*Fodor Garden* (Csíkszereda/Csíksomlyó, Harghita County, RO),⁸ Cristuru-Secuiesc-*Felső-Lok* (Székelykeresztúr, Harghita County, RO),⁹ Odorheiu Secuiesc-*Kadicşfalva Field* (Székelyudvarhely, Harghita County, RO).¹⁰ Among the three main domestic species, we did not find a clear overall preference from the post-Roman communities; it seems that cattle, sheep/goats, and pigs together were the most exploited animals. However, it is important to emphasize that once the average between NISP and MNI was calculated, the usual situation was slightly nuanced, and domestic cattle no longer appear as the sole dominant species (as they

CONCLUSIONS AND ANALOGIES

The analysis of faunal remains recovered from the post-Roman settlement, Site No. 4 at Sângeorgiu de Mureş provides a complex picture of the natural environment and the community's economic practices. The faunal spectrum reflects a mixed habitat of forests and

⁴ See for example BARTOSIEWICZ 2002, where he synthesizes faunal data from Hungary and Transylvania; discusses how wild taxa reflect local habitat mosaics.

⁵ KELEMEN 2018.

⁶ KELEMEN 2019a.

⁷ KELEMEN 2019b.

⁸ KELEMEN 2019c.

⁹ KELEMEN 2011.

¹⁰ DARÓCZI-SZABÓ ET AL. 2017.

County	Name of locality	Name of site	NISP (identifiable / collected)
CV	Olteni	<i>Sand Quarry (Cariera de nisip)</i>	1578 / 1825
HR	Sâncrăieni	<i>Rockside (Kövesoldal)</i>	18 / 18
HR	Sântimbru	<i>Kúria Street</i>	53 / 71
HR	Miercurea Ciuc/Şumuleu	<i>Fodor Garden</i>	859 / 1231
HR	Cristuru-Secuiesc	<i>„Felső-Lok” Point</i>	213 / 280
HR	Odorheiu-Secuiesc	<i>Kadicsfalva Field</i>	2002 / 3969
MS	Sângeorgiu de Mureş	<i>Site no. 4</i>	642 / 946

Fig. 6. Archaeozoologically analysed materials from post-Roman sites of Transylvania.

would base solely on NISP). Instead, the significant role of small horned animals and pigs also emerges.

Cattle in Sângeorgiu de Mureş–*Site no. 4* were managed in a balanced manner, with juvenile, subadult, and adult individuals represented in similar proportions, suggesting exploitation for both meat and secondary products such as milk and traction. The average height at the withers of 115.8 cm indicates medium-to-large animals, suitable for both agricultural work and meat production. Compared to other sites (Figs. 7–8), this species is most prevalent at Sângeorgiu de Mureş, where the age-group distribution also indicates the most balanced management of cattle for both primary and secondary products. The average withers heights recorded at other sites were: Olteni – 101.3 cm, Miercurea Ciuc/Şumuleu – 112.2 cm, Cristuru Secuiesc – 110.3 cm, and Odorheiu Secuiesc – 117 cm.

Thus, the average size of domestic cattle at Sângeorgiu de Mureş fits well within the Post-Roman Transylvanian pattern, showing a slight westward tendency toward taller animals.

Ovicapripines in Sângeorgiu de Mureş–*Site no. 4* form the second most important group, and the balance between sheep and goats suggests complementary herd management –sheep for secondary products (wool and milk) and goats for their adaptability to poorer grazing conditions. The distribution by age and skeletal elements shows exploitation for both meat (with a preference for young lamb or kid) and secondary resources, while the worked-bone perforators demonstrate the reuse of animal remains for technological purposes. A similarly well-balanced distribution is observed only at Olteni–*Sand Quarry (Cariera de nisip)*, though even the goats are slightly more represented (60%). At all

other comparative sites, sheep are consistently more abundant –or even the sole species present (Sântimbru–*Kúria Street*)– accounting for 60–80% of the ovicaprine remains.

Pigs at Sângeorgiu de Mureş–*Site no. 4* occupy the third position, and their age and sex distribution suggest a traditional exploitation strategy: early slaughter of males and longer maintenance of females for reproduction. Most fragments derive from the medium-meat regions, and post-mortem modifications, mainly gnawing traces, indicate less systematic processing or that bones were left accessible to animals. Pigs were kept for their meat and fat in almost every culture and period, a practice spectacularly illustrated by the assemblage from Miercurea Ciuc/Şumuleu, where most of the individuals were infants and juveniles (Fig. 8). At Olteni, however, the age-at-slaughter distribution is more balanced. This is also the site where five complete or partial pig skeletons were discovered (mostly young: 3 infants, 1 juvenile, 1 subadult), including a subadult sow with a broken tibia that had healed poorly–and visibly painfully.

Dogs also played an important role in the settlement’s animal economy at Sângeorgiu de Mureş–*Site no. 4*. Represented by three individuals, they were domesticated and probably fed on household refuse. Biometric data indicate at least one gracile, medium-large specimen, while the manufacture of a perforator from dog bone demonstrates a purposeful technological use of animal remains. The dog is found in post-Roman sites in roughly the same proportion as in Sângeorgiu de Mureş, only in Miercurea Ciuc/Şumuleu are there noticeably fewer of the species (Fig. 7).

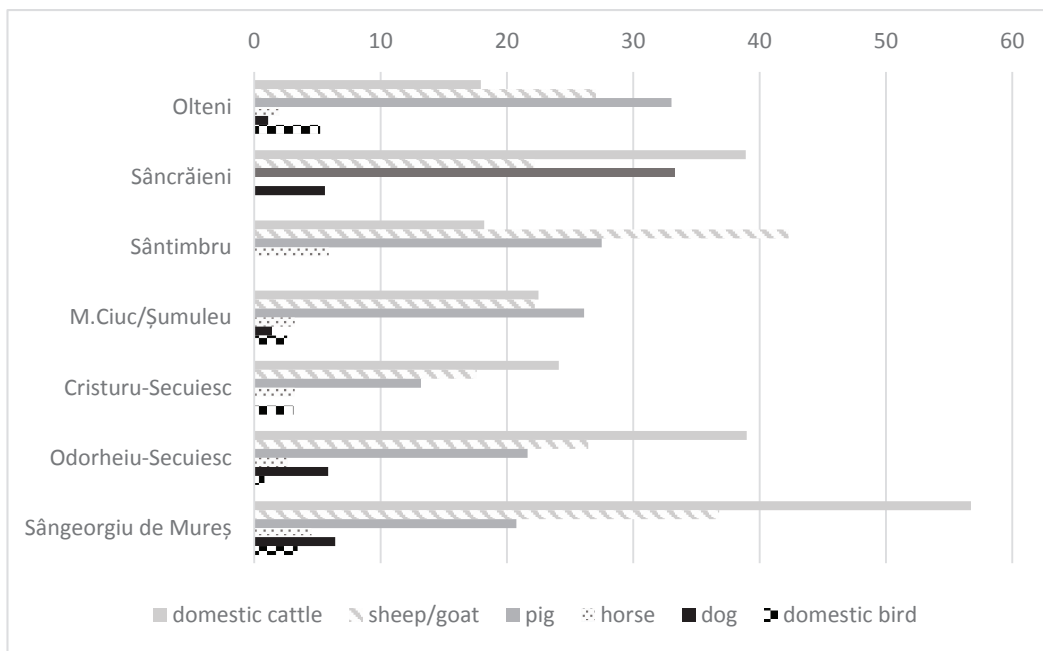


Fig. 7. Comparison of the distribution of domestic species at various post-Roman archaeological sites in Transylvania.¹¹

The horse at Sângeorgiu de Mureș—*Site no. 4* is represented by two individuals, and the adult metacarpal yields a withers height of 146.8 cm – an above-medium size, characteristic of the Late Roman period, suitable for both riding and light agricultural labor. The absence of butchery marks suggests that horse meat was not consumed. We find horses in roughly similar proportions at the compared sites, with only Olteni—*Sand Quarry (Cariera de nisip)* showing a significantly lower representation of horses. Unfortunately, none of the horse bones found at the sites compared allowed for the calculation of withers height, but it can be said that, compared to previous (La Tène, Roman) periods, when the average height was closer to 135 cm, a relatively large horse specimen was found here at Sângeorgiu de Mureș.

Besides domestic mammals, evidence of domestic birds was also found at Sângeorgiu de Mureș—*Site no. 4*. Although only chicken

remains were identified, it is likely that other species were raised as well. Poultry provided a valuable supplementary source of nutrients, both through meat and eggs. Burn marks on the bones most likely reflect cooking and food preparation practices. We find poultry also at the compared sites (Fig. 7), these being the most represented at Olteni, but nonetheless its presence is around 3–5% at each site.

Wild species provide additional evidence of hunting as a source of meat and raw materials (antler), with carcass processing carried out within the settlement. The distribution of skeletal elements and the presence of cut marks confirm systematic butchering and resource utilization. The aurochs and red deer, despite their low representation at Sângeorgiu de Mureș—*Site no. 4*, reflect occasional hunting practices and the transport and processing of carcasses within the settlement – showing that hunting was integrated into the same economic strategies as livestock management. The bear, represented by a single phalanx, suggests only a sporadic presence, without significant economic exploitation.

Overall, the archaeozoological analysis indicates a mixed and complex animal economy at Sângeorgiu de Mureș—*Site no. 4*, based on balanced livestock management, the integration

¹¹ It must be noted again that, regarding the conclusions about the role of species in the economy, in 4 of the 6 lots we compared the average value between NISP and MNI, and in the case of two lots (Sâncrăieni—*Rockside/Kövesoldal* and Odorheiu-Secuiesc—*Kadicsfalva Field*), we only had NISP values available for comparison.

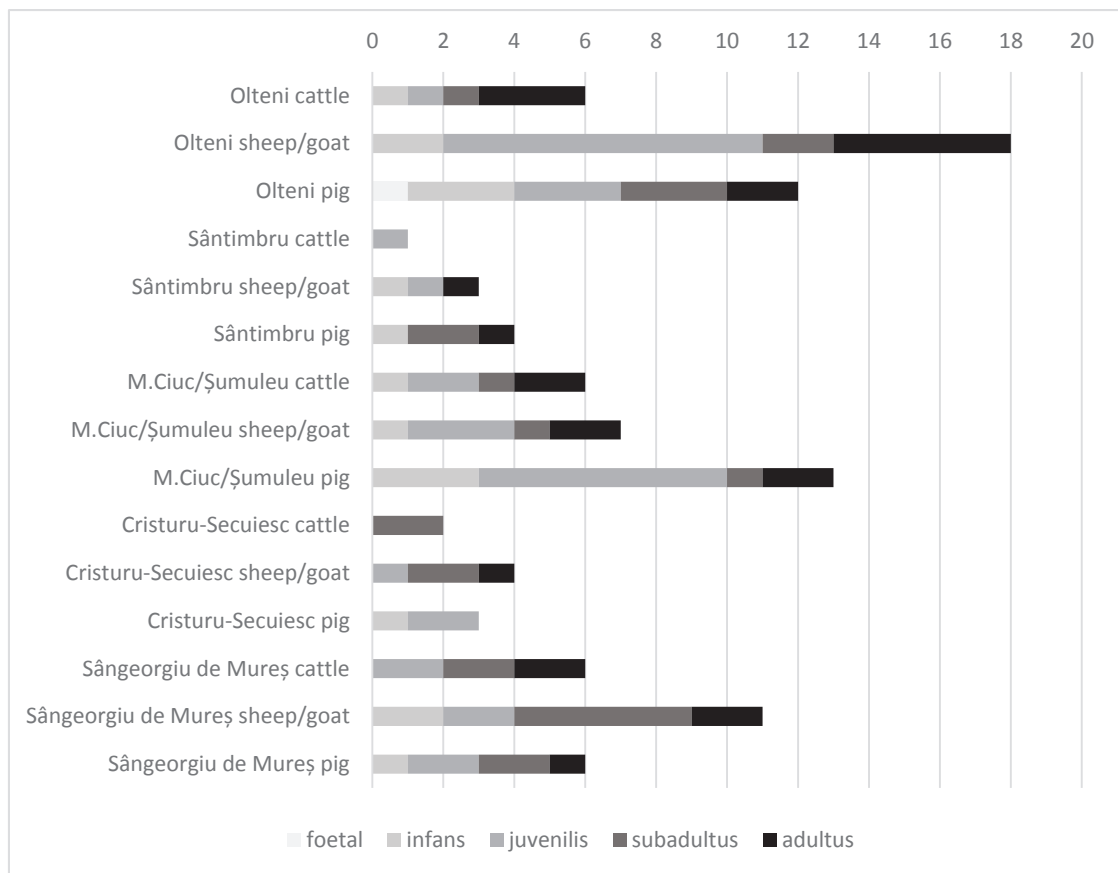


Fig. 8. Comparison of identified age groups for the main domestic species at various post-Roman archaeological sites in Transylvania.

of hunted species into the diet, and the efficient use of animal remains for multiple purposes (dietary, technological, utilitarian). This picture highlights the adaptability and organizational

capacity of the Sângeorgiu de Mureş community in relation to its natural environment and accessible economic resources.

Annex 1. The discovered faunal remains distributed in skeletal elements.

	<i>Bos taurus</i>	<i>Bos primigenius</i>	<i>Bos t. / Bos p.</i>	<i>Ovis aries</i>	<i>Capra hircus</i>	<i>Ovis a. / Capra h.</i>	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	<i>Equus caballus</i>	<i>Canis familiaris</i>	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	<i>Ursus arctos</i>	<i>Gallus gallus domesticus</i>	Aves
Cornu	1	1		3	2					16			
Cranium	2	2	12	2		1	4						1
Maxilla	3	1		4	1		1			1			
Mandibula	10		24	4	5	5	19			1			
Dens	11					11	11	2					
Atlas				1									
Axis				1									
Scapula	3	1	2		2	2	2			1			
Humerus	4	1	4	1	4	8	1					2	
Radius	1	1	3	1	2	16	1	1	1	4			
Ulna	2		2			3	5		1	2		1	
Ossa carpi	3												
Pelvis	1	1	4			5	2	1	1				
Femur	3	2	4	1	1	10	4	1	1	2			
Tibia	5	2	16	1	4	35	9		3	1		2	
Fibula							2		1				
Astragalus	3	1		1	1								
Calcaneus	1	1	1		1								
Ossa tarsi					1								
Metapodia							1	1					
Metacarpus	6			1			5	1					
Metatarsus	7		9	2		5	1	1	3				
Ph. 1.	6	1					2			3	1		
Ph. 2.	2	1											
Ph. 3.	1												
Sacrum			2										
Vert.cerv.			1	1									
Vert.thor.				1									
Vertebrae			6										1
Costae			14			6	3	1					1
Ossa longa													4
TOTAL	75	16	104	25	24	107	73	9	11	31	1	5	7

Annex 2. Biometrical measurements (in mm, after VON DEN DRIESCH 1976).

Cornu	GL	Greatest diam.	Smallest diam.	Circumf.		
<i>Bos taurus</i>	~85	38,5		120		
<i>Bos primigenius</i>	~285	76,5	57,2			
<i>Ovis aries</i>	110	40,7	30,2			
<i>Capra hircus</i>	140	30,7	18,8			
Maxilla	GL M3	GB M3				
<i>Bos primigenius</i>	49,7	19,8				
Scapula	SLC	GLP	LG	BG		
<i>Bos taurus</i>	65,9					
<i>Capra hircus</i>	25,4	38,7	29,5	25,5		
<i>Cervus elaphus</i>		51,4	36,6	34,6		
Radius	Bp	Bd	BFd			
<i>Ovis aries</i>		29,4				
<i>Cervus elaphus</i>		54,5	51,2			
<i>Cervus elaphus</i>		66,5	63,4			
<i>Canis familiaris</i>	11,8					
Ulna	BPC	SDO	DPA			
<i>Canis familiaris</i>	17,7	20,3	23,9			
Pelvis	LA					
<i>Equus caballus</i>	63,7					
Femur	Bp	DC	Bd			
<i>Ovis aries</i>			40,1			
<i>Canis familiaris</i>	27,9	13,3				
Tibia	GL	Bp	SD	Bd		Withers height
<i>Capra hircus</i>				25,6		
<i>Canis familiaris</i>	~176	30,7	11,4			513,92
<i>Canis familiaris</i>		24,3	8,8			
Astragalus	GLI	DI	GLm	Dm		
<i>Bos taurus</i>	69,3	37,6	66,1	34,3		
<i>Bos taurus</i>	63	32,2	57,6	33		
<i>Bos primigenius</i>	81,9	41,3	73,1	45,4		
<i>Ovis aries</i> ♂	34	17,7	31,5	20,1		
<i>Capra hircus</i> ♀	29,7	14,2	27,4	14,3		
Calcaneus	GL	GB				
<i>Bos primigenius</i>		65				
<i>Capra hircus</i>	55,2	23,3				
Metacarpus	GL	GLI	Bp	SD	Bd	Withers height
<i>Bos taurus</i>					62,6	
<i>Bos taurus</i>					63,4	
<i>Bos taurus</i> ♂	184		61	37,7	63,5	1164,72
<i>Equus caballus</i>	239	229	52	34,4	49,7	1467,9
Metatarsus	GL	Bp	SD	Bd		Withers height
<i>Bos taurus</i> ♀	231	48,4	26,3	56		1231,23
<i>Bos taurus</i> ♀	202	44,1	23,1	48,1		1076,7
<i>Bos taurus</i>				63		

Cornu	GL	Greatest diam.	Smallest diam.	Circumf.		
<i>Bos taurus</i>		49				
<i>Bos taurus</i>		52				
<i>Sus scrofa</i> mt. III		13,5				
<i>Canis familiaris</i> mt. I	64,7	4,9	3,9	5,9		
<i>Canis familiaris</i> mt. II		6,6				
<i>Canis familiaris</i> mt. III	69,8	6,2	4,3	5,4		
Ph. 1.	GL	Bp	SD	Bd		
<i>Bos taurus</i>	64,5	31,2	25,2	28,6		
<i>Bos taurus</i>	62,5	31,9	27	29,6		
<i>Bos taurus</i>	62,9	31,9	29,4	29,3		
<i>Bos taurus</i>	68,9	31	25,7	32,5		
<i>Bos taurus</i>	61,6	29,4	25,6	29,3		
<i>Bos taurus</i>			33,6	35,8		
<i>Bos primigenius</i>			39,8			
<i>Sus scrofa</i>	36,9	15	11,4	13,6		
<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	63	22,7	18,7	21,4		
<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	59,6	22,2	17,2	20,9		
<i>Ursus arctos</i>	46,9	19,9	13,5	14,6		
Ph. 2.	GL	Bp	SD	Bd		
<i>Bos taurus</i>	42,2	29,3	24,1	23,4		
<i>Bos primigenius</i>	53,1			34,9		
Ph. 3.	DLS	MBS	Lsa			
<i>Bos taurus</i>	68,5	22,5	29,5			

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Pl. II. Red deer antlers with working traces.



Plate I. Worked bones, piercers. 1. Goat tibia. 2. Dog ulna.



Plate II. Red deer antlers with working traces.

ABBREVIATION

<i>ACMI</i>	Anuarul Comisiunii Monumentelor Istorice, București
<i>Acta Antiqua</i>	Acta Antiqua Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae, Budapest
<i>Acta Siculica</i>	Acta Siculica. A Székely Nemzeti Múzeum Évkönyve, Sfântu Gheorghe
<i>ActaArchHung</i>	Acta Archaeologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae, Budapest
<i>ActaMN</i>	Acta Musei Napocensis, Cluj-Napoca
<i>ActaMP</i>	Acta Musei Porolissensis, Zalău
<i>AEM</i>	Archaeologisch–Epigraphische Mitteilungen aus Oesterreich–Ungarn, Wien
<i>American Antiquity</i>	American Antiquity, Society for American Archaeology
<i>Analele Banatului (S.N.)</i>	Analele Banatului S.N., Arheologie – Istorie, Muzeul Național al Banatului, Timișoara
<i>Angustia</i>	Angustia, Muzeul Carpaților Răsăriteni, Sfântu Gheorghe
<i>ANRC</i>	Arhivele Naționale ale României, Cluj
<i>Apulum</i>	Apulum. Acta Musei Apulensis, Alba Iulia
<i>Aquincumi Füzetek</i>	Aquincumi Füzetek, Budapesti Történeti Múzeum, Budapest
<i>Archaeolingua</i>	Archaeolingua, Budapest
<i>ArchÉrt</i>	Archaeologiai Értesítő, Budapest
<i>ArchKorr</i>	Archäologisches Korrespondenzblatt: Urgeschichte, Römerzeit, Frühmittelalter, Mainz
<i>ArchKözl</i>	Archaeologiai Közlemények, (1859–1899), Magyar Tudományos Akadémia Archaeológiai Bizottsága, Budapest
<i>ArhMold</i>	Arheologia Moldovei, Institutul de arheologie Iași, Iași
<i>ATF</i>	Acta Terrae Fogarasiensis, Muzeul Țării Făgărașului, Făgăraș
<i>AUA (SH)</i>	Anuarul Universității 1 Decembrie 1918, Alba Iulia
<i>AUASH</i>	Annales Universitatis Apulensis. Series Historica, Universitatea 1 Decembrie 1918”, Alba Iulia
<i>BiblEphNap</i>	Bibliotheca Ephemeris Napocensis, Institutul de Arheologie și Istoria Artei, Cluj-Napoca
<i>Bibliotheca Marmatia</i>	Bibliotheca Marmatia, Muzeul Județean de Istorie și Arheologie Maramureș
<i>BiblThrac</i>	Bibliotheca Thracologica, București
<i>BMM</i>	Bibliotheca Musei Marisiensis, Seria(es) Archaeologica, Târgu Mureș
<i>BMN</i>	Bibliotheca Musei Napocensis, Cluj-Napoca
<i>Buridava</i>	Buridava. Studii și materiale, Muzeul Județean „Aurelian Sacerdoțeanu” Vâlcea
<i>Caiete ARA</i>	Caiete ARA (Arhitectură. Restaurare. Arheologie), Asociația ARA, București
<i>CAN</i>	Cercetări arheologice în aria nord-tracă, Institutul de Thracologie, București
<i>CCA</i>	Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România, București
<i>CIL</i>	Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum, Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Berlin
<i>Coll. Med.</i>	Collegium Mediense. Comunicări Științifice, Muzeul Municipal Mediaș, Mediaș
<i>ComArchHung</i>	Communicationes Archaeologicae Hungariae, Budapest
<i>Complutum</i>	Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Madrid
<i>Crisia</i>	Crisia, Muzeul Țării Crișurilor, Oradea

<i>Dacia (N. S.)</i>	Dacia. Recherches et découvertes archéologiques en Roumanie, I–XII (1924–1948), Nouvelle série (N. S.): Dacia. Revue d'archéologie et d'histoire ancienne
<i>DissPan</i>	Dissertationes Pannonicae, Budapest
<i>EDR</i>	Ephemeris Dacoromana. Annuario della Scuola Romana di Roma, Roma
<i>EphNap</i>	Ephemeris Napocensis, Cluj-Napoca
<i>ErdÉvsz</i>	Erdélyi Évszázadok, a Kolozsvári Magyar Történelmi Intézet évkönyve, Kolozsvár
<i>ErdMúz</i>	Erdélyi Múzeum. Az Erdélyi Múzeum Egylet Történelmi Szakosztályának Közölnye, Kolozsvár
<i>ETF</i>	Erdélyi Tudományos Füzetek, Kolozsvár
<i>FileIst</i>	File de Istorie, Complexul Muzeal Bistrița-Năsăud, Bistrița-Năsăud
<i>HTRTÉ</i>	A Hunyadmegyei Történelmi és Régészeti Társulat Évkönyve (1880–1912), Déva
<i>Hung. Archaeol.</i>	Hungarian Archaeology, Archaeolingua, Budapest
<i>Hungarian Archaeology</i>	Hungarian Archaeology, Archeolingua, Budapest, e-Journal
<i>IDR</i>	Inscriptiones Daciae Romanae, Academia Română
<i>Istros</i>	I stros. Revue d'archéologie et d'histoire ancienne, Muzeul Brăilei, Brăila
<i>JAHA</i>	Journal of Ancient History and Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology and Art History of Romanian Academy Cluj-Napoca & Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, Cluj-Napoca
<i>JAMÉ</i>	A Nyíregyházi Jósa András Múzeum Évkönyve
<i>JAMT</i>	Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory, Springer Nature
<i>JAS</i>	Journal of Archaeological Science, Elsevier, e-Journal
<i>JdI</i>	Jahrbuch des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Berlin
<i>JMS</i>	Journal of Mithraic Studies
<i>Journal of Applied Geophysics</i>	Journal of Applied Geophysics, Amsterdam
<i>JRA</i>	Journal of Roman Archaeology, Cambridge University Press, https://journalofromanarchaeology.com/
<i>JRMS</i>	Journal of Roman Military Equipment Studies, Association for Roman Military Equipment Studies
<i>LUPA</i>	
<i>Lustra</i>	Lustra, Internationale Halbjahresschrift für Fragen des Klassischen Altertums, Göttingen
<i>MAGW</i>	Mitteilungen der Anthropologischen Gesellschaft in Wien, Wien
<i>Marisia</i>	Marisia (V–XXXV): Studii și Materiale, Târgu Mureș
<i>Marisia-AHP</i>	Marisia: Archaeologia, Historia, Patrimonium (2019–), Târgu Mureș
<i>MBV</i>	Münchener Beiträge zur Vor- und Frühgeschichte, München
<i>MCA</i>	Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice, Institutul de Arheologie „Vasile Pârvan”, București
<i>MIMK</i>	Molnár István Múzeum Kiadványai, Székelykeresztúr
<i>MNL DL</i>	Magyar Nemzeti Levéltár, Diplomatikai Levéltár
<i>NIMB</i>	Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research Section B: Beam Interactions with Materials and Atoms, Elsevier, e-Journal
<i>OJA</i>	Oxford Journal of Archaeology, Oxford
<i>Opitz Archaeologica</i>	Opitz Archaeologica, Martin Opitz Kiadó, Budapest
<i>Páztortúz</i>	Páztortúz (1921–1944), Kolozsvár
<i>PAT</i>	Patrimonium Archaeologicum Transylvanicum, Cluj-Napoca

<i>PBF</i>	Prähistorische Bronzefunde, München, Stuttgart
<i>Peabody Museum Bulletins</i>	Peabody Museum Bulletins, Harvard University Series
<i>PPS</i>	Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society, London
<i>Pril. Inst. arheol. Zagrebu</i>	Prilozi Instituta za arheologiju u Zagrebu, Zagreb
<i>PZ</i>	Prähistorische Zeitschrift, Berlin
<i>Quat.Int.</i>	Quaternary International, International Union for Quaternary Research, Elsevier, e-Journal
<i>Radiocarbon</i>	Radiocarbon, Cambridge University Press
<i>ReiCretActa</i>	Rei Cretariae Romanae Fautorum Acta, Tongeren
<i>Religion</i>	Religion, e-Journal
<i>RevBis</i>	Revista Bistriței, Complexului Muzeal Bistrița-Năsăud, Bistrița
<i>RevMuz</i>	Revista Muzeelor Institutul Național pentru Cercetare și Formare Culturală, București
<i>RMM – MIA</i>	Revista Muzeelor și Monumentelor. Monumente istorice și de artă, Institutul Național al Patrimoniului, București
<i>SaalbJb</i>	Saalburg-Jahrbuch. Bericht des Saalburg-Museums
<i>SAO</i>	Studien zur Archäologie in Ostmitteleuropa, Berlin
<i>Sargetia (N. S.)</i>	Sargetia. Acta Musei Devensis, deva
<i>Sbor. FFUK Historica</i>	Sborník Filozofickej fakulty Univerzity Komenského, Historica, Bratislava
<i>SCIV(A)</i>	Studii și Cercetări de Istorie Veche (și Arheologie 1974–), București
<i>SlovArch</i>	Slovenská Archeológia, Nitra
<i>StCom Satu Mare</i>	Studii și comunicări Satu Mare, Muzeul Județean Satu Mare
<i>StudPreist</i>	Studii de preistorie, Asociația Română de Arheologie (ARA), București
<i>Székelyföld</i>	Székelyföld, Kultúrális folyóirat, Csíkszereda
<i>Terra Sebus</i>	Terra Sebus, Acta Musei Sabesiensis, Muzeul Municipal „Ioan Raica”, Sebeș
<i>Thraco-Dacica</i>	Thraco-Dacica, Institutul de Tracologie, București
<i>Tisicum</i>	Tisicum – A Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok Megyei Múzeumok Évkönyve, Szolnok
<i>UPA</i>	Universitätsforschungen zur Prähistorischen Archäologie, Bonn
<i>VAH</i>	Varia Archaeologica Hungarica, Budapest
<i>VMMK</i>	A Veszprém Megyei Múzeumok Közleményei, Veszprém
<i>V PU</i>	Vydavateľstvo Prešovskej univerzity, Prešov
<i>WorldArch</i>	World Archaeology, Taylor & Francis, e-Journal
<i>Xantener Berichte</i>	Xantener Berichte. Grabung–Forschung–Präsentation, Mainz

MARISIA. ARCHAEOLOGIA, HISTORIA, PATRIMONIUM

With a publishing tradition since 1965, in 2019 the annual of the Mureş County Museum initiated a new series entitled: *Marisia. Archaeologia, Historia, Patrimonium*. The publication provides a panel for new research results in archeology, architecture and material heritage of the history of arts and culture. The studies mainly focus on the inner Transylvanian region that encompasses also Mureş County. Beyond local valuable contributions, the annual aims at a regional and global concern that is relevant for the whole of Transylvania. Among the annual's missions is to provide mutual interpretation of the research results produced by the Romanian and Hungarian scientific workshops. Therefore, the annual articles are mainly in English but based on the field of research and the approached topic studies in German, Romanian or Hungarian are also accepted.

Cu o tradiție din anul 1965, anuarul Muzeului Județean Mureş s-a relansat în 2019 sub titlul *Marisia. Archaeologia, Historia, Patrimonium*. Această publicație se descrie ca o platformă științifică care cuprinde rezultatele cercetărilor în domenii precum: arheologia, arhitectura și patrimoniul material din zona istoriei artelor și a culturii, studii localizate în regiunea centrală a Transilvaniei, din care face parte județul Mureş. **In extenso**, anuarul își propune să ofere un spațiu unitar contribuțiilor științifice valoroase, relevante din perspectiva geografică a ceea ce înseamnă întreaga regiune a Transilvaniei. Una dintre misiunile publicației este aceea de a oferi tuturor celor interesați spațiul de schimb pentru cele mai noi rezultate din atelierile științifice românești și maghiare. Articolele anuarului sunt scrise în general în limba engleză, existând totodată articole scrise în germană, română și maghiară, în funcție de specificul domeniului și a temei abordate.

A Maros Megyei Múzeum 1965 óta megjelenő évkönyvének 2019-ben útjára bocsátott új sorozata, a *Marisia. Archaeologia, Historia, Patrimonium* elsősorban a mai Maros megyét is magába foglaló belső-erdélyi régió régészeti, épített és tárgyi örökségére, nemkülönben az ezekhez kapcsolódó művészettörténeti, művelődéstörténeti kérdésekre vonatkozó újabb kutatások tudományos fóruma. A lokális perspektíván túl igyekszik kitekinteni a regionális és univerzális összefüggésekre, így a tágran értelmezett Erdély területére nézve is közöl kiemelkedő értékkel bíró tanulmányokat. Küldetésének tekinti a hazai román és magyar tudományos műhelyekben született eredmények kölcsönös tolmácsolását. A dolgozatok nyelve főként az angol, de szakterülettől és témától függően német, román vagy magyar nyelven is közöl írásokat.