Who was buried there? Multi-disciplinary approach on Early Bronze Age people in South of France
Mélie Le Roy, Gwenaëlle Goude

To cite this version:
Mélie Le Roy, Gwenaëlle Goude. Who was buried there? Multi-disciplinary approach on Early Bronze Age people in South of France. GMPCA 2019, May 2019, Montreal, Canada. hal-02137290

HAL Id: hal-02137290
https://hal.science/hal-02137290
Submitted on 22 May 2019

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers. L’archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire HAL, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d’enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.
**Who was buried there?**

**Multi-disciplinary approach on Early Bronze Age people in South of France**

Mélie Le Roy and Gwenaëlle Goude

meliereoy@hotmail.fr and goude@mmsb.univ-aix.fr

---

**Cèze Valley (Gard) (A)**

Homogenous funerary practice: small collective burials (MNI between 3 & 15) in caves between late Neolithic and early Bronze age [1]

**Aven Janna**: Sepulchral cave from Early Bronze Age (B) [1877-1566 cal BCE]  
**Origin and behaviour?**

- Investigating population biology and economic organisation in a successive chrono-cultural context (only scarce data are known)
- Bioanthropological/Archaeological/Multi element (CNS) stable isotope analyses

---

9 individuals : 6 adults (2♂ [20-39]; [40-50] yrs; 1♂ & 1 unknown [>60] yrs] (C); 3 immatures ([0]; [4-6]; [9-14] yrs) [2; 3; 4]; Stature from 1,38m to 1,83m [5; 6].

Health status : Tuberculosis (Pott’s disease) (D); Anemia (Cibro Orbitalia) (E); Dental abscess (F) [7]

Possible disturbed primary deposits (only 1 leg in anatomical connexion) and rare grave goods [8]

---

**Food (G)**

- Terrestrial food resources (plant, animal)
- High homogeneity
- No difference depending on the biological records

**Food (G)**

- Late Neolithic (LN) human and animal samples (Aveyron: 150km) [11]
- Early Bronze Age (EBA) human and animal samples (Auvergne: 100km) [12]

**Terrestrial food resources**

- Plant (CNS), geochemical and taxonomic analysis of the archaeological samples. Techniques developed for the study of the human diet, the origins, the ethnological and archaeological practice: EBA, LN & CNS.

**Food (G)**

- Wide variability (CN) between regions and periods
- Number of individuals vs environment?

Sample too small (NM<6) to define the whole diversity of resources  
Differences in local resources

---

**All from the same origin**

**Food (G)**

- Small cranium (1253 cm³): stature vs pathology; sex? [13]

- Known pattern for EBA
- Northern Italian caves: possible “ hospice center” [14; 15]

**Mobility (H)**

- Except one adult (>20) (T)
- Small cranium (1253 cm³): stature vs pathology; sex? [13]

- Known pattern for EBA
- Northern Italian caves: possible “ hospice center” [14; 15]

**Patrilocal system [16]**

Comparisons with caves and other types of collective burials in the region

**Definition of the criteria of the funerary selection**

---

**Janna First excavation and multi approach investigation in the Cèze Valley**

Exploratory work and animal and animal data in progress

Poor sanitary conditions

- One outsider (S)
- Same funerary practice and alimentation

Gathered in death

- No exclusion depending on age, sex, health and origin

Comparisons with caves and other types of collective burials in the region

Definition of the criteria of the funerary selection

---

All collagen samples respect the preservation criteria.