
A Tick remains from Areni-1 (Birds' Cave), Armenia

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Abstract

Ticks have been never participated in archaeological analytic studies. Here, we present the discovery of a tick from the finds of Systematic archaeological excavations at Areni-1 cave in the Republic of Armenia.

The well-preserved tick *Rhipicephalus bursa* provides important information about the prevailing ecology during the periods of habitation and usage of the cave by Late Chalcolithic and Medieval inhabitants and supports previous hypotheses, that ticks were a potential source of disease for human and other mammals especially cattle, sheep, horse and dog. This discovery has health, behavioural and ecological implications for the people that occupied the cave.

Keywords: Archaeozoology, Areni, 1 Cave, Armenia, Tick remains.

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