

---

# Of Fish and Donkeys: Faunal Remains and Industry in Early Roman Magdala on the Sea of Galilee

Nimrod Marom\*<sup>1</sup>, Dina Avshalom-Gorni<sup>2</sup>, Sarel Shalev<sup>1</sup>, and Miriam Pines<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Recanati Institute for Maritime Studies, University of Haifa – Israel

<sup>2</sup>Israel Antiquities Authority – Israel

<sup>3</sup>Tel Aviv University – Israel

## Abstract

Excavations in the archaeological site of Magdala have uncovered neighborhoods, shops, and an anchorage of the Early Roman town. It has long been accepted that the town's economy was based on trade in fish caught in the Sea of Galilee, which led to interpretation of a unique type of building plan in the site as a fish-salting facility. Analysis of the faunal remains, however, suggests that the industry in Roman Magdala is related to cloth-dyeing. This new of interpretation is supported by soil chemical analysis and by historical sources.

**Keywords:** Roman, industry

---

\*Speaker