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# The economy of Bronze age societies in the Central Levant

Jwana Chahoud\*<sup>†1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>ARCHEORIENT – Université Lumière - Lyon 2, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique :  
UMR5133 – France

<sup>2</sup>Lebanese University – Lebanon

## Abstract

Faunal studies were conducted on new four sites from the coastal central Levant and compared to more than 95 sites of the Bronze Age in the Levant. This paper discusses the influence of the social and environmental factors on the animal economy of Levantine societies for the third and second millennium BC. The evolution of this economy over time is analyzed through the study of faunal spectrum, culling profiles and morphometric. We focus on the analysis of domestic and wild mammalian fauna since the study of non-mammalian remains is not systematic available at all sites. Analyzes of the factors influencing food choices and the animal economy highlight a decrease in the exploitation of wild animals and the increase in the specialization of livestock, primarily sheep and goats but also cattle and swine in the Bronze Age. The environment and climate seem to play a major role in the exploitation of animals in the 3rd millennium. In the Middle and Late Bronze Age, cultural choices and the response to the needs of urban centers as well as environmental and climatic conditions play a role in the animal economy and diet of the inhabitants of the Levant.

**Keywords:** Husbandry, dietary, Levant, Bronze Age

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\*Speaker

<sup>†</sup>Corresponding author: jwanachahoud@gmail.com