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**DENTAL NONMETRIC ANALYSIS OF TECOLOTE PUEBLO:
A STUDY OF BIOLOGICAL DISTANCE**

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Abstract

Archaeological evidence suggests that Tecolote Pueblo, occupied from A.D. 1050-1300, may be a geographic outlier, located at the far eastern edge of Puebloan occupation but still affiliated with the Pueblo. The biological affinity of its residents, however, was not known, as Plains sites have also been recovered very near to Tecolote. Using the dentitions recovered from the site, a dental anthropological approach was used to determine whether the residents' biological affinity was closer to Puebloan or Plains groups. Dental nonmetric traits were recorded using ASUDAS (Arizona State University Dental Anthropology System) standards and compared statistically using the Mean Measure of Divergence and nonstatistically using Turner's expression count method. Results from both methods indicate that Tecolote Pueblo is more closely related to Puebloan than Plains groups. This result supports the results of a previous study based on cranial metric traits that Tecolote Pueblo was slightly, but not significantly, more closely related to the Pueblo. However, multidimensional scaling shows that Tecolote does not fall neatly into the Puebloan group and may be biologically different due to genetic drift.