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**ANALYSES OF THE FRAGMENTARY AND COMMINGLED SKELETAL
REMAINS FROM AN IRON AGE NECROPOLIS IN NADIN, CROATIA**

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Abstract

The Iron Age site of Nadin, Croatia was occupied by a people referred to as the Liburnians before, during, and after Roman expansionism influenced the political structures, subsistence practices, and social organization of the region. The Nadin Archaeological Project has been excavating at the Nadin, Croatia *gradina* (hilltop) and necropolis since 2005. This thesis considers what an analysis of the fragmentary human skeletal remains from the necropolis might contribute to the discussion of the process of ‘Romanization’. Romanization facilitated ideological changes that resulted in the local inhabitants of Ravni Kotari and the coastal Adriatic acquiescing to newly formed Roman identities. Whether or not these changes and the eventual urbanization of local population centers resulted in a shift of the quality of life of the Liburnians is a subject of debate to which skeletal analysis may contribute.

In light of the poor preservation of the Nadin skeletal material the primary tasks of this analysis were to establish the MNI, consider the fragmentation of the skeletal remains in relationship to the site’s architecture, and consider the pathological markers exhibited on the bones and what these may or may not suggest about the population’s health during this dynamic period. I analyzed 7529 bone fragments from five parcelas (i.e., small plots of land). Percentage of completeness was calculated for identifiable fragments (n=3015). MNIs from identifiable fragments were determined using a modified version of the Landmark Method. Age, sex, pathological expressions, and other notable characteristics (e.g., trauma, evidence of burning, mineral staining etc.) were noted for all identifiable fragments.

Based on the remains from the excavations conducted in 2015, I found an MNI of 58 for parcelas 6, 7, 8, and 10 at the Nadin necropolis. This was determined from 3015 refit fragments, whose elements were poorly preserved. Except for patellae, all bony elements recorded were less than 50% complete. Of the 58, 48% were subadults, a greater percentage than recorded for similar Bronze age sites in the region. In addition, ~6% of identified and refit fragments exhibited some kind of pathological response, although these frequency-based data are insufficient to make inferences about population health. It is fair to suggest, based on the change in subadult mortality from the Bronze Age to the Iron Age, that the population may have been growing. In order to make more substantial suppositions further work to better understand the context of the remains will be required.