

BRONZE AND IRON AGE PALAEO-ECONOMY
IN A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT.
THE BIOARCHAEOLOGY OF TELL TWEINI,
ON THE NORTHERN LEVANTINE COAST

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1. INTRODUCTION

In this contribution, the archaeozoological and archaeobotanical data are presented from the excavations in Field A at the settlement mound of Tell Tweini, on the Syrian coast (35°22'17.93"N, 35°56'12.60"E), dated mainly to the Bronze Age and the Iron Age. Because of its long-term occupation, the site is well suited for the study of diachronic developments. Importantly, Tell Tweini is one of the rare sites of the area where the transition between the Bronze Age and the Iron Age is recorded. The long and continuous occupation of the site allows reconstructing the impact of the environmental changes that have been documented for coastal Syria, a climatically sensitive zone,¹ both on the animal and plant husbandry of the area and on how the humans living there adapted their subsistence economy to the environmental change. In addition, the influence of regional political and socio-economical changes on the animal and plant economy can be established. Tell Tweini was located on the crossroads of multiple trade routes, and the area has undergone influences from different political powers in the eastern Mediterranean.

The general composition of the fauna at Tell Tweini has been reported on before,² and a separate article has discussed the possible meaning of the numerous remains of Nile perch (*Lates niloticus*), which was imported from Egypt, as well as the range of questions that this trade raises.³ Another contribution dealt with the plant and animal remains from Middle Bronze Age tombs at Tell

¹ Kaniewski *et al.* 2008; Kaniewski *et al.* 2010.

² Linseele 2008; Linseele 2010.

³ Linseele *et al.* 2013.

ORIENTALIA LOVANIENSIA
ANALECTA

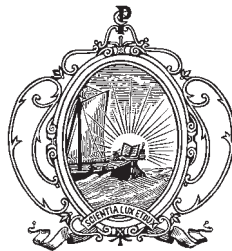
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ABOUT TELL TWEINI (SYRIA):
ARTEFACTS, ECOFACTS AND LANDSCAPE

Research Results of the Belgian Mission

edited by

JOACHIM BRETSCHNEIDER and GRETA JANS



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