LE. Kopyase

HUNTED ANIMALS AT ASIKLI AND THE ENVIRONMENT (Figs 1-6 , Pls. 1-2)

Ufuk ESIN

1. INTRODUCTION

Professor Dr. "SANDOR B O K O N Y I" was certainly one of the most well-known archaeo-zoologists with a broad knowledge in his field of research. His scientific work did not covered only the studies about the ancient mammals in Old Europe, but also included the animal world in Western Asia. He helped with his extensive researches to many Near Eastern and Anatolian archaeologists to understand and evaluate better a prehistoric culture of an excavated site in connection with its environment, ecology and with its subsistence economy based on his faunal studies (Bökönyi 1974, 1982, 1983, 1993).

I'm one of those lucky prehistorians who had the opportunity to colloborate with him and had so much respect for his scientific work. I'm also very much indebted to him for his work on faunal remains of Değirmentepe (Malatya) on the Euphrates in Eastern Turkey which has been excavated between 1978-85 and then after inundated by the waters of the artificial lake of the Karakaya-Dam (Esin 1994 a) (1).

Inspired by one of his articles about "Hunting at the Arslantepe", this paper is here dedicated to him in hope to be make" a small contribution to commomorate his valuable found data is scholarly work in Anatolia (Bökönyi 1993). Although it is only one parameter in reconstructing environment to use available data of faunal remains for ancient sites, the aim to explore of this paper is only to make an attempt to find out tentatively the ecological conditions in Central Anatolia in the vicinity of Asıklı according to its faunal remains, cafrem approximately ten thousand years ago, during the Early Holocene. This goal in mind, after a brief description of the pre-pottery site of Asıklı, its faunal remains will be present forward followed by the according to the same data the environment of the

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^{(1).} Unfortunately he passed away before he published the animal bone data of Değirmentepe. Only a short report which has been sent by him with a list of game and domesticated animals of Değirmentepe has been published briefly with his kind permission in TÜBİTAK Arkeometri Ünitesi Bilimsel Toplantı Bildirileri VI (1985, Ankara) pp.138-139 (see Esin 1986).

nears

2. THE PRE-POTTERY SITE OF ASIKLI (Figs. 1-6, Table 1) Aşıklı Höyük is situated 25 km South-East of the province of Aksaray, 1.119.45 m above the sea level on the cappadocian part of central Anatolian Platagu

(fig.1). This part of Cappadocia has been formed by tufa cones, granite and andesite rock-hills due to the volcanic - including activities in the region and due to the eruptions of Wwolcanic Hasandağ and Melendiz mountains which are placed

only 40 km South of the Asikli mound. The volcanic activities in this area started during the Neogene and continiued also during the Pleistocene(Emre 1991, 182-193). Because of the It resultd same activities many obsidian sources have been formed in reachable distances in the neighbouring areas of Aşıklı which have been exploited by its inhabitatants for

manufacturing the main part of their artefacts and weapons

(Esin et_al. 1991,170-174,pls.12-16).

Asikli lies in Kizilkaya village on a bank of Melendiz river which orginates on the slopes between Hasandağ and Meleniz ranges. The river runs from South to the North-West direction where it cuts the famous, canyon-like Ihlara-valley, which is full with cave-churches from the Early Christian period before it reaches the Kizilkaya village (fig.2, Esin et al. 1991,pls.1-3).

Today the climate is continental in the vicinity of with a few Asikli and the narrow valley of Melendiz river, is almost the wixed It is almost the only suitable area for agriculture and animal grazing with a foreste

few mixed woods nearby (fig.2). in due to Because of the raising of the water-levels of the artificial laker of Mamasın-dam built on a tributary of U.L. Melendiz river, Asıklı mound will be part doomed from its northern and western profiles in coming years (Esin et al. peque 159-160, pls. 1-2) Therefore Since 198% salvage excavations have been are carried out on the mound by the Prehistory Section of the Faculty of Letters of the Istanbul University (Esin et al. 1991). The Biologisch-Archaeologisch Institute of the State University at Groningen, joined the Asikli excavations with a project in order to undertake the archaeo-botanical, archaeo-zoological resaerches and 14- C datem of the site (2).

> (2) For these researches I'm very much indebted to Prof. Dr. S. Bottema, Prof. Dr. W. van Zeist, Dr. H. Biutenhuis, Dr. H. Woldring, Dr.J.de Roller and for 14-C assesments to Dr.J. van der Pflicht from the same university.

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the weatherands

In the course of the excavations more than 3500 square meters are unearthed at Asikli (figs.2-3). So far deg, a Sechin part of the earliest habitation layer has been discovered directly on the shore of the Melendiz river, beneath of an alluvial deposit of 1.5 height on the south outside of the main mound which was presumably connected with it during the earliest occupation phases (fig. 2, Esin 1995, 71, fig.3).

On the mound, from top to bottom the cultural layer 2 has Sofah, been more extensively excavated (figs.2-3). (on the North of the site, in a step trench, so far dug, 8 subhases of Cayer 2 have been encountered (fig. 3, in the north of the site) in a step trench, so far dug, 8 subhases of Cayer 2 have been encountered in a Step-treuch on the north of the site of the architecture and of the small finds from the

homogenious but of unique culture which has been dated to great number

all subphases and habitation layers Asikli presents a

the 8-th Mill. B.C. according to a large amount of

consistent and calibrated 14-0 assesments (Esin

1995, 75-76, figs. 11-12). ___ at this site

rin thickness

ier are some

The architecture of the site was primarely made of mud-brick which was mixed with a small amount of vegetal temper. The walls of the houses had usually no stone foundations except when they were strongly needed. Therefore in a few cases few rows of stone slabs made of tufa used as foundation walls under the mud-bricks of the walls of some buildings (figs. 3-4; Esin 1995,70, fig. 2,72, fig. 5). The mud-brick houses of the inhabitants are usally rectangular or trapezoidal in plan (figs. 3, 4). Sometimes one of their He walls is slightly curved or projected in one end in order to fit into the space which has been left for its construction in a quarter (figs. 3-4). Hearths, low partitions made of mud-bricks, small shallow post-holes surrounded by small pebble stones, or stone bases for wooden posts were also used in the houses (Esin et al. 1991, 166, pl.8) News or more room houses together were placed in row-housing system as quarters or insulae (fig. 3-4). The quarters have been were seperated from each other by narrow passage-ways or small court-yards (figs.3-4; Esin et al. 1991,165,pl.7/1-3). There are also large dumping areas between some of the quarters on the North and North-East of the mound where most probably the hunted animal meet was shared and consumed It seems that the leftovers were thrown away and burnt which ther after formed thin stratay consisting of animal bones, obsidians and kernels of hack--berries (celtis ; figs. 3,5, trenches, 4 H and 6-7 J-K).

there were no accesses to the exterior from the houses nothing led

oftherwise modified in order to fit into the space, which was left for its construction

-characterized by the use

From the houses

dumps the

The interieur

into the passage-ways, court-yards or rubbish areas. Only door-openings have been left in partition walls between the rooms of two or more room houses. Therefore it has been assumed that the entrances into the houses should have been from above from the roof by using a mobile ladder.

Almost in the middle of the settlements of all subphases direction there is a large street which has been paved by peoble stones runing from the South-West to the North-East direction and them it has been gabled into two narrow paths, one turning to the South and the other one reaching a small court-yard -paved also with pebble stones - on the Northand bifurcoted East of the street (fig. 3, Esin 1994 b, 125, fig. 1, pl. 9/1-2 ,pl.10; Esin 1995,72, trench 6 -0). On the South-West Mark of the main street there are two buildings which seem to been used for other social functions (fig. 3, Esin 1995, 72, fig. 5, trenches 3-4 N-0 and 3-4 P-R). One of them is a temple with its red painted floors and interior walls (fig. 3;, ibid.72, fig.5, trenches 3-4, P-R, building T). of with kacking the other one has a chest-wall system on its North and its

function is still not clarified (fig. 3, Esin 1994 b,

126-127, fig.1, pls 9/2-3, 10).

On the North - East of the mound there is another large street which (has been (also) paved by pebble! stones (fig. 3, trenches 11-12 J). It has been flanked by large buildings en the warm-which seem to Consisted of many rooms (fig. 3). The building to the South of the street has been dug more extensively than the others (fig. 3). It is framed on the North by rounded stone foundation walls and has a large stone paved floor(fig.3,Esin 1995,71,fig.4).It is a multi-room building and its main room is connected with a magazine - room and with small court-yards. Its walls from the interior and its plastered floor have been painted in red. The magazine-room has six immobile storage containers made of unbaked clay

> The burial customs seem to benintramural at Asikli. The and place deaths were burried in earthen pits in hocker-position under the floors of some rooms (Esin et al. 1991, 167, pl.9). Sometimes they were partly burnt and wrapped in rush mats or covered by mats. Necklaces or armrings consisting of beads made of simple or semi-precious stones, of deer teeth, native copper, and of land snails or sea shells were usually left as grave goods with the burials (Esin et al. 1991, 168, pl.10 (AH.89-120); Esin 19895,73, fig, 8, p.74, fig.10). The Manufacturing obsidian tools, weappons and bone/horn author artefacts are the main industries at Aşıklı (fig.6, Esin et

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Court-yourd

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Street

stones)

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asmall

weter

dens are often found on the border of marshes.

houses on its borders. contiguous dense forest with rich undergrowth is also a good habitat type for wild swine, red deer (Dervus elaphus), (as well as) hare (Lepus capensis), brown bear, lion(and wild cat - (panthera Felissylvestis, Forest-steppes and steppes provide suitable habitats for wild horse (Equus cf.spec); grass steppes and semi deserts are the environmental types for gazelle, onager (Hemionous) and hyena (Hyena Sp). There is no special habitat preference for wolf (Canis _ Survive lupus) and fox (Vulpes vulpes), They can live in any type of environmental type, except in centers of large deserts. The middle Different landscapes which provide eneugh cover (bushes, forest border lines, forested spots on steppes, gardens (Sufficient etc.) with some water supply are suitable for weasel, and · (Mustela hedgehog (Erinaceaus europeaus). Earth galleries, steppes, meadows, heaths, fields, cultivated lands of each kind are perferable for rodents, especially for mouse (type 'Microtus) spec., and Glis glis likes to lives fat rich in tree and bushy landscapes. Fields, gardens and parky are the habitats for tortoise / -species (Testudinae). Forests, heaths, moor, tundra and steppes are usually homes for birds (Aves). Vulture (Aegypidae unident.) nests on trees, of high rocks in plains or on high rocky mountain ranges. But faicon (Falco tinnnunculus) nests on in trees in wood rich cultivated landscapes, although red marsh harner falcon (Circus aerugininosus) prefers moor with bushes surrounded by water for its nest. Bustard (Otis tarda) nests also in cultivated large Fields. - the Cultivated evell Forests on mountains and steppe-forest are home and of great the

eagle owl (Bubo bubo) and its nest "sy usually of trees in fields, gardens and parks. typical Gardens and parks are the habitat types of crow (Corvus corone). and

(oastal Bushes of lakes of rivers provide suitable environment for a variety % wild ducks (Anatidae) in habit Rd

Flat and rocky areas with grassland are homelands for by snails (Gastropoda unident.).

These habitat types probably can be summarized as rocks, rocky hills, mountains with forest, forests or woods, stappe-forests, plains with some tree cover, grasslands, meadows, heaths and cultivated fields. All of those They must also have been environmental types should have been situated, also near to a water sources, in the proximity of

the previously described

4. DISCUSSION (pls.1-2)

According to those habitat types described above for the Of the animal taxa discovered at Asikli it can be assumed that during the Early Holocene, forests or woods, steppes, plains, good grazing and arable lands should have been pepresented in the vicinity of the site, although the rocky landscape of Western Cappadocia, apopr for plant growth vegetation covers large areas and dominated its neighbourhood since prehistoric times.

on the other hand, among the animal species of Asikli owl such as wild boar, red deer, great 609/seem to be good judicative indicators forests or woods near to a water supply, namely near the Melendiz river. Wild horse, on the contrary, is an animal of steppes of forest-steppes. Bustard usually nests hand in cultivated fields and crowslives on trees in fields, gardens and parks like falcon which nests also on trees in cultivated lands (Glis glis) prefers also to live in a landscapes rich in tree and bushes with trees and bushy undergrowth

The Melendiz river is not only a good water supply for all SortS

each kind of living species but its narrow valley is also a

other plants GTO W

Mean while

fat dormouse,

Among other plantremains.

most of them

suitable with its fertile alluvial plain for the growth of where trees plants and trees. Some of the carbonized, small wood remains -sampled discovered at Asikli and collected as samples for dendrochronological have been determined as oak trees by Kuniholm (Personal comminication with P.I. Kuniholm in 1995) Large amount of carbonized (Celtis (hackberry), seeds has been wish identified among other plant remains by W. van, The nest of Zeist and de Roller, which belong either to cultivated the cereals and pulses or to grasses to meadows and steppes (Co tarri cal van Zeist and de Roller 1995, forthcoming, cf. Todd finals 1980, 116).

Hackberry trees are string Mowing. Some leftovers of the oak-woods are covering the slopes of Hasandag and of Melendiz ranges, which although seem to bendestroyed by anthropogenic activities since during several milennia.

When all these data taken into consideration it can be suggested that the area in the vicinity of Asikli should wow have been covered with more woods or forests than today.

Animal taxa from four aceramic sites in Central Anatolia are Compard such as Can Hasan III, Suberde and Hacilar together with Asikli is given in pl. 2 for comparison (French 1972; Payne 1972 a and b; Perkins 1973; Perkins and Daly 1972 , Mellaart 1970,5,246-247). It presents four different ecological niches during the Early Holocene. But some particular

In Addition to paule they include

Nevertueless

on the

species, important for the nutrition of prehistoric human societies, such as Bos, Movis/Capra were present in the Environ multi-neighbourhood of these four sites together with hare (pl.2). Wild pig, red and roe deer have been hunted at Asikli, Can Hasan III and at Suberde. Fallow deer was also a game animal at Asikli, Suberde and Hacilar (pl.2). have bull of the

These species which seem to provide the main animal at the protein diet of the inhabitants of those four sites indicate (settlements that the areas in the vicinity of them were covered not onlyby with plains and graslands near to lacwater source, but also, at least some woods or forest-steppes must have been perresented in those different ecological niches. environments.

5.CONCLUSION

identificat The animal taxa of Aşıklı given in pl.1 most probably indicate that during its occupation period in its vicinity there were a few environments types which have been represented by some woods or forest-steppes, plains, good grazing and arable lands in the Melendiz valley and also by the rocky landscape of western Cappadocia nearby.

Istanbul, 1995

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C A P T I O N S (LIST OF FIGURES AND PLATES)

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- " 3. Schematic plan of layer 2 at Aşıklı Höyük.
- " 4. Air view of a part of mud-brickarchitecture at A51kl1. Seen from the North.
- " 5. Large dumping pit and meat-sharing area on the North-East of Asikli.
- " 6. Some tools made of animal bone and horn from Asikli.
- Plate 1. List of Animal Taxa of Asikli after Buitenhuis 1994 a and 1994 b
- " 2. Comparative list of animal taxa from the aceramic sites in Central Anatolia during the Early Holocene, ca 8./7.Millenium B.C.

Plate 1

LIST OF ANIMAL TAXA OF ASIKLI (after Buitenhuis 1994 a and 1994 b)

Bos primigenius Ovis ammon orientalis Capra aegagrus Small ruminants(prob.0/0) Sus scrofa	wild goat " Kear 665
Cervidae, spec. unknown Dama spec. Cervus elaphus Capreolus capreolus	cervids geyllegilles 59 fallow deer warded 44 red deer wizh geylle - 21 roe deer alageyll 9
Equus cf.spec.	wild horse Yabaniah 216
Canis lupus Canis lupus /familiaris Vulpes vulpes	wolf worthopele 2 wolf/dog herrthopele 2 fox tille 50
Rodentia, unident. Microtus spec. cf.Glis glis Lepus capensis Erinaceaus europeaus Castor fiber	rodent Kennirgeuler 1 mouse-type Fare tipi 1 mouse-type " 2 hare tavpau 496 hedgehog hirpi 3 beaver kunduz 2
	bird duck o'r sle & 7 vulture all store 5 falcon atmaca (dojan, sakin)-1 red falcon ur muzi do (au 2 hawk pahin (atmaca, saylan) 1 falcon dogan 3 bustard to y musu 2 great owl Baylous 3 crow marga 8 small crow wishin katsa 3
Testudinae Pisces Gastropoda, unident.	tortoise (Turke) Maplumbapa 15 fish ball 2 snail salyango 3

COMPARATIVE LIST OF ANIMAL TAXA FROM ACERAMIC SITES
IN CENTRAL ANATOLIA

Plate II

	AŞIKLI	CAN HASAN III	SUBERDE	HACILAR
Bos primigenius (auerochs)	Х	large bovid/bo)5 X	Х
Ovis ammon orign-	×		×	
talis(w.sheep) Capra aegagrus	X		×	
(w.goat) Ovis/Capra		×		×
(sheep/goat) Small ruminants (prob.0/C)	×			
Sus scrofa (w.pig)	X	×	Х	
Cervidae spec. (deer)	X			
Dama spec. (fallow deer)	X		X	×
Cervus elaphus (red deer)	X	X	X	
Capreolus capre- olus (roe deer)	×	X	×	
Equid (probably Equus heminous, onager)		×		
Equus cf.spec.	X			
Bear			×	
Wild cat			X	
Jackal Marten			×	
Badger			×	
Canis		X	*5.0°)	
Canis lupus (wolf)	×			
Canis lupus/ fami liaris (wolf/dog				
Canis familiaris (dog)			×	×
Vulpes vulpes (fo.	x) X	×	×	

LIST OF ANIMAL TAXA OF ASIKLI (after Buitenhuis 1994 a and 1994 b)

Ovis ammon orientalis Capra aegagrus Small ruminants(prob.0/C)	wild goat	1738 3808 665 12123 340
No. of the state o	fallow deer red deer	59 44 21 9
Equus cf.spec.	wild horse	216
Canis lupus /familiaris	wolf wolf/dog fox	2 2 50
Microtus spec. cf.Glis glis Lepus capensis	rodent mouse-type mouse-type hare hedgehog beaver	1 1 2 496 3 2
Anatidae, unident.	red falcon	15 7 5 1 2 1 3 2 3 8 3
Testudinae Pisces Gastropoda, unident.	tortoise fish snail	15 2 1

PLATE II (continues)

		AŞIKLI	CAN	HASAN	III	SUBER	DE	HACIL	AR
peau	ceaus euro- s(hedgehog)	Х							
Hedge							X		
Roden (rod	tia,unident. ent)	Х		X					
Roden	tia (1nsecti-)			X					
	tus spec. se-type)	X							
cf.Gl	is glis se-type)	X							
	capensis	Х		X			Χ	Х	
casto	r fiber	Х							
	VEL)						272		
	dinae toise)	Х		X			Х		
ophid	ia (snake)			X					
Pisce	s (fish)	×		X			Х		
Gastr	opoda, unident	. X							
	water calm						Х		
Amphi				X.					
	unident.(bird	() X		X			Х		
	dae (duck)	X		7.4			2.3.		
	idae (vulture								
The second second second	nidae (falcor								
	s aeruginosus								
	falcon)	Α.							
tili	cipiter gen- s (hawk)	×							
	tinnunculis	X				19-5			
otis	tarda (bustar	d) X							
Bubo	bubo(great ow	(1) X							
	s corone (cro								
	s frugilegus	Х							
	11 crow)	7.25.)							
Pelic							Х		

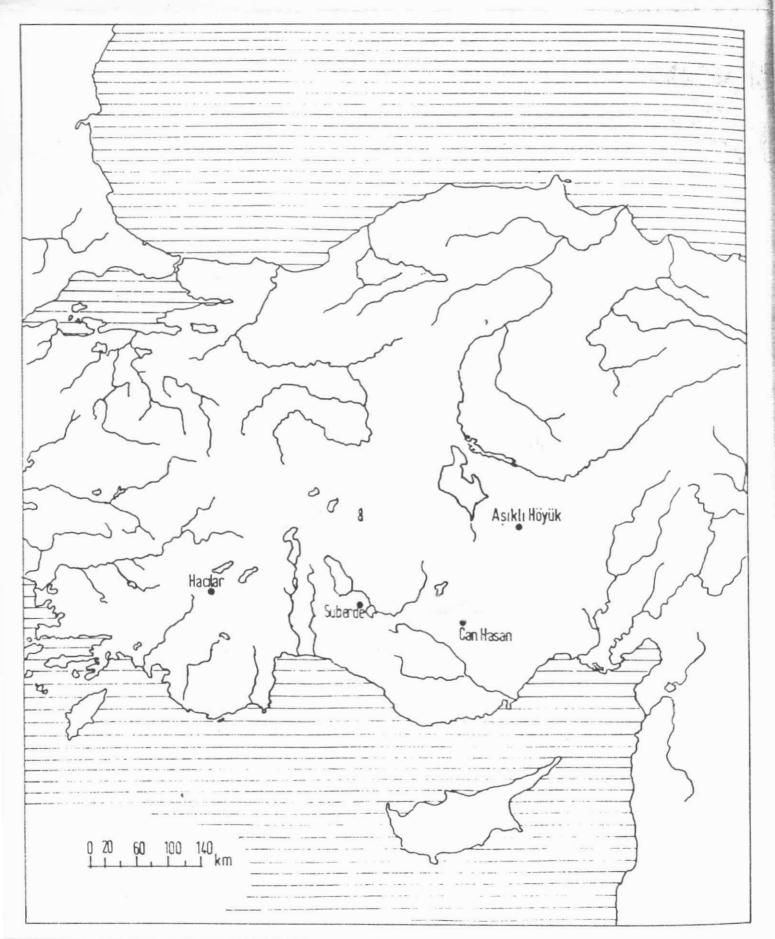
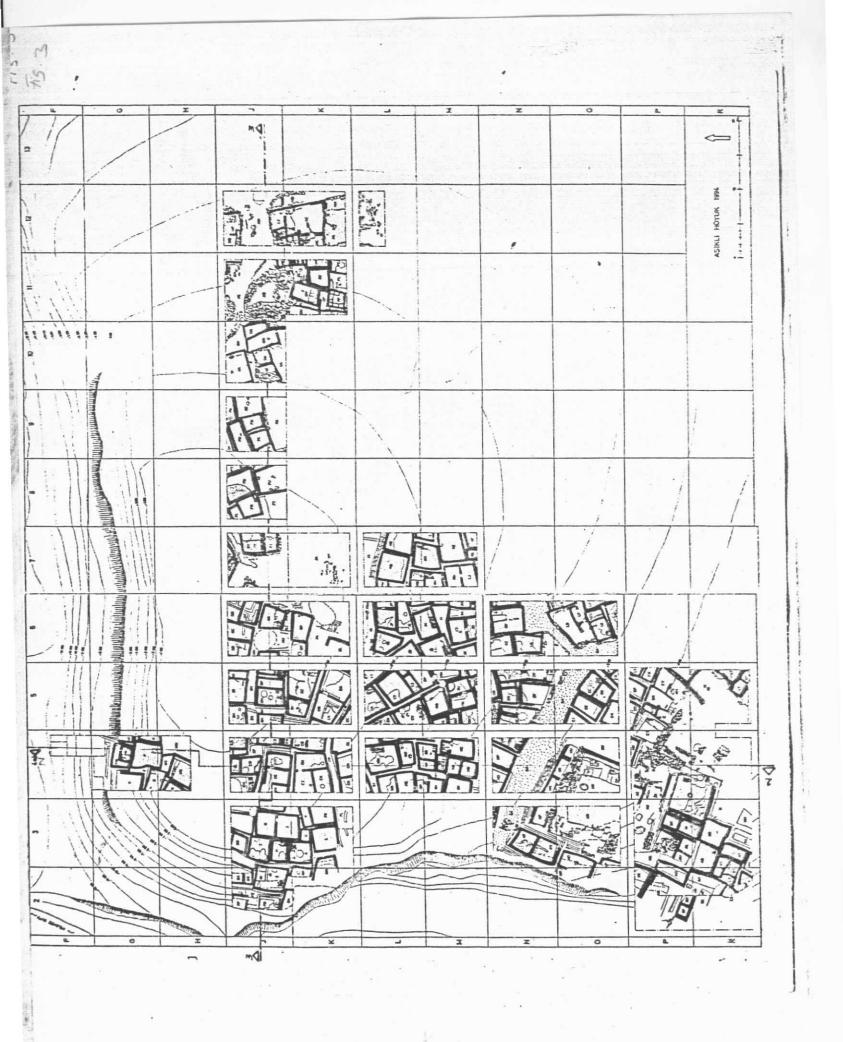
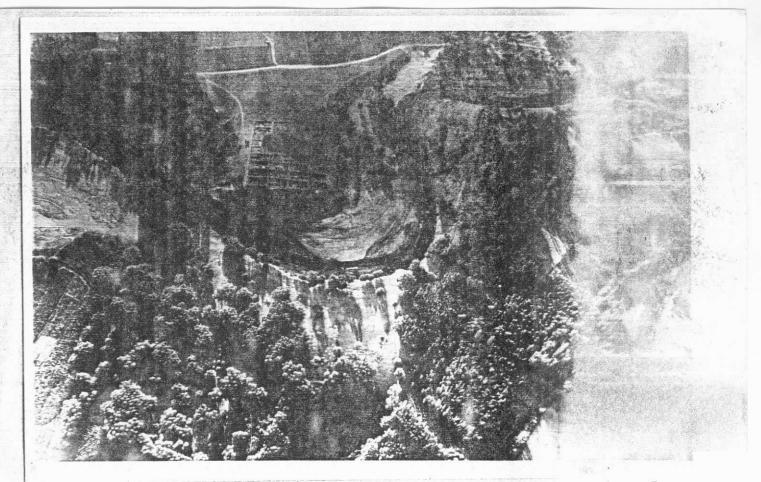


Fig. 34 — Distribution des gisements en Anatolie centrale.





AH.94 SB # 18/31 Fis. 2 Balon

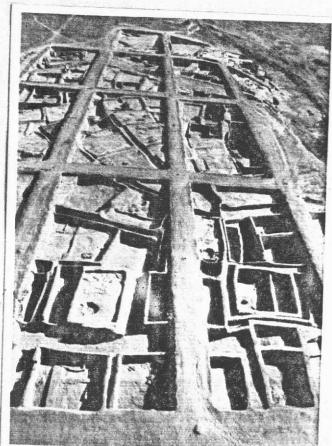
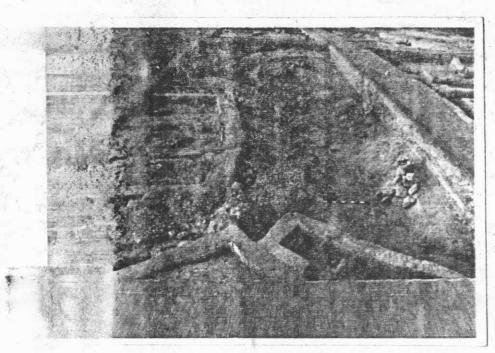
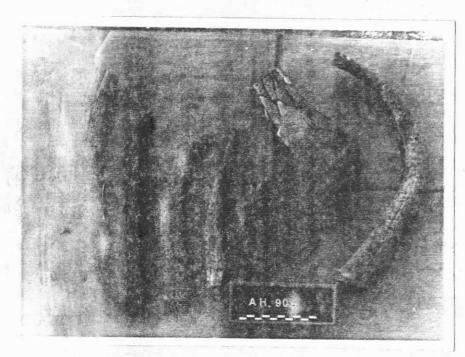


fig.4

AH.93 A-25/15



AH.92 A.8/18 7 J-16 K-G. Fis.5



AH. 90 A 13/14 Fis. 6

Table 1. Preliminary faunalist from Asikli Höyük (excavation: 1989-93).

NISP = number of identified specimen

hase	2G	2F	2E	2D	2B	2A	2?	P/R	TOT	
pecies:	- A .	e Carl	100	, A	-			2 %		_
pecies.		de								
crinaceaus europeaus heelg	eloq.	F	3		not?</td <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3</td> <td></td>				3	
Canis lupus wolf	7.	1				9.		1	2	
Canis lupus/familiaris wolf/	log .		1		1				2	
Julpes vulpes Posc	4	1	6	13	7	1	22		50	
Equus cf. hydruntinus spec	24	24	30	4	11	1	133	13	216 = A	orse
Sus scrofa wild boar	55	28	56	61	10	5	175	5	340	
Cervidae, spec. unknown	ecr. 4	2	13	9	3	1	23	8	59	
Dama spec. follow deer		1	5	2	8	5	22	1	44	
Cervus elaphus red deer	1			100	1	2	17	1	21	
Capreolus capreolus rue de	ser 1	1		1	2		5	2.	9	
Bos primigenius aueroch	48	39	103	105	326	84	854	227	1738	
Capra aegagrus goal	29	39	90	63	134	63	334	63	665	
Ovis ammon orientalis Thee		143	549	380	632	177	1727	200	3808	
mall ruminants (prob. O/C)		351	1757	1055	2386	887	5074	613	12123	
odentia, unident. rode at	1	551	1.0.	1000	2000		1		1	
Microtus spec. Mouse - by		•	•	•	•		1		1	
f. Glis glis		•		•		•	2	•	2	
epus capensis have	16	5	120	51	64	19	231	6	496	
					- 1	2	0		1.5	
lves, unident.	2	. •	4		1	2	8		15	
Anatidae, unident.	•		2	1	1		3		7	
egypidae, unident. VULTUI		*	1		1		3		5	
alconidae, unident. FALCO	N .		:		1				1	
Circus aeruginosus	1		1	× *		•	1		2	
f. Accipiter gentilis haw	h.				1		:		1	
alco tinnunculis Palcon			2			٠	1		3	
Otis tarda bushord	*			•			2		2	
subo bubo great owl		*		1	•		2		3	
Corvus corone crow.				4	1		2		8	
Corvus frugilegus small co	000 .	• 1		1		٠	2		3	
estudinae TORTOILE	1		2	1	3	8		1	15	
isces FILL		1			1		1.		2	
Gastropoda, unident. IN A.1 + lea 124 - Cas to	L sibe	·	Hear	logat C	ollecte	d	V.	1	1	
'otal	1003	636	2745	1752	3595	1255	8645	1140	19648	

DIE VERTEILUNG DER JAGDTIERARTEN IN ASIKLI

NAME DES TIERES ZA	HL DER TIERE	PROZENTZAHL
CANIS spec.(WOLF)	1	-
VULPES vulpes (FUCHS)	8	_
EQUUS hominus (ONAGER)	166	0.9
SUS scrofa (WILDSCHWEIN)	371	2.2
CERVIDAE (PAARHUFERFAM.)	60	0.3
DAMA Spec.(DAMHIRSCH)	17	-
CERVUS elaphus (ROTHIRSCH)	9	-
CAPREOLUS capreolus (REH)	13	-
BOS primigenius (AUROCHS/UR)	1464	8.5
CAPRA aegagrus (WILDZIEGE)	506	2.9
OVIS orientalis (WILDSCHAF)	2870	16.8
KLEINE RUMINANTEN (WIEDERKAU	ER) 11610	67.8
RODENTIA (NAGETIERE)	I	=
LEPUS guropeaus (HASE)	10	= -
AVES VOGEL		
1)10/10		
(NACH H.BU	ITENHUIS 1994)	