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Whence these Farmers? Bioarchaeology and the Advent of Agriculture in West Mexico

Abstract: The researcher will examine bioarchaeological evidence pertaining to composition of the human population interred at El Pantano (~800 BC) in West Mexico. Non-metric dental traits of the individuals in the cemetery will be used to describe and analyze the degree of biological homogeneity within the population. This data will be compared with data on ceramics and burial goods gathered by other researchers, in order to shed light on how this particular group of early farmers came together in Jalisco, and contribute to the anthropology of cultural change and the movement of prehistoric people. Of specific interest are the questions of how agriculture spread to West Mexico and what were the dynamics of inter-group interaction in propelling that spread and establishing this new form of subsistence in Jalisco.