

Animal exploitation in northeast Tibetan Plateau during Neolithic-Bronze Age

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The history and driving force for prehistoric human occupation of the Tibetan Plateau has been intensively concerned in recent years. Multidisciplinary studies reveal that human extensively and year-roundly settled below 2500 m asl in northeast Tibetan Plateau (NETP) since 5200BP mainly with the utilization of millet crops, and above 3000 m asl post 3600BP primarily with cold-tolerant barley. However, the strategy for human animal utilization during Neolithic and Bronze periods in NETP still remains enigmatic. We collected and identified hundreds of animal bones from 14 Neolithic and Bronze sites in NETP, with the application of radiocarbon dating, carbon and nitrogen isotopes analysis, and ancient DNA analysis, we explore the changing patterns of animal utilization, and potential human behaviours for taming wild animals in this area throughout late prehistoric times. These works shed lights for understanding when and how husbandry and pastoral economies emerged, and how prehistoric human adapted to the high-cold environment of the Tibetan Plateau..