

Notes

ANALYSIS OF FAUNAL REMAINS FROM NAROSURA

Knut Odner's excavation at Narosura, a stone bowl site in the south-central Kenya highlands (Odner, 1972), yielded nearly three hundred kilograms of animal bone, most of which belongs to cattle and ovicaprids. Unfortunately three-quarters of this bone is badly fragmented and abraded, and there are no whole or partially restorable skulls. There are only seven identifiable horn cores, and none of these escaped damage.

Odner's excavations were limited in area, covering only 0.3-0.4 per cent of the estimated midden area of the site; and all excavation, with the exception of four test pits sited at 50-75 m intervals along a modern irrigation channel, was tightly clustered. It remains for future excavators to demonstrate whether the faunal sample secured by Odner is representative of the midden as a whole and whether the relative number of species present is indicative of the actual death population.

My analysis of the teeth from Narosura (Gramly, 1972) revealed the presence of 52 cattle, 75 ovicaprids, and 5 non-domestic animals. Several hundred additional tooth fragments were discovered among the bags of faunal material examined in the course of this analysis, but there are no major changes to make in the above totals except to add 1 cow and 7 ovicaprids giving a total of 140 animals by teeth in the sample. The proportion of well-worn to unworn teeth of cattle and ovicaprids, which Odner has interpreted as evidence for cattle milking, still stands.

The count of domestic animals based on bodily parts is lower than that gained from teeth. This is not to say that there is an inordinate number of teeth in the sample but rather that the poor condition of the bones and the writer's difficulty in identifying small fragments are reflected in a lower count.

The count of non-domestic animals based on bodily parts is greater than that based on teeth. The teeth revealed 2 equids, 1 wildebeest, and 1 rhinoceros. Using post-cranial remains the count was found to be 3 equids, 3 rhinoceros, 1 elephant, 1 warthog, and 1 dik-dik. To this list must also be added four birds, perhaps of a single species belonging to *Falconidae*. The final tabulation below is based on both teeth and post-cranial remains. Since identification was achieved by two different means, it is impossible to know precisely the proportion of domestic to non-domestic animals and percentages must be treated with caution.

53	Cattle	
82	Ovicaprids	
1	Elephant	
3	Rhinoceros	(1 black rhinoceros, 1 square-lipped, and 1 of uncertain identification)
3	Equids	
1	Warthog	
1	Wildebeest	
1	Dik-dik	
4	birds	

TOTAL 149 Animals