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ANTHROPOLOGICAL PICTURE OF THE CORDED WARE POPULATION OF THE SUBCARPATHIAN REGION IN THE LIGHT OF DATA OBTAINED FROM THE SITES AT ŚWIĘTE, JAROSŁAW DISTRICT

ABSTRACT

Twenty Corded Ware graves containing twenty five interments were identified at sites 11, 15 and 20 at Święte, Radymno Commune, Jarosław District. In most of the graves (16), there was only one interment, although there were also three graves with two internments and one grave with three interments. The age and sex structure of buried individuals shows the roughly equal number of females, males, and children at the age of *Infans* I and II, with the category *Maturus* (individuals aged 40 to 50) having the highest mortality rate. So far, Rzeszów Foothills and the Lower San River Valley yielded 40 Corded Ware graves containing 51 interments in total. Single burials were predominant. Alike at Święte sites, the highest proportion of burials is recorded for individuals at the age of *Maturus* irrespective of sex; overall, for the entire region, male graves, however, outnumber female graves. In most cases skeletons are poorly preserved, but scarce anthropometric data are the indication of dolichomorphic crania in both males and females, which phenomenon is already noted for the Małopolska Upland and present Ukraine. The intravital body height

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for adults varies from 161.3 to 175 cm for males and from 156.7 to 163.1 cm for females.

Key words: Corded Ware culture, Święte, anthropological analysis, Subcarpathian region

Research work done prior to construction of the A4 motorway between Rzeszów and Korczowa in the first decade of the 21st century yielded considerable amounts of materials attributable to the Corded Ware culture (CWC). As is the case for other CWC settlement areas, the materials almost exclusively comprise sepulchral features, including specifically niche graves. In addition to graves at sites 11, 15 and 20 at Święte, Jarosław District, burials were also identified at sites 24 and 27 at Mirocin, Przeworsk District [Szczepanek 2019]; Rozbórz, Przeworsk District [Szczepanek 2013a]; Chłopice, Jarosław District [Szczepanek 2012]; Skołoszów, Jarosław District [Szczepanek 2013b]; and Szczytna, Jarosław District [Rogóż 2017; Szczepanek 2017]. Earlier research work in the 1970s brought to light just one CWC burial that was most likely found in the niche grave at site 81 in Przemyśl [Koperski 1973; Szczepanek 2004], with a disturbed postcranial skeleton being the only preserved element.

Anthropological analyses covering the sites at Święte were performed by W. Kozak-Zychman (site 11) [Kozak-Zychman 2011], P. Dąbrowski (site 20) [Dąbrowski 2012] and H. Rutka (site 15) [Rutka 2013], with results enclosed with relevant archaeological reports for the sites. In total, twenty graves identified at the sites at Święte contained the remains of twenty five individuals, whose age and sex demographic is shown in Table 1. In several cases, data obtained by genetic testing (aDNA) are included.

In most of the graves (16), there was only one interment, although there were also three graves with two internments and one grave with three interments. The age and sex structure of the buried individuals shows the roughly equal number of females, males, and children at the age of *Infans I* and *II*, with the category *Maturus* (individuals aged 40 to 50) having the highest mortality rate.

The analysis of bone pathologies revealed them being typical of mature adults, who constitute the largest group within the examined set of individuals. Classified to the age group *Maturus*, the individuals were suffering from dental caries predominantly affecting molars, as well as from frequent intravital tooth loss which tends to be the result of pre-existing conditions. Obliteration of alveolar bones of molars was identified in the male from grave 876, site 11 (left maxillary and mandibular M2s and right maxillary M3) and in the male of the age group *Senilis* from grave1149, site 11 (left maxillary M2). Moreover, extensive caries affecting molars (right maxillary M2 and right and left maxillary M1s) was detected in the male from grave 876, site 11. The female of the age group *Adultus* from grave 40a, site 15, was found to have small bone fistulas affecting the vicinity of roots of left maxillary teeth, caused by alveolar osteitis. The identified dental pathologies

 $$\sf T$$ a b I e $\,$ 1 Individuals buried in the graves at the sites of Święte, Jarosław Distric

Grave number	Number of individuals in grave	Age (category)	Age [years]	Sex	aDNA
Święte, site 11					
756 A part N	2	?	?	?	
756 A part S		Infans I / II	7-8	?	
791	1	adult?	20-x	F?	
814	1	Maturus	40-50	?	
863A	1	adult	20-x	?	
863B	1	Adultus	20-30	F	
876	1	Maturus	30-35	M	XY
1134	1	Adultus	25-30	M	
1149	1	Senilis	60-65	M	XX?
1290 D	1	Adultus	25-30	M	XY?
1434	1	Maturus	40-50	F	
Święte, site 15					
173	1	Maturus?	40-50	F	XX?
405A	1	adult	20-x	?	
407	1	Maturus	40-50	F	
408b	2	Adultus/Maturus	30-40	M	XX
408a		Adultus	20-30	F	XX
409	1	adult	20-x	M	
423	2	Infans I	1.5-2	?	
		Infans I	1.5-2	?	
427	1	Infans I	5-6	?	
431A	1	Maturus	40-50	M	
Święte, site 20					
40A	1	Infans II	7-9	M?	XY
43	3	Maturus	40-45	M	XY?
		Maturus	44-55	F	XY
		Infans II	7-8	?	

Table 2

Rzeszów Foothills graves containing human remains

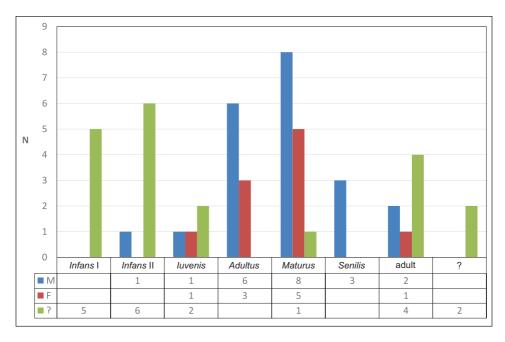
Grave	Number of individuals in grave	Number of individual	Age (category)	Age [years]	Sex
Mirocin, site 24			•		
50	1		Maturus	40-50	M
53	2	I	adult	20-x	?
		II	Infans I	3-4	?
54	1		Senilis	50-60	M
110	1	I	Maturus	40-50	M
		II*	Maturus	40-50	M?
Mirocin, site 27					
273	1		adult	20-x	?
360	2	I	Senilis	50-60	M
		II	Maturus	40-50	F
363	1?		?	?	?
Szczytna, site 5					
217	1		Iuvenis	ok. 17	F
220	2	I	Maturus	40-50	M
		II	Maturus/Senilis	45-55	M
273	2	I	Infans II	7-8	?
		II	Infans II	8-9	?
Szczytna, site 6			1	'	
2	1		Infans II/Iuvenis	14-16	?
4	1		Adultus	20-30	M
56	1		Adultus	24-30	M
84	1		Infans I	6	?
150	1		Iuvenis	15	M
Chłopice, site 26					
11	2	I	Infans II/Iuvenis	14-15	?
		II	Infans II	11-12	?
Rozbórz, site 42					
2006	1		Iuvenis/Adultus	18-20	M
Skołoszów, site 7					

256	2	I*	Infans II	7-8	?
		II	Adultus	20-30	F
620	1		Adultus	20-30	M
Przemyśl, site 81					
	1		adult	20-x	M

^{*}secondary burial of Mierzanowice Culture

 $$\sf T$$ a b I e $\,$ 3 Age and sex of individuals buried in graves containing two interments at the Rzeszów Foothills and in the Lower San River Valley

Age and sex	Number of graves
male and female	2
subadult and subadult	3
adult and subadult	2
male and male	1
subadult and undetermined	1



 $Fig.\ 1.\ Age\ and\ sex\ structure\ of\ Corded\ Ware\ culture\ individuals\ buried\ at\ the\ sites\ of\ the\ Rze-szów\ Foothills\ and\ Lower\ San\ River\ Valley$

prove that conditions occurred at a young age, and indirectly point to diets high in carbohydrates. Moreover, skeletal changes resulting from healed injuries were identified. This was the case for the male from grave 876, site 11, with a proximal femoral fracture leading to bone deformation and pseudoarthrosis on his pelvic bone. A right femoral shaft in the male of the age group *Adultus* from grave 1134, site 11, showed a bone overgrowth of unknown aetiology. A similar anomaly was identified in a right fibula of the male of the age group *Adultus* from grave 1290D, site 11. Roofs of eye sockets in children buried at site 15 exhibit a perforation – *cribra orbitalia* which is a condition of complex aetiology most often attributable to anaemia of various origin [Walker *et al.* 2009].

Table 2 presents data concerning other CWC burials identified in the Rzeszów Foothills region. In total, the research work preceding construction of the A4 motorway provided data on 51 individuals found in 40 graves (20 features from Święte sites and 20 features from other areas of the Foothills).

As is the case for Święte, single burials predominate (14) at the Rzeszów Foothils sites. Moreover, six graves with two interments were found. The individuals buried in such graves were diversified in terms of age and sex (Table 3). Graves, in which two children were buried, are noteworthy for the fact that they always contain corpses of children of roughly similar age at death (Table 2).

The graph (Fig. 1) shows the age and sex structure of all CWC individuals so far identified in the Rzeszów Foothills and Lower San River Valley (sites at Święte) regions.

Mortality data for the Rzeszów Foothills and Lower San River Valley indicate prevalence of individuals belonging to the age group *Maturus* (40 to 50 years of age), irrespective of their sex. However, the number of males, who died in adulthood (*Adultus*), and children of the age group *Infans* I and II is roughly equal. What should be emphasized is that the male graves considerably outnumber female graves, with a male to female ratio being nearly 2:1. It is by no means easy to exactly say whether this is merely the reflection of the current state of scientific research or of purposeful preference for male burials.

Tables 4 and 5 show results of cranial measurements, and cranial indices obtained using those data. For purposes of comparison, data acquired for CWC people identified at various sites of the Małopolska Upland (Haduch 2008), averaged values for cemeteries at Żerniki Górne, Busko Zdrój District, and at Złota, Sandomierz District [Krenz-Niedbała 1999; 2000], as well as data for skeletons from the Lublin Upland were also used [Szczepanek 2016].

The obtaining of full metric characteristics was significantly hindered by the degree of skulls preservation: measurements of viscerocrania were possible in a few cases only. Absolute figures and converted cranial indices for males and females from the examined area reveal distinguishing properties of the examined group, including specifically long neurocrania as proved by large maximum cranial lengths (*g-op*). However, a small number of available measurements prevented any

Table 4

Cranial measurement values for the Corded Ware culture people of south-eastern Poland

Site	Grave/ individual	Age	Sex	do-s	nə-nə	ft-ft	ba-b	zy-zy	n-pr	mf-ek	sbk-spa apt-apt	apt-apt	su-u
Święte 11	928	Mat	M	189?	128?	93			663	42	32	24	49?
Święte 11	1290D/I	Ad	M	191	138?	26			289			26	54?
Święte 15	408b	Ad-Mat M	M	200	141	111	145						
Lublin, Świętego Ducha		Sen	M	187	147		145						
Lublin-Sławinek 3/105	1 (12)	Mat	M	190	138	96	130	138	64	40	33	27	48
Małopolska Upland – mean values			M	188.53	188.53 140.35 99.24	99.24	138.4	131.2	71.61	41.93	31.83	25.67	51.95
Żerniki Górne, Złota – mean values			M	185.6	137.8	97.4	136.8	131.4	69.3	40.8	32.4	25.1	49.8
Święte 15	408a	PV	F	200	140	111	140	138	<i>L</i> 9	41	36	56	47
Skołoszów 7	256/II	PV	F	195	135								
Lublin-Sławinek 3/105	4(60)	Mat	F	184	138	66	122	135	99	42	31	23	52
Małopolska Upland – mean values			Ħ	181.6	135.1	93.6	129	123.5	64.6	39.8	31.1	23.3	47.4
Żerniki Górne, Złota – mean values			Ħ	179.1	134.1	94.1	129.6	124	62.9	38.9	33.1	23.6	48
Chłopice 26	111/1	Inf. II	i	176	130	92	128	110	53	38	28	24	41
Chłopice 26	11/II	Inf. II	į	177	125	91	126	100	51	33	29	21	42

Cranial index values for the Corded Ware culture people of south-eastern Poland

Site	Grave/ individual	Age	Sex	eu-eu/ g-op	ba-b/g-op	ba-b/ eu-eu	ft-ft/eu- eu	n-pr/zy- zy	sbk-spa/ mf-ek	apt-apt/ n-ns
Święte 11	928	Mat	M	67.73			72.7		76.2	49
Święte 11	1290D/I	Ad	M	72.3			70.3			48.1
Święte 15	408b	Ad/ Mat	M	70.5	72.5	102.8	78.7			
Lublin, Świętego Ducha		Sen	M	78.61	77.54	98.64				
Lublin-Sławinek, 3/105	1(12)	Mat	M	72.63	68.42	94.20	75.69	46.38	82.50	56.25
Małopolska Upland – mean values			M	74.67	73.5	95.91	70.71	54.32	75.72	50.17
Żerniki Górne, Złota – mean values			M	73.54	73.06	99.34	71.16			
Święte 15	408a	Ad	H	70	70	100	79.3	48.5	87.8	55.3
Skołoszów 7	256/II	Ad	F	69.2						
Lublin-Sławinek, 3/105	4(60)	Mat	F	75	66.3	88.41	71.74	48.89	73.81	44.23
Małopolska Upland – mean values			Ħ	74.5	71.9	95.3	69.3	52.7	78.4	49.3
Żerniki Górne, Złota – mean values			H.	75.5	71.8	96.1	69	53.7	82.9	49.4
Chłopice 26	11/I	Inf. II	i	73.86	72.73	98.46	70.77	48.18	73.68	58.54
Chłopice 26	11/II	Inf. II	?	70.62	71.19	100.8	72.8	51	87.88	50

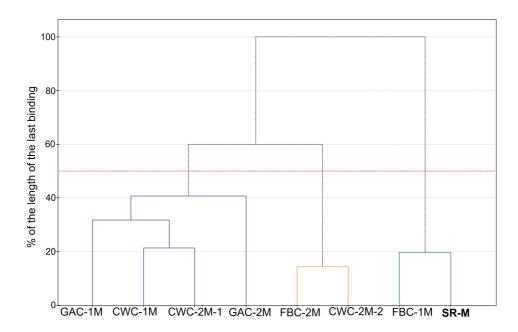


Fig. 2. Hierarchical cluster analysis of male crania (grouping by Ward's method) from south-eastern Poland at the end of the Neolithic

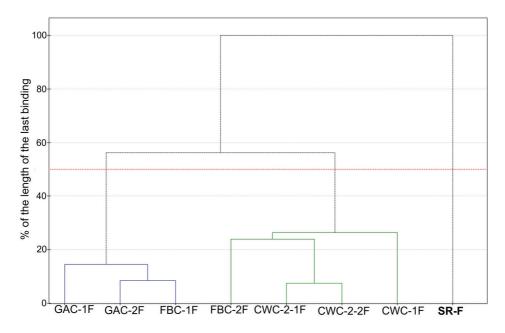


Fig. 3. Hierarchical cluster analysis of female crania (grouping by Ward's method) from south-eastern Poland at the end of the Neolithic

generalization of the results so obtained to the entire population occupying the area at issue.

The measurements and cranial indices were used to analyse differences between cranial data for CWC people occupying south-eastern Poland and those for Neolithic sets from the same area. The analysis was performed using the POStat software through hierarchical cluster analysis of male and female sets, calculation of Euclidean distances, and data grouping using Ward's method (Figs. 2 and 3). By reason of the degree of skulls preservation, data obtained for neurocrania were used for the statistical analysis. The measurements included cranial length (g-op), cranial breadth (eu-eu), forehead breadth (ft-ft) and cranial indexes such as the main cranial index (eu-eu/g-op x100) and the forehead width index (ft-ft/ eu-eu x100). Mean values of measurements and indices for the skulls of CWC, Funnel Beaker culture (FBC) and Globular Amphora Culture (GAC) individuals, unearthened at the sites located in the Rzeszów Foothills and Lower San River Valley region (SR), Lublin Upland (FBC-1, GAC-1, CWC-1) as well as Małopolska Upland (FBC-2, GAC-2, CWC-2) were compared, with the division between materials published by E. Haduch [Haduch 2008] (CWC-2-1) and those published by M. Krenz-Niedbała [1999; 2000] (CWC-2-2) kept.

Cranial dendrograms for both male and female sets show three clusters; provided, however, that the female crania from the examined region form a separate group, while the male crania group with crania of the FBC individuals from the Lublin Upland. Such a result may be, however, accidental as the sample is small and gives clearly higher maximum cranial lengths. It should be noted that both dendrograms show the GAC individuals within one cluster, with distances between particular sets being small, especially for the females.

Tables 6 and 7 collate measurements of maximum cranial lengths (M1) of limb bones, and estimated intravital body heights of buried individuals, using regression equations developed by Formicola and Franceschi [1996]. The graph (Fig. 4) shows reconstructed intravital body heights for CWC people occupying south-eastern Poland, with trend lines for male and female sets.

Adult body height varies in both male and female sets. As far as the Rzeszów Foothills and Lower San River Valley are concerned, adult body height is 161.3-175 cm for males and 156.7-163.1 cm for females. For most of the males, these values are within the range determined for other CWC individuals of south-eastern Poland. Body height of two females, one buried at Święte, site 20 (grave 43), and the other buried at Mirocin, site 27 (grave 360), somewhat exceeds the value determined for other CWC females, falling within the male height range. It proves the reduced level of sexual dimorphism and indirectly indicates diversified living conditions of buried individuals.

 $$\sf T$$ a b I e $\,$ 6 Measurements of maximum lengths of long bones (M1: mm) in Corded Ware culture adults

Site	Grave	Sex	Hume	rus	Radiu	S	Femu	r	Tibia	
			R	L	R	L	R	L	R	L
Mirocin 24	110/1	M				253	471			385
Mirocin 27	360/1	M								364
Święte 11	876	M	336	329		267			386	
Święte 11	1134	M				261			376	
Święte 11	1290D	M	324	318	254		460	460	381	380
Święte 15	408b	M	311	308	232	233	422	420	352	350
Święte 20	43/I	M					454	455		
Skołoszów	620	M	310	310		234	452	452	370	366
Szczytna 6	56	M		346			489	489	399	410
Lublin, Świętego Ducha		M					485		402	403
Lublin-Sławinek 3/105	1(12)	M	320	317	243	241	441	447	367	366
Małopolska Up- land – mean values		M	318.7 242.4 4		440.2		372.2			
Żerniki Górne, Złota – mean values		M	323.8 246.6		450.1		373.2			
Mirocin 27	360/2	F	326			249	452	455	384	381
Święte 15	173	F					431	428	346	347
Święte 20	43/II	F					443	445		
Lublin-Sławinek 3/105	4(60)	F	312	310					370	370
Małopolska Up- land – mean values		F	291.7		207.5		411.8		341.5	
Żerniki Górne, Złota – mean values		F	302.6		228.4		420.3		347.6	

In recent decades, archaeological research has substantially added to the discovery of numerous skeletal remains of CWC individuals from the Rzeszów Foothills. The remains represent just a part of the larger population that once occupied the region. Presented above, the anthropological picture is relatively incomplete due to poor preservation of skeletons, including specifically considerable second-

T a b I e 7 Estimated intravital body heights [cm] of Corded Ware culture people

				Ma	ile					
Site	Grave	Hume 3,31xH	rus I+60,87	Radius 3,65xR	s R+75,57	Femur 2,23xF		Tibia 2,47xT	+74,84	Mean value
		R	L	R	L	R	L	R	L	
Mirocin 24	110/1				167.9	170.9			169.9	169.6
Mirocin 27	360/1								164.7	164.7
Święte 11	876	172.1	169.8		173			170.2		171.3
Święte 11	1134				170.8			167.7		169.3
Święte 11	1290D	168.1	166.1	168.3		168.5	168.5	168.9	168.7	168.2
Święte 15	408b	163.8	162.8	160.3	160.6	160	159.6	161.8	161.3	161.3
Święte 20	43/I					167.1	167.4			167.3
Skołoszów 7	620	163.5	163.5		161	166.7	166.7	166.2	165.2	164.7
Szczytna 6	56		175.4			174.9	174.9	173.4	176.1	175
Lublin, Świętego Ducha					174			174	174	174
Lublin- Sławinek 3/105	1(12)	167	166	164	164	164	166	165	165	165
Małopolska Upland – mean values		171.5		166		169.6		169.4		169.1
Żerniki Górne, Złota – mean values		166		164		164		167		165
		F		Fem	ale					
Site	Grave	Humerus 2,88xH+69,35		Radius 2,69xR+92,83		Femur 2,35xF+56,63		Tibia 2,46xT+70,57		Mean value
		P	L	P	L	P	L	P	L	
Mirocin 27	360/2	163.2			159.8	162.9	163.6	165	164.3	163.1
Święte 15	173					157.9	157.2	155.7	155.9	156.7
Święte 20	43/II					160.7	161.2			161
Lublin- Sławinek 3/105	4(60)	159	159					162	162	160
Małopolska Upland – mean values		153.4		148.6		153.4		154.6		153
Żerniki Górne, Złota – mean values		156		154		155		156		156

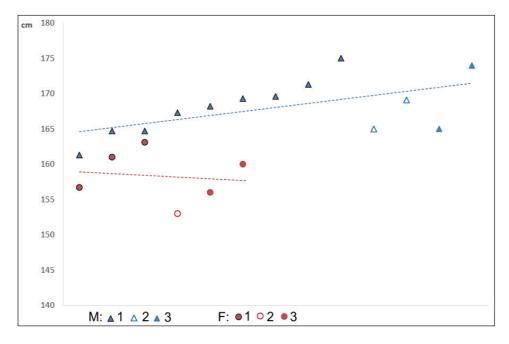


Fig. 4. Estimated intravital body heights of Corded Ware culture people from south-eastern Poland: M (male): 1-Rzeszów Foothills and Lower San River Valley, 2-Małopolska Upland, 3-Lublin Upland; F (female): 4-Rzeszów Foothills and Lower San River Valley, 5-Małopolska Upland, 6-Lublin Upland

ary damages to crania. In most of the cases, however, precise determination of age and sex of buried individuals was possible, providing a basis for reflection on burial customs and allowing for interpretation of isotopic results [Belka *et al.* 2018; Werens *et al.* 2018]. Although scarce, the anthropometric data make it possible to conclude that both male and female crania are dolichomorphic: a similar phenomenon has been already observed on the Małopolska Upland [Haduch 2008] as well as in present-day Ukraine [Konduktorova 1978] and on the Czech territory [Chochol 1967].

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