
# ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Bronze Age landscape management and modification in the Jordan Rift and central Cyprus

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## Abstract

Stable isotope analyses of carbonized seeds, animal bone collagen and teeth excavated from Tell Abu en-Ni‘aj, Tell el-Hayyat and Zahrat adh-Dhra‘ 1, Jordan, and from Politiko-Troullia, Cyprus reveal shifts in crop cultivation, herd management and landscape modification in response to Bronze Age climate and social changes. Tell Abu en-Ni‘aj and Tell el-Hayyat lie only 1.5 km apart amid the fertile soils of the northern Jordan Valley, while Zahrat adh-Dhra ‘1 sits on the hyperarid Plain of Dhra‘ overlooking the Dead Sea, and Politiko-Troullia sits in the wooded Troodos foothills of Cyprus. Comparisons between Early Bronze IV Tell Abu en-Ni ‘aj and Middle Bronze Age Tell el-Hayyat illuminate rural responses to Early Bronze Age town abandonment and climate change associated with the 4.2 ka Event. Comparisons between Tell el-Hayyat and Middle Bronze Age Zahrat adh-Dhra ‘1 portray contemporaneous agricultural practices under more favorable conditions in the north versus those in the hyperarid environmental setting of the Dead Sea Basin, while Politiko-Troullia portrays distinctly different resource management involving herding, hunting and arboriculture. Jointly, these analyses portray an array of shifting resource management practices that molded largely anthropogenic Bronze Age landscapes along the Jordan Rift and in central Cyprus.

## Keywords

stable isotopes, Bronze Age, Jordan, Cyprus, anthropogenic landscapes

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