



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

The agricultural potential of the Phoenician homeland (Central Levant) in the 1st mill. BCE and approximations regarding population sizes supported by it.

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Abstract

In this paper, I will present the results of my PhD-project in which I assessed the agricultural possibilities and limitations of the central Levant in the Late Iron Age and Persian Period based on study area in southern Lebanon. Within Phoenician Archaeology exists the widely accepted assumption that the Phoenician city-states were unable to provide enough foodstuff due to insufficient land suitable for cultivation. This assumption, however, is mainly based on textual sources and was never critically analyzed on the basis of empirical data. By conducting an extensive analysis of environmentally and archaeologically tangible data using a landscape analysis approach, this narrative proved to be not tenable. My results sufficiently demonstrate that the coast and its hinterland hold a considerably larger potential than accepted thus far. Furthermore, they enable approximations regarding the number of people supported by the agricultural outcome and draw attention to the reliability of such estimations within the frame of the current state of the art in Phoenician archaeology.

Keywords

Phoenician homeland, landscape analysis, agriculture, population size, Late Iron Age

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