



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Micromorphology of Megaliths: A Preliminary Study from Beneath the Megalithic Tombs of the Northern Akkar

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Abstract

One of the primary goals of the MEG-A project in the Akkar of northern Lebanon is to date and determine what, if any, construction and use details are still intact within the megalithic tomb structures unique to this region. Recent investigations by the Polish and Swiss teams have recovered evidence suggesting that the structures have a complex history, and were likely built, used, and reused over a wider chronological span than has been previously understood. Because of this, and the fact that the tombs were stripped during the historic periods, it is unclear if any of the visible surfaces are original to the construction period or if they are the consequence of anthropogenic interference and environmental erosional processes. To gain a better understanding of these important surfaces, and to improve methods for dating the tombs more precisely, sediment blocks were extracted from the interior and the exterior of Tomb ST98, from which micromorphological thin sections were prepared and analyzed. This paper describes initial observaions from the micromorphology slides and offers a discussion of how such analyses can help us understand the construction, use, and post-abandonment processes impacting the tombs and the hillslope landscapes of the northern Akkar.

Keywords

micromorphology, megaliths, landscape

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