

Abstract

The skeletal collection from the Neolithic burial site dated to the Linear Pottery culture in Vedrovice (Znojmo district) is unique in the number of individuals within the Central European Neolithic. The burial site was also supposedly excavated in its entirety, which is used by paleodemography to help understand demographic processes during Neolithization. The unique collection of 110 skeletons from the four burial complexes has thus been studied over the years by multiple anthropological teams using different methods of estimating age-at-death and sex (Crubézy et al., 1997; Podborský et al., 2002; Dočkalová, 2008; Lillie, 2008). The results of their analyses are different, and the reason for this can probably be found in the methods used, which differ in their level of accuracy and reliability. The main aim of this thesis was to compare the results of palaeodemographic analysis based on age-at-death and sex data of individuals from the "Široká u lesa" track of four research teams. Furthermore, to answer the question of whether is the predictive value of the results from the four teams the same, even though they focused on various burial complexes of the site and thus different numbers of skeletons from the site and used different methods to assessment? At the same time, the representation of males and females in the Vedrovice population according to different teams and within the track "Široká u lesa" was studied by the calculation of the index of masculinity. Based on a synthetic table integrating data from all teams, a paleodemographic analysis was applied for the "Široká u lesa" track using the construction of life tables. The probability of death parameter (q_x) was compared with the theoretical model mortality according to Ledermann (1969). Survivorship (l_x) and probability of death (q_x) parameters were analyzed using the "mortAAR" package (Müller-Scheeßel et al., 2018; 2022) in R software. The results of observing the differences of individuals in the synthetic table show that there are discrepancies in the data from the teams, with 25 adults and 3 adolescents having the same parameters for the sex estimation, 32 individuals for the age-at-death estimation and only 16 individuals for both parameters. There is also a higher representation of females than males at the site (masculinity index: 550–750), which may support the hypothesis of selective burial (e.g. non-inhumation burial of males). In conclusion, therefore, the question in the title of the thesis and the aim of the thesis can be answered, that when four teams estimate osteobiographic parameters of the same individuals, the observed differences show that they are not the same. However, the differences in the mortality curves are not significant and do not point to a distinct demographic anomaly. Paleodemographic analysis of the data from the four teams showed that

the picture is the same. The resulting graphs show the expected differences from the model mortality, i.e. the absence of immature and older individuals.

Keywords: paleodemography – Neolithic – Linear Pottery culture – Vedrovice – age-at-death – sex – life tables