

Abstract

The study presented deals with the phenomenon of increased hunting activity on the transition of the Neolithic and Eneolithic Age, the reasons of which have been so far investigated only in regard to environmental conditions of locations. The phenomenon is observed on locations of a wide area of Middle Europe. Nevertheless, there exist locations with prevailing agricultural economy.

On the basis of a detailed comparative analysis of the material culture of the Western culture circle and Bohemia and Moravia, the study aims to trace the reflection of the phenomenon in archaeological materials – differences between locations with predominant domestic sources, and locations with predominant wild sources. Alongside, the study deals with a possible environmental impact on increasing hunting tendencies.

In order to create a database, a detailed catalogue of locations has been compiled. The catalogue holds the most essential information on material culture with regard to expected agricultural manners. The catalogue also serves as a clue for setting particular indicators of the database, the purpose of which is to organise the data in a comparable form. Subsequently, a descriptive database has been compiled. The database traces the reflection of agricultural base of the individual locations.

By means of a filtering analysis, all of the data is compared with respect to two distinct regions and two different subsistence manners. The result is expressed by a range of comparative tables presented within the study.

To conclude, it can be stated that despite the fact that the phenomenon of increased hunting activity on the transition of the Neolithic and Eneolithic Age can be traced in both observed areas, it is not noticeable enough to be significantly reflected in the composition of inventory of the individual cultures. It can be summarised that the phenomenon of increased hunting activity is culturally unspecific, regionally variable, independent of the inventory, with elusive social and symbolic connotations. On the basis of the study presented, however, it is possible to consider a certain relationship between settlements specialisation – be it distributive-productional or socio-ritual center – and the existence of increased hunting activity. To prove this, it would be necessary to further analyse the respective locations in detail. Considering the environmental conditions, there is no positive correlation between the environmental impact and the phenomenon itself.