

DIFFERENTIAL SKELETAL PRESERVATION AND TREATMENT AT CELIC-DKRE**Ralph M. ROWLETT**

The skeletons buried under the tumuli or movili at Celic-Dere have a different preservation as noticeable as the remarkable differences in burial treatment, skeletal position, and amount of grave goods. While some of this differential is no doubt to time and changes in fashion and the number of years that the skeletons lay in the ground, neither this nor the slight differences in the acidity of the soil from tomb to tomb can account for all the differences. While none of the skeletons is truly strong at present, the preservation ranged from almost completely disintegrated to fairly intact. Two skeletons given an extended, supine Horse Pastoralist "Scythian" burial are particularly well preserved. Among the flexed skeletons, two burials are particularly interesting. Both skeletons lay flexed on their left sides. Skeleton No. 2, to the west, is in anatomical position, but the skeleton is extremely soft, being almost completely decalcified. Skeleton No. 1, toward the east, a woman, who was somewhat jumbled (the mandible for example, lay under the scapula) but extremely well preserved, even better than those skeletons with the Scythian burial rite. The disturbed anatomical position and the presence of *Helix* snails in the tomb imply that this grave lay open for some time after burial before being covered with dirt for the construction of the tumulus.