ARCHAEO-ZOOLOGICAL REMAINS FROM THE JETAVANA EXCAVTIONS, CENTRAL CULTURAL FUND ANURADHAPURA

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The *Jetavana Salapatala Maluwa* (JSMP 2001), *the Jetavana Suddage Watta* (JSP 2000), *Jetavana Maluwa* Lane PIT (JMLP/2002) and the *Jetavana Pilimage* excavations (JPL/2002/II) were carried out during the 2000-2003 by the Jetavana CCF Project under the direction of its Archaeological Director, Prof. Sudharshan Seneviratne. The purpose of this research was to study animal bones from the above excavations.

The advanced archaeo-zoological methods such as quantitative analysis, metrical analysis and computer applications were utilized for the research. It also considered the relationship between man and other animals with that of their environment in the past.

Concerning the current analysis, the above four sites yielded a total of 1128 animal bones. *JSMP* is represented by the bones of cattle, dog, spotted deer, wild pig, soft shelled terrapin while *JPL* consists of cattle, horse, buffalo, spotted deer, barking deer, wild pig, hard shelled terrapin bones and marine shell fragments. *JSP* has yielded bones of cattle, spotted deer, wild pig, hare, hard-shelled terrapin and those of fish whereas *JMLP* has included only cattle and wild pig bones.

Cattle bones are predominant as far as the above four sites are concerned. Concerning the estimation of age, over 90% of cattle belong to adult animals. Therefore, they appear to have been utilized for manifold activities as beasts of burden for pulling carts, ploughing of fields and for threshing the harvested paddy. Cut, butchering and gnawing marks on deer and pig bones were also observed frequently. Nevertheless, Cattle bones bear a few cut and butchering marks. Moreover, it is important to notice that the bones of the earliest historical man were identified from the *JSMP*.

With regard to the above bones, the mammals, reptiles and fish appear to have been used for subsistence activities. Chank *(Turbinella Pyrum)* was used for making ornament. Likewise, similar evidence was noted from the Citadel excavations, adjacent to the *Jetvana vihara* Complex. Concerning the *JSMP* excavations, the above sites belong to the Early and Medieval Historical Periods. It is difficult to observe any environmental change. Out of the above four excavations Jetavana *Salapatala Maluwa* (*JSMP*) is one of the most important sites due to the presence of animal and human bones. The pre-*Jetavana* strata (300 AD-300 BC) can be compared to a scientifically dated site like the Citadel concerning other artifacts such as Rouletted Ware, Black and Red Ware.