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Preliminary evidence for the efficacy of the Canine Surrogacy Approach in the Great Lakes

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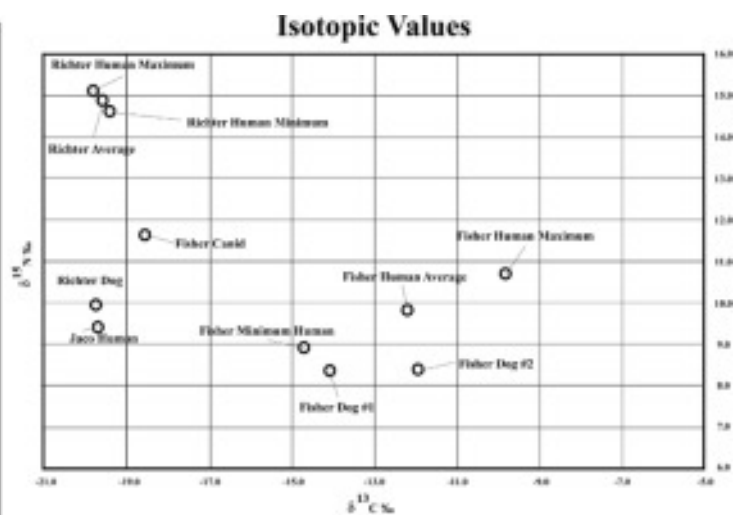
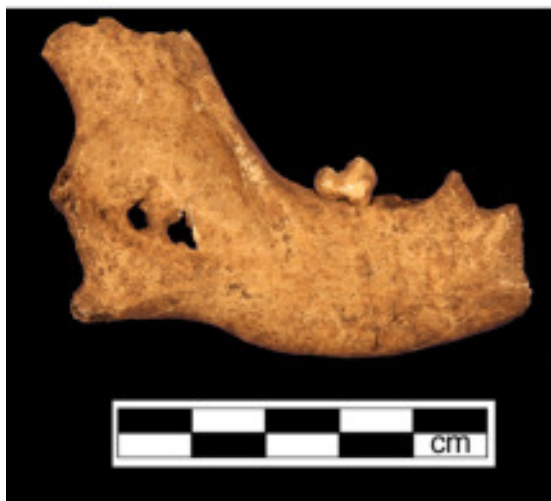
Highlights

- â€¢ CSA provides quantifiable data for human diet without destruction of human bone.
- â€¢ Canine Surrogacy Approach (CSA) effective tool for evaluating consumption of maize
- â€¢ CSA effective in Great Lakes region
- â€¢ Conservative identifications of dog remains required for CSA

Abstract

Isotopic analyses of human remains have been used to gain insights into aspects of subsistence and provide insights into mechanisms behind changes in material culture. Midwest archaeologists have used them to track major shifts such as the introduction of maize and associated changes in social organization. However, these destructive tests can create ethical and legal issues concerning the treatment of human remains. The Canine Surrogacy Approach (CSA) is the use of domestic dog remains as a proxy for human remains. Dog isotope values generally mirror their human companions', thereby circumventing the need to destroy human remains without sacrificing scientific research. This paper addresses the efficacy of CSA in the western Great Lakes.

Graphical abstract



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Keywords

Canine Surrogacy Approach; Isotopic analysis; Maize; Great Lakes; Midwest US

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