



Ichthyoarcheological investigation at Los Bananos site, alluvial plain of Middle Paraná River (Goya, Corrientes, Argentina)



María Carolina Barboza

CONICET, Centro de Estudios Interdisciplinarios en Antropología, Facultad de Humanidades y Artes, Universidad Nacional de Rosario, Alvear 452 Dpto. 5 ZC, 2000 Rosario, Santa Fe, Argentina

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Available online 10 December 2015

Keywords:

Ichthyofauna
South American lowlands
Late Holocene

ABSTRACT

This paper presents the analysis of the ichthyoarchaeological record from Los Bananos site (Goya, Corrientes, Argentine). The aim of this study is to render a first evaluation to the role played by fish in subsistence during subsequent occupations of the site. The site is located in the alluvial plain of Middle Paraná River, beside Paraná Miní creek, and it has provided new information about pottery and lithic technology, subsistence, chronology (^{14}C), site formation processes, etc. Bones from Los Bananos have been divided into three assemblages (LB1, LB2 and LB3), according to associated cultural materials. The pre-Hispanic populations that occupied this area by the end of the Late Holocene based their subsistence in hunting, gathering and fishing. Also, the makers of a distinctive ceramic ware associated with LB1 assemblage (related to Goya-Malabrigo entity *-lato sensu-*), relied on small-scale horticulture. Preceding materials of the other sets (LB2 and LB3) do not present necessary characteristics for cultural association as shown in LB1. The assemblages will be discussed in sequence of their deposition; and compared with results from other related sites. The results of zooarchaeological and taphonomic analysis of the faunal remains suggest that fish was an important resource in LB1. While from LB3 analysis, we will see that fish constituted a complementary resource in the diet. Thus, we can infer that, the role of animals in the diet of the site's prehistoric inhabitants changed during the time deposits were laid.

© 2015 Elsevier Ltd and INQUA. All rights reserved.

1. Introduction

Both, early general outlines involving Argentinean Northeastern region and more recent research work, agree on identifying an occupation dating from 2000 BC to the European Conquest in the Middle Paraná River. This occupation is assigned to the Goya-Malabrigo archaeological entity (Ceruti, 2003; Politis and Bonomo, 2012) having the following characteristics: a) a settlement pattern linked to raised and non-flooding landforms (caused by natural processes and/or anthropic activities) associated with water courses; b) an adapting pattern oriented to exploitation of river environments, with specialized associated technology (harpoons, nets, canoes), which implied hunting local mammals (river otters and marsh deer), fishing and horticulture (*i. e.* maize *-Zea mays-*, beans *-Phaseolus vulgaris-* and squashes *-Cucurbita-*) (*e.g.* Acosta and Loponte, 2002–04; Bonomo et al., 2011); c) the presence of different technologies, such as pottery (characterized by

zoomorphic appendages), lithic (grinding and chipping tools) and bone (especially antler points). Fishing played an important role for the subsistence of societies living in different areas in Northeastern Argentina (*i. e.* alluvial plain, Paraná River delta) (Pérez Jimeno, 2007; Musali, 2010; Politis and Leon, 2010).

Until the beginning of the present century, there was very little archaeological information available from alluvial plains in south-east Corrientes. Such findings describe ceramic material without taking into consideration the analysis of faunal remains and their relation to the subsistence of the groups which inhabited the area previous to the arrival of the first Europeans (Ambrosetti, 1894; Aparicio, 1948; Lafon, 1971; Rodríguez, 1998–1999, 2008).

Systematic research in southwest Corrientes Province began in 2007 and since then, there have been many contributions on different aspects of the societies who inhabited this area, such as pottery and lithic technology, subsistence, chronology, site formation processes, among others (Barboza et al., 2009; Barboza and Piccoli, 2011, 2013; Barboza, 2014; Barboza and Martín, 2014; Piccoli, 2014, etc.). In order to evaluate the importance of fish for the subsistence of societies who inhabited the alluvial plain of the

E-mail address: mcarboza@yahoo.com.

middle part of Paraná River, this investigation shows the analysis results on the ichthyoarchaeological assemblage from Los Bananos site. Thus, general aspects of the archeofaunal record are described to render information referred to subsistence, with special emphasis on fish consumption. As well as taxonomic and anatomic identification and quantification, different taphonomical aspects were assessed.

2. Regional setting

Los Bananos site (LBS) lies on a low hill on the left bank of the alluvial plain of middle Paraná River. It belongs to the low terrace bordering Paraná Miní stream, which has a changing dynamics, directly related to Paraná River and its tributaries (Fig. 1). This terrace is characterized by a marked hydrophilic environment subjected to hydro-sedimentological pulses (*sensu* Neiff, 1990) of the local system (Aceñolaza, 2007; Ministerio de Obras Públicas, 2010). Hydrological excess is a characteristic resulting from wet weather established in the area during the late Holocene (ca. 3000 BP) (Orfeo, 2005).

The alluvial plain belongs to the Delta and Paraná Islands ecoregion (Burkart et al., 1999) and it is characterized by a wide

range of biodiversity (Bó, 2005), appealing for human settlement. From the ichthyofaunal point of view, the area is located within the Paraná Domains (Ringuelet, 2004 [1975]). The large amount of ecological niches, typical of varied environments, is a home to an important variety of fish, mainly the Characiformes (*Leporinus obtusidens*, *Hoplias malabaricus malabaricus*, *Serrasalmus* sp., etc); and Siluriformes orders (catfish belonging to Pimelodidae, Doradidae, Loricadidae and Callichthyidae families, etc.).

3. Material and methods

Material analyzed in this work comes from a grid of 1×1 m (C2-C20) dug to the archeologically sterile level (~145 cm from the surface). Physical, physical–chemical and chemical determinations were performed to classify soil. Distribution, frequency and material association were also assessed in this grid. Values related to determinations to characterize soil are very similar up to 1.08 m deep (sandy-loam texture and slightly acid pH). Then, a sudden texture (sandy-clay-loam) and pH (from slightly acid to neutral) change was registered. This shows an edaphological formation from the surface to 1.08 m depth, which

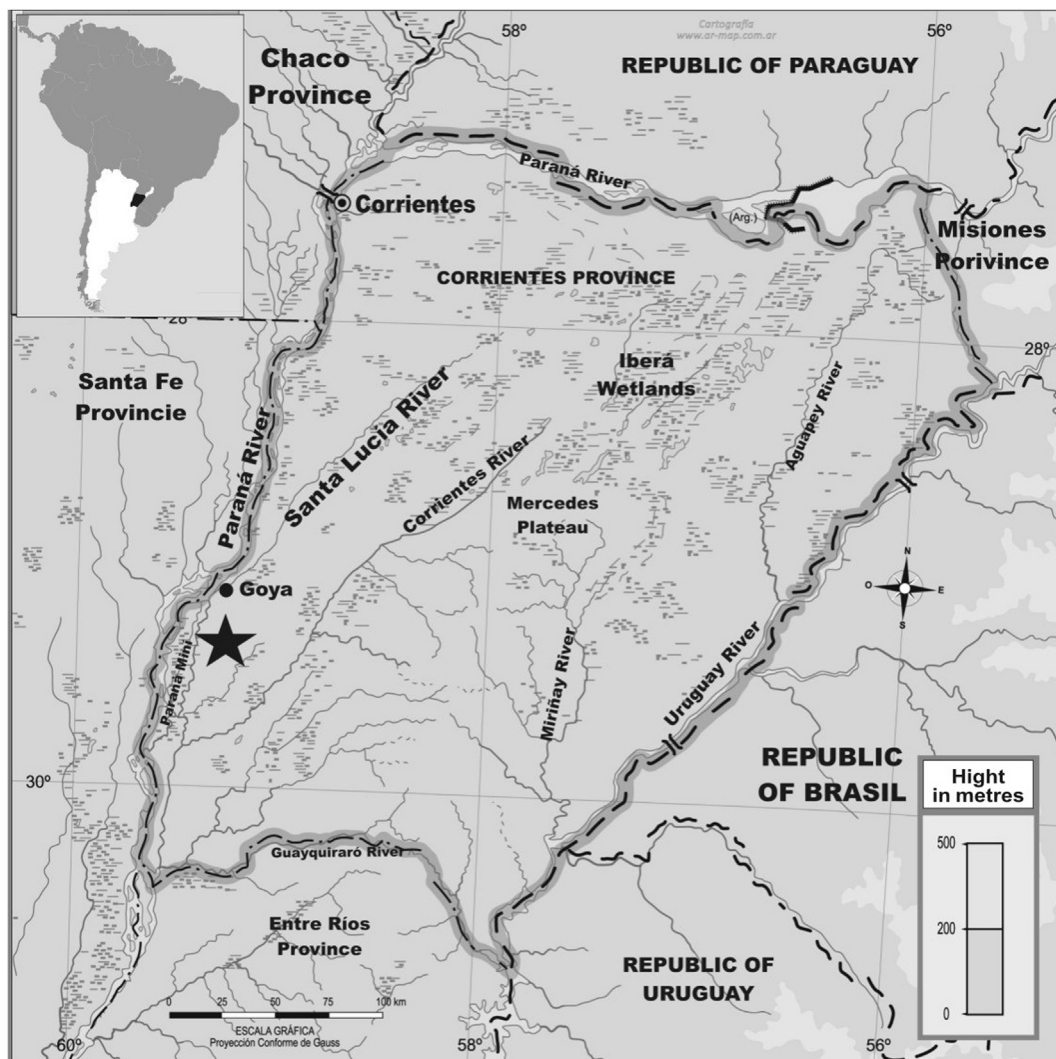


Fig. 1. Location of Los Bananos Site References. ★ Los Bananos site. Adapted map of IGN (2011).

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/1040412>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/1040412>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)