
A PRELIMINARY REVIEW AND BIBLIOGRAPHY OF HUMAN SKELETAL REMAINS CURATED BY THE PALM BEACH MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

PETER FERDINANDO

Department of Anthropology, The Palm Beach Museum of Natural History, 2805 E. Oakland Park Blvd #402, Ft Lauderdale, Florida 33306

Email: pferdinando@pbmnh.org

Introduction

The Palm Beach Museum of Natural History (PBMNH) is a private non-profit organization that curates a wide variety of paleontological, anthropological, and archaeological resources, including approximately 900 boxes in the South Florida Archaeological Collection (SFAC). Of considerable note, this is one of the largest archaeological collections housed in southeast Florida. One prominent component of the SFAC is a sizeable selection of human skeletal remains. Originating from 21 different archaeological sites and representing the full or partial remnants of a minimum of 139 individuals, this material demands study. To date, some investigation has been completed and is referenced herein. However, no collection-wide, in-depth osteological examination has yet been undertaken. This article represents a preliminary step towards this endeavor.

The State of Physical Anthropology in Southeast Florida

In short, based on this brief analysis and our own review of other research on Florida prehistoric populations, it is our opinion that physical anthropology of the native Floridians is poorly known and that few attempts to remedy this problem have occurred beyond superficial consultation [Iskan and Miller-Shaivitz 1983:114].

Since the above quote first appeared in *The Florida Anthropologist*, there have been some notable improvements to our physical anthropological knowledge of specific archaeological sites in southeast Florida (Table 1). Isler et al. (1985), Iskan and Kennedy (1987), Iskan and Kessel (1988), and Iskan et al. (1993, 1995) published information about the Highland Beach Mound (8PB11), Nebot (8PB219), Boynton Mound (8PB100), Brickell Bluff (8DA1082), and Flagami South (8DA1053), data about Santa Maria (8DA2132) was reported by Carr et al. (1984), and osteological analysis of the Pine Island site (8BD1113) by Felmley (1990). In addition, Miller-Shaivitz and Iskan (1991) discussed the "physical and health characteristics" of the people of Fort Center. Moreover, several comparative works have appeared. These include Iskan's (1989) evaluation of the dentition from the Highland Beach Mound in contrast to populations from the American Midwest, Winland's (2002) comparison of several

East Okeechobee Area skeletal populations to others located around Florida, and Elgart-Berry's (2003) odontological investigation involving eight southeast Florida sites. Finally, brief notes concerning skeletal populations are available in Bullen (1957) for the Boca Raton Sand Mound (also known as Barnhill Mound) (8PB13), Newman (1993) for the Cheetum site (8DA1058), and Ritchie et al. (1981) for the Patrician Mound (8PB99), along with additional information about the Boynton Mound site in Jaffee (1976). Despite this excellent beginning, the comprehensive physical anthropological study of native southeast Floridians is still lacking. For example, in her landmark review, *Prehistoric Mortuary Practices in the Everglades Cultural Area, Florida*, Felmley (1991:93) states "available data on prehistoric mortuary practices in the Everglades cultural area is limited and seriously hampered by a lack of osteological analysis." Indeed, the most inclusive study of burials in Florida found only one archaeological site from the southeast region of the state where available data (age, sex, health, burial layout and type, associated artifacts, etc.) was complete enough to be utilized (Klinge 2006). This deficiency must be addressed, and the remains curated in the SFAC represent an excellent opportunity for collecting such baseline data.

An additional article of note, Kessel (2001) described the human skeletal material curated at Florida Atlantic University (FAU). This excellent commentary demonstrated a framework for a simple, concise, and clear method to disseminate information into the academic community. Consequently, it was employed as a model for the writing of this article.

The SFAC is the cumulative result of almost 50 years of excavations by the now defunct Broward County Archaeological Society (BCAS). It is the legacy of hard work by many archaeologists, both professional and avocational. They excavated numerous archaeological sites in southeast Florida and reported many in *The Florida Anthropologist*. During preparations for ongoing analysis of the SFAC, an extensive literature review revealed both the depth of previously completed archaeological research and the wide selection of skeletal material awaiting intensive physical anthropological investigation (Ferdinando 2006). The majority of human remains in this collection originated from sites in the Everglades and East Okeechobee areas, with a single individual from the Lake Okeechobee Area (Carr and Beriault 1984) (Figure 1). These materials date from the Late Archaic through the Glades archaeological periods, a sequence of 4,000 years. This wide swath of geographic and temporal data

Sites	MNI	Arch. Period	Arch. Area	Significant References	Notes
Boca Raton Sand Mound	75	Glades II-III	East Okeechobee	Bullen 1957	Location unknown
Boca Weir	4	Glades/Historic	East Okeechobee	Furey 1972	Curated at FAU
Boynton Mound	35	Glades	East Okeechobee	Jaffee 1976, Iscan and Kessel 1988, Winland 2002	Curated at FAU
Brickell Bluff	4*	Late Archaic	N/A	Iscan et al. 1993	Curated at FAU
Cheetum	29*	Middle-Late Archaic/Glades	Everglades	Newman 1993	Curated at HASF
Flagami South	16*	Late Archaic/Glades	Everglades	Iscan et al. 1995	Curated at FAU
Highland Beach Mound	128	Glades II-III	East Okeechobee	Isler et al. 1985, Iscan 1989, Winland 2002	Curated at FAU
Nebot	2	Glades III	East Okeechobee	Iscan and Kennedy 1987	Curated at FAU
Patrician Mound	7	Late Archaic/Glades	East Okeechobee	Ritchie et al. 1981	Curated at FAU
Pine Island	3	Late Archaic	N/A	Felmley 1990	Location unknown
Santa Maria	6*	Late Archaic	N/A	Carr et al. 1984	Curated at FAU
Total	305				

FAU=Florida Atlantic University, HASF= Historical Association of Southern Florida

*Additional human skeletal material from these sites noted in NAGPRA (2006), but no published references were located.

Table 1. Published southeast Florida human skeletal collections curated by other organizations.

provides an exceptional chance to answer questions concerning the physical anthropology of the prehistoric populations of southeast Florida.

Sites and Publications

This inventory contains information concerning the pre-contact human remains curated in the SFAC at the PBMNH (Table 2). When possible, each entry includes the Florida Master Site File (FMSF) number, a description of the site, a brief account of the human remains, the archaeological time period, discussion of other significant features (grave goods, burial orientations, etc.), and any relevant references. The FMSF was consulted for the majority of the sites, but only files with pertinent data or information unavailable from other sources are reported in the individual entries. Unless otherwise noted, the classification of the minimum number of individuals (MNI) originated from the *Culturally Unidentified Native*

American Inventories Database, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA 2006). Finally, the entries are separated into two categories: 1) sites with good documentation (field notes, lab records, published articles, etc.) that could provide excellent data for future investigation, and 2) sites lacking sufficient documentation that should not be used for analysis without the further discovery of information.

Sites with Useable Documentation:

Bamboo Mound (8DA94)

Bamboo Mound is a significantly disturbed Everglades tree island midden located on the Portland Plant property. This property has a significant number of other archaeological sites, including Levee Cut (8DA2104), Panther North (8DA6460), Panther South (8DA6461), and Refugee Island (8DA2102).

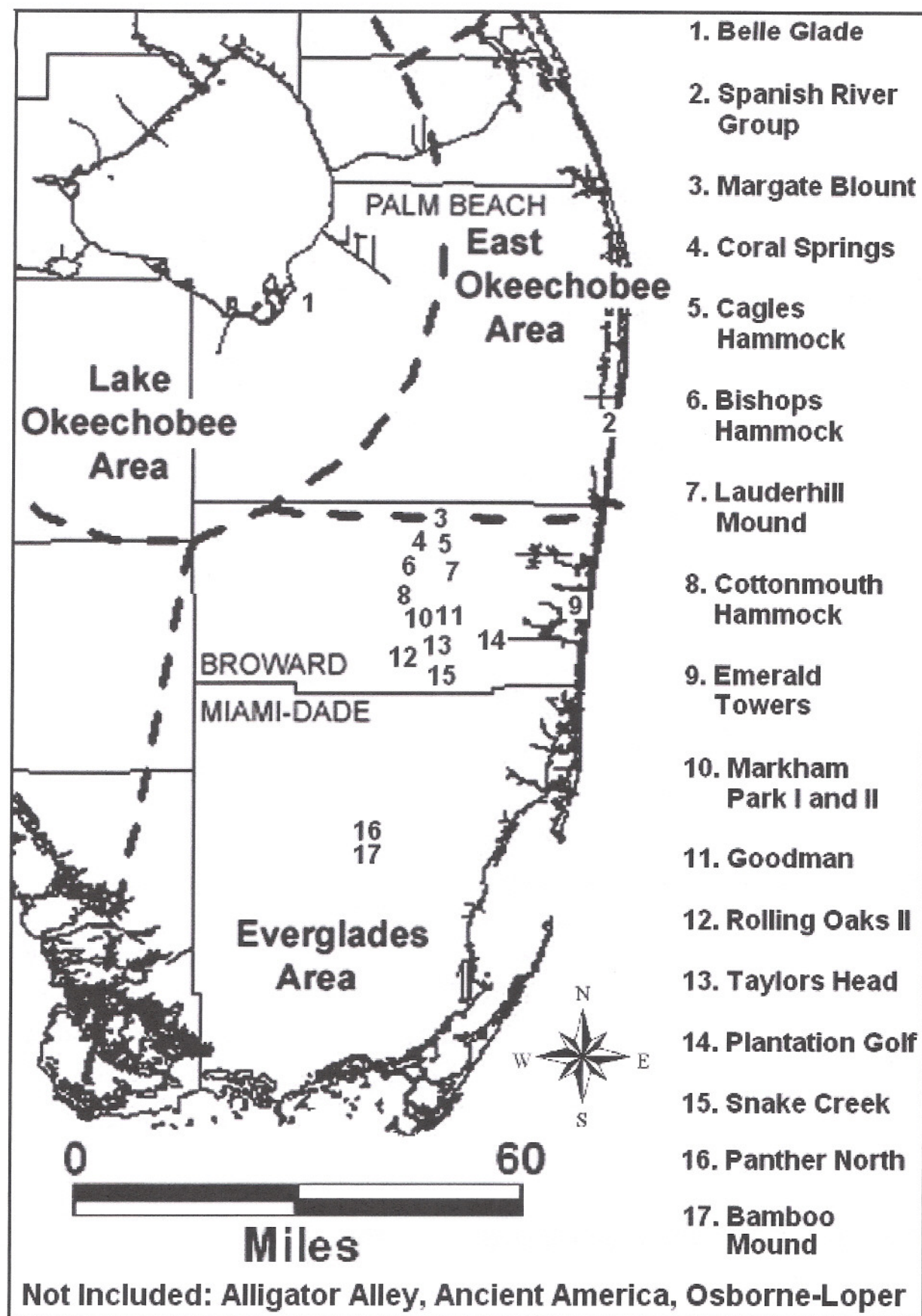


Figure 1. Map of south Florida with archaeological areas and general site locations.

Sites	MNI	Arch. Period	Arch. Area	Significant References
Sites with Good Documentation				
Bamboo Mound	3	Glades/Historic	Everglades	Beiter 2001
Bishops Hammock	1	Glades	Everglades	Williams and Mowers 1979
Cagels Hammock	3	Glades	Everglades	Mowers and Williams 1974
Coral Springs	2	Glades II-III	Everglades	Williams 1970
Cottonmouth Hammock	1	Glades II-III	Everglades	N/A
Emerald Towers	1	Glades I-II	Everglades	N/A
Goodman	2	Late Archaic/ Glades	Everglades	Almy and Deming 1986, Felmley 1991
Lauderhill Mound	6	Glades II-III	Everglades	Williams 1971
Margate Blount	44*	Late Archaic/ Glades	East Okeechobee	Iscan 1983, Williams 1983
Markham Park I	13	Late Archaic/ Glades	Everglades	Mowers and Williams n.d.
Markham Park II	3	Late Archaic/ Glades/Historic	Everglades	Williams and Mowers 1977
Panther North	1	Late Archaic	Everglades	Beiter 1998
Rolling Oaks II	7	Late Archaic/ Glades	Everglades	Graves 1982, Williams and Mowers 1982
Snake Creek	3	Glades II-III	Everglades	N/A
Taylor Head	2	Late Archaic/ Glades/Historic	Everglades	Masson et al. 1988
Sub-Total	92			
Sites lacking Sufficient Documentation				
Alligator Alley	4	Unknown	Everglades	N/A
Ancient America	1	Unknown	Extra-Area Origin	N/A
Belle Glade	1*	Unknown	Lake Okeechobee	Wiley 1949
Boca Weir/Boca Beekman (Spanish River Group)	32*	Glades/Historic	East Okeechobee	Furey 1972, Wheeler et al. 2002
Osborne-Loper	8	Unknown	Everglades	N/A
Plantation Golf	1	Unknown	Everglades	N/A
Sub-Total	47			
Total	139			

Table 2. Southeast Florida human skeletal material curated by the PBMNH.

The site was in regular use throughout the entire Glades period (ca. 500 B.C.-A.D. 1763) as indicated by recovered pottery time markers and some European-derived goods. Additionally, there may have been a Seminole occupation (ca. A.D. 1763-1920) at this site. Skeletal remains of two adults and one subadult, consisting of moderately to severely worn teeth, a partial mandible, and other bone fragments were recovered. [MNI=3]

Gary Beiter (2001) described excavations at this site including brief discussion of the human remains. In addition, Beiter's (1997, 1998) Phase 1 survey of this specific site and his report detailing all the archaeological sites within the boundaries of the Portland Plant property contain relevant background information.

Bishops Hammock (8BD66)

Excavations at Bishops Hammock (also known as "Bishops Head") revealed a black dirt midden located on an Everglades tree island. Based on ceramic marker types, the site was occupied during most of the Glades period (ca. 500 B.C.-A.D. 1513). A European contact horizon is also probable, but a specific date range has yet to be established. A single primary flexed female burial was discovered, with the skull pointing west and the face positioned down. Several potential grave goods included a deer antler tip, *Ampullaria* sp. Snail shells, and stones fractured by heat. In addition, charcoal was reportedly mixed with the ribs and the entire skeleton was incased in a layer of concretion. These concreted strata are a common feature in some Florida black dirt and shell midden sites, and are composed of hard calcareous lenses. [MNI=1]

Williams and Mowers' (1979) site report described the BCAS excavations at this location and included brief notes concerning the burial. Further discussion regarding the concretion phenomenon can be found in Mowers (1972) and Palmer and Williams (1977).

Cagels Hammock (8BD65)

Located on an Everglades tree island, Cagels Hammock is composed of black dirt midden material. Based on ceramic time markers, the site was occupied during the majority of the Glades period (ca. 500 B.C.-A.D. 1513). The BCAS found an extended burial, orientated north-north-east, with the skull positioned left and pointing to the north, and the body lying on its back with the right arm diagonally across the midsection. Potential grave goods included the sherds of a Glades Tooled pot, an unidentified stone object, along with antler and deer bone. During this excavation no other sherds of Glades Tooled were discovered, leading Mowers and Williams (1974) to hypothesize that the burial was a separate event from the habitation component. However, recent work by Cockrell (1989, 1990) nullified this assertion. Additionally, during this later excavation, further human material may have been removed, but full details could not be established. [MNI=3¹]

Mowers and Williams (1974) published a site report, which included limited discussion of their excavated human burial. Cockrell's (1989, 1990) later work helped clarify a

number of issues, including uncovering the presence of Glades Tooled in the habitation area of the site.

Coral Springs (8BD50)

The Coral Springs site is a black dirt midden located on the remnants of an Everglades tree island, dating to Glades II and III (A.D. 750-1763) based on pottery markers and a silver medal (ca. A.D. 1600). Approximately 32 meters southwest of the known habitation midden, a hitherto unknown burial complex was disturbed by machinery and rainfall. Eight secondary bundle burials were salvaged by the BCAS, all located on the bedrock. Potential grave goods included the placement of large rocks over some of the burials, along with the presence of a large shark vertebra, a broken bone bi-point, and a stone that had been shaped to resemble a celt. [MNI=2¹]

Williams (1970) included a short description of these burials with the report concerning BCAS activities at this site. Cockrell (1989) undertook a brief test excavation, but uncovered no human remains.

Cottonmouth Hammock (8BD49)

Cottonmouth Hammock is a habitation midden assigned to Glades II and III (A.D. 750-1513). During 1971, the BCAS recovered human teeth from this location. Unfortunately, little else is known about the site or the associated human material. [MNI=1]

The BCAS accession records list the recovered material, but contain little other data. Carr et al. (1991, 1993, 1995) did not discuss Cottonmouth Hammock in their extensive survey of Broward County archaeological sites. Ultimately, a review of the FMSF provided the remaining, albeit slight, information presented above.

Emerald Towers (8BD57)

The Emerald Towers shell midden is located on a Broward County coastal barrier island, and includes both habitation and mortuary components. A Glades I and II date (ca. 500 B.C.-A.D. 1200) has been suggested, but the limited nature of excavations makes this a tentative assessment. Surface collection by FAU recovered limited artifacts including some human material. A later BCAS salvage dig uncovered five additional fragments of human bone. [MNI=1]

The earlier surface collection is briefly discussed in the FAU archaeological catalog. The BCAS accession records and associated documents discuss the later salvage dig, along with the recovered material. The Broward County survey completed by Carr et al. (1993) indicated that Emerald Towers might have been a component of the Pompano Beach Midden site (8BD6).

Goodman (8BD188)

The Goodman site consists of later Late Archaic (ca. 1000-500 B.C.) and Glades (500 B.C.-A.D. 1513) black dirt midden

material. A habitation center was located on the northern end and a mortuary complex was located on the southern end of this Everglades tree island. Several primary flexed burials were uncovered in the concretion layer, with at least one orientated to the north. Preliminary study indicated that one burial was an adult female. [MNI=2]

Several sources indicated there were BCAS excavation notes for this site, but none were located. However, the BCAS accession records do briefly list what was recovered, and an unpublished report by Graves (1977) analyzed one of the burials. Both Almy and Deming (1986) and Felmley (1991) succinctly discussed the human material excavated at this location. Finally, this site should not be confused with the Goodman Mound located in Duval County, North Florida (Bullen 1963; Recourt 1975).

Lauderhill Mound (8BD75)

Possibly an artificially constructed sand mound, the Lauderhill Mound site is dated to Glades II and III (A.D. 750-1513) based on ceramic time markers. Finds included a double bundle burial with two skulls, and a side-by-side primary extended interment, with the bodies orientated east and the faces pointing downwards. These latter individuals had several potential ceremonial items, including a small bundle burial placed above both of their skulls, and a crania placed in the rib cage of one. This final item may have been a trophy skull. [MNI=6]

An unfinished manuscript by Williams (1971) provides the majority of data concerning this site, with much of the pertinent information reprinted in Felmley (1991).

Margate Blount (8BD41)

Margate Blount is one of the most important archaeological sites concerning mortuary practices in southeast Florida. It has a long occupation history (ca. 1000 B.C.-A.D. 1763) including Late Archaic, Glades, and potential Spanish Contact components, as evidenced by ceramic marker types and the recovery of two European glass beads. This site has been the focus of repeated excavations including intermittent digs by the BCAS from 1959 to 1965, possibly in 1972, and from 1986 to 1989, along with Phase I and Phase II surveys by Cockrell in 1989. As discussed in Williams (1983), historical and archaeological evidence indicated the presence of a charnel house, a significant feature of mortuary culture. A wide variety of Glades-period burials were encountered at this site, including extended and flexed primary burials, along with secondary bundle burials. A number of potential ceremonial goods were also discovered associated with the burials. These included a wooden paddle, wooden slabs, and the remains of a child placed just above the feet of one of the adult burials. [MNI=44¹]

Williams (1983) discussed the earliest BCAS excavations of Margate Blount with Iscan (1983) commenting on the skeletal biology of this material. There is no published report on the later BCAS excavations. However, the Society's accession records do briefly list what material was recovered.

Moreover, Cockrell (1989, 1990) discussed his work at this site undertaken for the landowners, Coral Ridge Properties. Finally, according to NAGPRA (2006), further skeletal material from this site is curated at FAU [MNI=12] and at the Florida Museum of Natural History (FLMNH) [MNI=1].

Markham Park I (8BD182)

A black dirt midden located on an Everglades tree island, Markham Park I includes both habitation and mortuary components. The overlying habitation midden is dated to the entire Glades period (ca. 500 B.C.-A.D. 1513) based on ceramics. Below this level, thirteen secondary bundle burials were recovered. Importantly, these were found in and beneath a layer of concretion, which is believed to date from the Late Archaic (ca. 2000-500 B.C.). Additionally, a cache of five *Strombus* sp. shell celts were found associated with one skull. [MNI=13]

Mowers and Williams (n.d.) unfinished manuscript reviewed the BCAS excavation at this site. They suggested the earlier component of this site might have been a burial mound associated with the habitation complex at Markham Park II. Much of the relevant data is reprinted in Felmley (1991) and Carr et al. (1991).

Markham Park II (8BD183)

This site is a companion to the above Markham Park I and is also a multi-component black dirt midden. It includes Late Archaic (ca. 2000-500 B.C.), Glades (500 B.C.-A.D. 1513), and Seminole components (ca. A.D. 1900), indicated by the presence of ceramic markers and other artifacts. Seven clusters of human skeletal material were recovered from the Glades-period deposits. These remains were from the southwest portion of the site, a section of which may have since been destroyed. [MNI=3¹]

Williams and Mowers (1977:74) published a site report that included details of the burials recovered and suggested that they were merely "causal interments, possibly of persons dying in transit." However, Felmley (1991) concluded that this was a formally defined cemetery. Finally, Carr et al. (1991) reported that a bulldozer destroyed the southern tip of this mound.

Panther North (8DA6460)

Panther North is a Late Archaic (ca. 2000-500 B.C.) site located on the Portland Plant property in Dade County. This property had a significant number of other archaeological sites, including Bamboo Mound (8DA94), Levee Cut (8DA2104), Panther South (8DA6461), and Refugee Island (8DA2102). The PBMNH curates a small selection of artifacts from a Phase 1 excavation at Panther North, including an isolated human ulna. [MNI=1²]

Gary Beiter (1998) surveyed the entire Portland Plant property, including a Phase 1 excavation at Panther North.

Rolling Oaks II (8BD73)

The Rolling Oaks II site contains both Late Archaic (ca. 1000-500 B.C.) and Glades (500 B.C.-A.D. 1563) deposits as demonstrated by recovered pottery sherds. It lies on an Everglades tree island composed of black dirt midden material containing evidence of multiple functions. Human remains were recovered from the southern end of the midden and they were fused together by concretion. Approximately five bundle burials were removed, along with a primary interment as suggested by the reported presence of articulated bones. Limited analysis indicated at least one male with potential dental pathologies, the cranial fragments of an adult female, and the post-cranial remains of another female. [MNI=7]

Williams and Mowers' (1982) site report briefly discussed the burials. Further data about the site and analysis of some of the recovered skeletal material is included in Graves (1982).

Snake Creek, Hollywood Blvd. (8BD13)

The Snake Creek, Hollywood Blvd. site is composed of black dirt midden deposits and dates to Glades II and III (A.D. 750-1513). There is some confusion over the exact location of Snake Creek, because no less than three different sites have been assigned the same FSMF number. Human bones and teeth were recovered during the BCAS dig. [MNI=3]

The BCAS accession records noted the artifacts excavated from this site. Carr et al. (1991) discussed the confusion over the locality of this site.

Taylor Head (8BD74)

With a 5,000-year occupation sequence, Taylor Head is a significant southeast Florida site with a bedrock living surface radiocarbon dated at 4840 \pm 210 BP. This black dirt midden site is located on an Everglades tree island. The human burials are concentrated on the southern side of the mound, and the recovered material included teeth and other skeletal elements. Preliminary work suggested the presence of at least one subadult. [MNI=2]

The BCAS accession records noted the recovery of human skeletal material and teeth. Masson et al. (1988) excavated at this site, but their research plan was designed to avoid disturbing human remains. Finally, Carr et al. (1991) discussed this site in their Broward County survey.

Sites Lacking Sufficient Documentation:*Alligator Alley (no FSMF number)*

There is very little information about this Broward County site. It appears to have been a brief field excavation undertaken in 1967. Its specific location and chronological placement are unknown. Fragments of cranial bones and teeth were recovered. Without further information, this material should not be used for any comparative analysis. [MNI=4]

Apart from the BCAS accession records, no references to this site were located.

Ancient America (no FSMF number)

This material originated from a 1950s Boca Raton roadside attraction called Ancient America. This exhibition was operated by E.G. Barnhill and was housed adjacent to the "Barnhill Mound," which is the Boca Raton Sand Mound (8PB13). While a number of human skeletons were exhibited in the tunnel excavated through this mound, associated non-local pottery suggests an uncertain origin for the human material curated at the PBMNH. This collection includes teeth along with a number of smashed and fragmentary bones. Due to the possibility of extra-area origin, these remains should not be used for osteological comparative work. [MNI=1]

The BCAS accession records, including associated notes on the accession by Bert Mowers, were the only documentation found about the human material. Additional information concerning the Ancient America attraction is discussed in Wheeler et al. (2002).

Belle Glade (8PB40 and 8PB41)

Excavation at the Belle Glade complex was one of the first large-scale archaeological projects undertaken in south Florida. It was composed of a habitation mound and a burial mound. The material curated at the PBMNH originated from a 1975 FAU salvage dig. The human skeletal find is of a well-preserved female of approximately 17 years of age. The chronological placement of this find is currently unclear. Nevertheless, with a proper review of the associated artifacts, the time placement of this material may be attainable and thus useful for comparative analysis. [MNI=1]

Wiley's (1949) seminal work on *Excavations in Southeast Florida* included a short appraisal of both the burial mound and other burials from this site. The FAU archaeological catalog and associated notes briefly discuss the salvage dig. Gary Beiter (personal communication, 2006) provided additional background for this individual. Finally, NAGPRA (2006) discusses several other skeletal collections from this site, including material held by the Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist [MNI=39], and by FLMNH [MNI=3].

*Spanish River Midden and Mound Group (8PB9636)
[Boca Beekman (8PB55) and Boca Weir (8PB56)]*

As recently redefined by Wheeler (1998), the Spanish River Midden and Mound Group is a major archaeological complex with several components being individually recognized (8PB11, 8PB55, 8PB56, 8PB57, and 8PB103). During the 1960s the BCAS excavated at Boca Weir and probably at the adjacent Boca Beekman. A number of human remains were recovered. Unfortunately, the original documentation for this dig appears to be lost and further data cannot be discussed at this time. However, this material was accessioned, reviewed, and later de-accessioned by FAU. With careful analysis, the pit and level data could be reconstructed from information contained in the FAU archaeological catalog. If this is the case, this human material could be utilized for future comparative analysis. Subsequently, an FAU excavation by John Furey

at Boca Weir in the early 1970s revealed occupation during much of the Glades period (ca. A.D. 500-1763) based on ceramic time markers, and suggested a possible Seminole or Spanish occupation based on European-derived goods (olive jars fragments, and an undated pipe fragment). The recovered human material from this later dig originated from surface collection finds in several units to the west of the main Boca Weir excavation. These jumbled finds were probably the result of earlier disturbance by pothunters and the relationship between the human material and the surrounding site components is unclear. Nonetheless, if it can be clarified, this collection could also be used for future comparative investigation. Indeed, it would be intriguing to compare and contrast both of the above midden assemblages with the extensive skeletal material from the neighboring Highland Beach Burial Mound (8PB11). This may reveal distinctions between lower and higher status individuals, depending on interment location. [MNI=32]

A review of the FMSF indicated the redefined archaeological complex of the Spanish River Group. Concerning the BCAS excavation, no site report or excavation notes were located. However, the FAU archaeological catalog contains information on this earlier dig. In addition, the BCAS accession records and associated notes described the later re-accession of this material by the Society. On the other hand, Furey (1972) detailed the later excavations at Boca Weir, including a brief analysis of the recovered human remains. The remains from this later excavation are curated at FAU [MNI=4]. Recent activity at the Spanish River Group is discussed in Wheeler et al. (2002). Finally, according to NAGPRA (2006), additional human skeletal material from this site is curated at FLMNH [MNI=1].

Osborne-Loper (no FMSF number)

The Osborne-Loper material was the result of a 1950s private dig of an archaeological site. This assemblage included a variety of faunal material and pottery sherds, along with assorted human bones and teeth. This skeletal material represented the remains of six adults and two subadults, and probably originated from the Holatee II site (8BD105) located on the Sunshine Ranches property in Broward County. Nonetheless, due to the unprovenience nature of this material, it should not be employed for any comparative study. [MNI=8²]

Some data concerning this site was found in the BCAS accession records and associated accession notes. Patricia K. Flynn provided additional information on this material and the association with the Holatee II site (personal communication, 2006).

Plantation Golf (8BD190)

Located on a former Everglades tree island, the Plantation Golf site was probably a habitation midden. The chronological placement of this site is currently unknown. The BCAS conducted a salvage excavation in 1972, however it appears they did not recognize the presence of human skeletal material

at that time. It is probable that these remains were discovered during the preparation of the NAGPRA report. [MNI=1]

The BCAS accession records, the Broward County survey by Carr et al. (1991), and the FMSF do not list any human remains. The only reference to human osteological material from this site is in NAGPRA (2006).

Conclusions and Summary

The PBMNH curates a substantial collection of archaeological material from southeast Florida, including an assortment of precontact human skeletal remains. This material originated from a variety of sites, incorporating significant numbers from the Everglades and East Okeechobee areas, and encompassing up to 4,000 years of prehistory. Moreover, the mortuary practices of these regions are varied and intriguing. They included the practice of primary and secondary burials, along with a host of different burial orientations. Additionally, the spatial placement of burials across a site, the presence or absence of grave goods, and the tantalizing evidence of use of a charnel house at the Margate Blount site all potentially reveal much about the prehistoric societies of southeast Florida. Felmley (1991) used such data to determine status and rank, and develop hypotheses concerning pre-contact sociopolitical organization in the Everglades Area. Clearly however, more intensive osteological investigation is required.

Indeed, while great strides have been made concerning southeast Florida archaeology, our knowledge of the osteology of these populations is still grievously underdeveloped. One possibility to improve this situation is found in the human osteological material in the SFAC. The bibliographic review included herein demonstrates that some excellent preliminary work has been accomplished. Nonetheless, future research is vital to continued physical anthropological study of the archaeological material curated at the PBMNH.

Ferdinando (2006) establishes a framework for future investigation of the human osteology preserved in the SFAC. The first phase of this work includes the delineation of stature, age, and sex, along with paleo-demographic analysis, a full burial inventory, and the implementation of a modern curation system. The result of this undertaking will be the baseline data for future study of this material. It will be readily available to all qualified investigators and research results will be submitted for publication in this journal. Future phases of study must include anthropometry (including craniometry), odontology, and in-depth paleo-pathological examination, along with the possible application of more advanced techniques like protein isotope analysis, DNA assessment, and absolute dating. Finally, it is essential that inter-area comparative study be completed, encompassing all the archaeological areas recognized in south Florida and beyond. A clear picture of the similarities and the differences between the osteology and paleo-demography of these groups can only add to our knowledge.

Notes

¹ For some archaeological sites, there appears to be a disparity

between the MNI reported in NAGPRA (2006) and the other existing literature. This discrepancy will be investigated during the first phase of study proposed in Ferdinando (2006).

- ² Panther North and Osborne-Loper are not found in NAGPRA (2006). The museum does not receive federal funding, but it is our objective to submit an updated record when finalized. This ensures the most complete and accurate information is available to all using the NAGPRA database.

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