La taille est-elle importante? Description des altérations taphonomiques sur les os d'oiseaux produites par le Hibou grand-duc (Bubo bubo) / Does size matter? Unravelling taphonomic alterations on bird bones produced by the Eagle Owl (Bubo bubo).

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Résumé

Predators hunt and consume their prey in a different manner. Consequently, variability on the traces they left on bones might be noticed in accordance with the way in which animals are hunted, processed and ingested. In the present work, we propose prey size as a critical factor when analyzing predator accumulations from a taphonomic perspective. To test this hypothesis, we focus on a modern Eagle owl ($Bubo\ bubo$) accumulation of pellets, with specific interest on bird size. As a result, we have observed that bones present greater damage when increasing the size of prey. This is especially evident when analyzing fragmentation and mechanical modification on bones. To evaluate the implementation of this work, the results are compared with another accumulation from the Spanish Pyrenees (Cau del Duc) that apparently present similar characteristics.

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