

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

Title of the paper:

Alepotrypa Cave, Diros, 6000-3500 BC: New evidence shed new light on the excavated material

General paper topic (keywords):

Neolithic, Alepotrypa Cave, microstratigraphy, radiocarbon dating

Paper abstract (maximum 600 words; alternatively, please include/attach an abstract as a separate document):

See attached

Electronic Poster Session (description max. 300 words)

Date and Signature (/name):

Oct. 15th, 2012

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The site of Alepotrypa Cave, situated at the southernmost tip of the Peloponnese, is characterized by significant variability in all forms of material culture and funerary expression, extensive horizontal exposure and depth of stratigraphy. Recent survey in 2011-2012 at the Diros Bay area has also located the adjacent open-air settlement where at least five in situ human burials and hundreds of artifacts have been uncovered. New evidence from radiocarbon dating of human burials and charcoal, both inside and outside the cave, place it with confidence in the Middle to Final Neolithic indicating parallel habitation of the cave and the surrounding area. Additional microstratigraphic analysis confirms multiple successive habitation layers inside the cave as well as hiatuses of occupation. The new evidence from the stratigraphic and chronological data, in conjunction with the large quantities of artifacts that have been excavated since the 1970's, which are now plotted and spatially situated on a detailed map using GIS, can refine the nature and the extent of cave use as well as that of the open-air site, clarify different aspects of the transition(s) in this marginal area and positively and systematically correlate the material culture of Alepotrypa Cave to that of other contemporary sites.