

Abstract

The Islamic period in Ibiza (Balearic Islands, Spain) is a historical period that is being reconsidered and rediscovered for medievalists thanks to the archaeological research. Archaeology is challenging our previous knowledge on the medieval Islamic Mediterranean history, including the Balearic Islands. In this sense, Islamic necropolis (maqbaras) are one of the best archaeological contexts to approach life and death of medieval societies given the nature of the funerary assemblage. Such contexts provide insight into chronological debates (through radiocarbon dates), funerary behaviour (through funerary taphonomy), health and diet of a population (through paleopathology and isotopic analysis) among others issues. Therefore, an archaeological approach is essential to reconsider medieval Islamic period in the Mediterranean area.

In the present study, we analyse an Islamic maqbara from the city of Ibiza (Madina Yabisa) excavated at the urban site of Ignasi Wallis 9. Our bioarchaeological and taphonomic approach allows us to reconstruct issues related with life and death during the Islamic period (i.e., paleodemography, health and diet, social inequality and chronology). Our results are contextualised with historical sources in order to approach Islamic medieval period in Ibiza through a 10th to 12th century CE cemetery.