

ABSTRACT

The study of food-collecting behaviour of hyaenas is of great interest to both wildlife management workers and archaeologist. The accumulated faunal remains in any given hyaena den can give insight how the animal is surviving today, as well as give an ecological history of the region, assuming the hyaena has been scavenging from an assortment of the regions biodiversity. While it is the identification of species recovered from the dens that is most important for the wildlife management worker, it is how the hyaena processes the faunal remains and which parts of specific animals as well as the identity of species that is of great interest to the archaeologist. The taphonomic signature left on the bones is key to distinguishing between hominid and carnivore assemblages. The percentage of the assemblage containing the signature marks, as well as the identification of the marks themselves is an important part of the analytical process. Specifically saw tooth, acid etching, pitting and scouring are looked for as indicators of carnivore activity. In addition to the taphonomy a complete body part analysis, species identification, aging by epiphyseal fusion and dentition, butchery marks, sexing (where possible), and weathering patterns are all to be explored with reference to the collecting behaviour of the striped hyaena (*Hyaena hyaena syriaca*) of Eastern Jordan today.