

Abstract

Tuberculosis is one of humanity's oldest infectious diseases that has significantly impacted populations throughout history. This bachelor thesis focuses on the study of tuberculosis in historical populations using an interdisciplinary approach that combines bioarchaeological analysis with molecular biological methods. The main objective is to analyse the manifestations of tuberculosis in skeletal remains and to assess the effectiveness of modern diagnostic tools, including PCR, NGS, lipid biomarkers, and paleoproteomics, in detecting the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex. The paper discusses the benefits and limitations of each method, with a particular focus on challenges related to DNA degradation and sample contamination. The findings underscore the value of integrating traditional palaeopathological techniques with advanced molecular approaches to achieve a more comprehensive understanding of the evolution, spread, and historical impact of tuberculosis.

Keywords

Tuberculosis, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, bioarchaeology, molecular biology methods, PCR, NGS, paleoproteomics, lipid biomarkers, evolution of tuberculosis