

INTERSEX SAMPLES FROM ANATOLIA IN PREHISTORICAL AGES

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Objectives: Hermaphroditism is the term that describes the presence of genital organs of both sexes together. This term originates from Hermaphroditus, the son of Hermes and Aphrodite, and was used in intersex classification. According to mythological sources, Nymph and Hermaphroditus united into a single body in the Bay of Salmakis (Bardakçı Koyu) in Bodrum (Halikarnassos) that was also said to decrease sexual power.

Archaeological excavations and investigations revealed no temple built for Hermes and Aphrodite, the parents of Hermaphroditus up to date. The birthplace of the myth of Hermaphroditus is Anatolia and it may be a product of intercultural interactions and communications in that region.

This study was carried out to investigate tracks of dual sexuality (DS) on prehistorical artefacts originating from Anatolia.

Methods: Archaeological findings of Anatolia from ?- 10.000 B.C., and 7000 B.C. were investigated with the help of archeologic sources, museum catalogs, reviews written on this matter and opinions of various experts.

Results: Anatolia, known as the land of sun and history, is one of the few regions of the world that harbor the tracks of first human settlements. The concept of DS in the Hellenic world is known in texts of the philosophes of the 4th and 5th centuries B.C., and artistic expression of this entity appears first in the 4th century B.C. One cave drawing from the Paleolithic Age (?- 10.000 B.C.), several artifacts from the Neolithic Age (7000 B.C.) show that DS was known in Anatolia long before the Hellenic civilization.

Conclusions: Our findings might be interpreted as supporting proofs of that the place of origin of DS is probably Anatolia and surrounding.

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