

Brief description of samples

Bashkirs

The Bashkir series consists of 326 male and 13 female crania. Most of them (304 male crania relating to 9 groups) were measured and published by R.M. Yusupov [1989]. Crania dating to the 17th – early 20th century were collected by himself during his excavations to Bashkortostan and the Chelyabinsk Region. Sex and age determinations were based on cranial and postcranial morphology. Other specimens were collected by N.M. Maliev and D.P. Nikolsky at several cemeteries in the Dyoma River basin and near Zaitovo village in modern Bashkortostan and some were excavated in Chelyabinsk Region. Crania were measured and published by V.P. Alexeyev [1971]. Sex and age determinations were apparently based on cranial morphology.

Belorussians

The series includes 15 male and two female crania collected in various areas of Belorussia and adjacent parts of Russia and Poland. They were measured and published by V.P. Alexeyev [1969]. Sex and age were apparently diagnosed on the basis of cranial criteria.

Karelians

Ten Karelians samples, totaling 180 male and 120 female crania, were collected at several abandoned rural cemeteries in the Republic of Karelia, mostly by the Northern European Paleo-Anthropological Expedition, and were measured and published by V.I. Khartanovich [1986]. One series is from the Tver Region. Judging by ethnographic data, burials date to the late 1800s and early 1900s. In some cases, sex determination was based on cranial criteria; in others, pelvic traits were used. Crania from Alozero in northern Karelia, dating to late 17th – early 20th century, were unearthed by M.M. Shakhnovich. Group means were published by V.I. Khartanovich and I.G. Shirobokov [2012]. Sex was diagnosed on the basis of cranial and pelvic criteria. The series from Tver Region was measured and published by V.P. Alexeyev [1969].

Komi Permyaks

The Komi Permyak sample includes two subsamples. The first was collected by N.M. Maliev at a cemetery near Kudymkar. Crania were measured and published by V.P. Alexeyev [1969]. The second subsample was collected by the Northern European Expedition in Pyatigory. Crania were measured by V.I. Khartanovich and remain unpublished. The total number of crania is 26 male and 12 female. Sex and age determinations are based on cranial criteria.

Komi Zyrians

The largest part of Komi Zyrian series consists of two subsamples collected at Podyelsk and Griva cemeteries in the Perm Region. Both date to the 19th and early 20th century and were studied and published by V.I. Khartanovich [1991]. The total number of crania is 88 (60 male and 28 female). Two more skulls were included in the Komi Permyak series by V.P. Alexeyev [1969]. Sex and age were diagnosed on the basis of cranial morphology.

Letts

The series consists of 132 male and 107 female crania. Most specimens, dating to the 17th and 18th centuries, were collected by V.P. Alexeyev at Durbe and Ludza cemeteries. Sex and age diagnoses are presumably based on cranial and postcranial morphology. Most other specimens, dating to the 19th century, were obtained by maceration in hospitals of former Livland and Kurland (present-day Latvia), and in Vitebsk, Belorussia, in the 19th century. Means were published by V.P. Alexeyev [1969]. Sex and age attributions are based on hospital records.

Mari

The series consist of 85 male and 76 female skulls. Most of them were excavated by M.S. Akimova on the territory of Mari El Republic. The series, dating to the 19th century, represent both Lowland and Highland Mari. Other crania were excavated by A.N. Stoyanov and A.Kh. Khalikov at different cemeteries dating to the 17th and 18th centuries. Most specimens were measured and published by V.P. Alexeyev, who also used M.S. Akimova data with minor corrections [Alexeyev, 1969]. Sex and age determinations are based on cranial morphology.

Mordvinians

The series consists of 73 male and 55 female crania collected at various cemeteries of the Ulyanovsk and Penza regions and in Tatarstan. They were excavated in the habitation areas of Erzya, Moksha and Teryukhans but in many instances the ethnic attribution remains uncertain. Most Erzya specimens were excavated at Novaya Pyrma cemetery, those representing Moksha, at Butsky and Payovsky, those of Teryukhans, at Kuzhadon and Sarley. The series were published by V.P. Alexeyev [1969], who used his own data along with those by M.S. Akimova and T.I. Alexeyeva. Sex and age diagnoses are based on cranial morphology.

Russians

The Russians sample, consisting of 444 male and 225 female crania, is the largest in our database. Some specimens were collected at urban and rural cemeteries and thus mirror the population structure (the cities of Simbirsk, Kazan, Staraya Ladoga, and Izhevsk, the villages of Lezye and Golyany, and Kizhi Island). Others make up a pooled sample from Akhangelsk, Vladimir, Kaluga, Kostroma, Kursk, Leningrad, Novgorod, Orel, Pskov, Tver, Tula, Yaroslavl, etc., in European Russia. Most of these samples consist of separate crania collected at hospitals through maceration of cadavers. Sex and age determinations are based on various criteria. In some cases such as those concerning Izhevsk, Staraya Ladoga, and Golyany, postcranial bones are available. For macerated specimens (mostly pooled across different territories), hospital records were used. In certain cases (Kizhi, Lezye, part of pooled series), cranial criteria were employed. Most skulls were measured and published by V.P. Alexeyev [1969]. Crania from Troitskoe (19th and early 20th century), Mikhailovskoye (late 1700s), Izhevsk and Golyany in Udmurtia, and Lezye in the Leningrad Region were measured by I.G. Shirobokov and remain unpublished. The series from St George Church in Staraya Ladoga was collected by N.V. Grigoryeva, measured by I.G. Shirobokov, and published by several authors [Moiseyev et al., 2016]. The series collected in 2006 near Transfiguration Church on Kizhi Island was measured and published by V.I. Khartanovich and I.G. Shirobokov [2008]. Later it was augmented by measurements of crania collected in 2009 [Khartanovich, Shirobokov, 2014].

Sami

The Sami series consists of several samples collected in the Murmansk region of Russia and in northern Finland. It totals 154 male and 46 female crania. The Murmansk sample, collected by the Northern European Expedition from the Institute of Ethnography, Leningrad, in 1975-76, was published by V.I. Khartanovich [1980, 2004]. Crania come from several late 19th – early 20th century cemeteries near abandoned villages. Sex and age diagnoses of most specimens are based on cranial criteria. In the case of Chalmny-Varreh, postcrania were used as well. The Sami samples from Finland (Inari, Utsjoki, and Kittilä) were measured by A.G. Kozintsev at Helsinki University in 1985 (see [Kozintsev, 1991] for details) and were never published before. Sex and age determinations are based on cranial morphology.

Kazan Tatars

The pooled series of Kazan Tatars, consisting of 37 male and 11 female crania collected by several researchers in Tatarstan and in Ulyanovsk Region, was published by V.P. Alexeyev [1971]. Sex and age determinations were apparently based on cranial morphology.

Udmurts

The series includes 157 male and 130 female skulls, representing both northern and southern Udmurts. A few crania are those of Udmurts from Tatarstan. Most specimens were collected by N.I. Shutova in Udmurtia and by N.M. Maliev in Tatarstan. They date to the 17th–19th centuries. Crania collected by N.M. Maliev and a few specimens from Balezino (Chuboisky), Udmurtia, collected by P.G. Tarasov, were published by V.P. Alexeyev [1969]. Others were measured and recently published by I.G. Shirobokov [2014]. Sex and age determinations are based on cranial morphology.

Finns

The series, which includes several subsamples from various regions of Finland and Russia, consists of 321 male and 22 female skulls. Some of those published by V.P. Alexeyev [1969] and vaguely referred to as crania of Ingrian Finns, were collected at Finnish cemeteries of what is now Leningrad Region or from macerated cadavers at hospitals in Leningrad Region and in southern and eastern Finland. The remaining crania were measured by A.G. Kozintsev at Helsinki University (see [Kozintsev, 1991] for details) and published by V.I. Khartanovich [1995]. In most cases sex and age determination was based on cranial criteria except for skulls obtained by maceration and documented by hospital records.

Swedish-speaking Finns

This group is represented by a single sample collected at Pedersöre (Pietarsaari), Ostrobothnia, Finland and owned by Helsinki University. It includes 51 male crania measured by A.G. Kozintsev (see [Kozintsev, 1991] for details). The means were published by V.I. Khartanovich [1995]. Sex and age determinations were based on cranial morphology.

Chuvashes

The Chuvash series consist of 131 male and 79 female skulls. Most were collected by N.M. Maliev at Bazarnye Mataki, Tatarstan, others, by M.S. Akimova at Tubakh-Mazar and Tatmysh-Yugelevo. The means were published by M.S. Akimova [1955]. Later complemented group was published by V.P. Alexeyev [1971]. Sex and age determinations were apparently based cranial criteria.

Estonians

The series, dating to late 19th – early 20th century, consists of 17 male and 4 female skulls collected in various parts of Estonia. They were measured by V.P. Alexeyev [1969]. Because most were collected at hospitals, information about sex and age comes from hospital records.