RESPONSE TO PERTTULA

Darrell Creel and Matthew S. Taylor

Perttula has made some important points in his response to our recent article. First, he notes that we may have included some pre-Caddoan individuals in our Caddo sample, thereby biasing the sample. Second, he suggests that we should have split the Caddo samples into groups presumably reflecting the historically observed geographic/cultural differences in northeast Texas.

In regard to the first point, we note that at most, there are only three or four possible pre-Caddo remains in the sample we used. They are not likely to have significantly affected the result of our statistical analysis. It would have been highly desirable to have an adequate sample of pre-Caddo dentition for inclusion in our study, but there simply were not enough earlier teeth available due to factors such as relatively small number of remains known and available, poor preservation, and destruction of teeth by cremation.

In regard to the second point, we agree on the desirability of splitting the Caddo sample into subgroups, although this subject has previously been covered by Lee (1999). However, our intent in that article was to compare and contrast dentition over a very large area, and we elected to lump all of the Caddo remains into a single group just as we lumped in other cultural/geographic areas. Indeed, in our background section, we stated that the groupings are based upon geography, rather than distinct cultural boundaries or discrete time periods.

The data on which our article is based are available for use by others with new research questions, and we hope that additional data can be added to the pool generated by our research. Certainly, there are teeth from sites in Texas that we were unable to access that we hope can be analyzed in the future, and there are also directly relevant samples from adjacent states.

Reference Cited

Lee, Christine
1999 Origins and Interactions of the Caddo: A Study in Dental and Cranial Nonmetric Traits. Unpublished Master's thesis, Arizona State University, Tempe.

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