INTRODUCTION

Paleopathology is the study and application of methods and techniques for investigating diseases and related conditions from skeletal and soft tissue remains. The International Journal of Paleopathology (IJPP) will publish original and significant articles on human and animal (including hominids) disease, based upon the study of physical remains, including osseous, dental, and preserved soft tissues at a range of methodological levels, from direct observation to molecular, chemical, histological and radiographic analysis. Discussion of ways in which these methods can be applied to the reconstruction of health, disease and life histories in the past is central to the discipline, so the journal would also encourage papers covering interpretive and theoretical issues, and those that place the study of disease at the centre of a bioarchaeological or biocultural approach. Papers dealing with historical evidence relating to disease in the past (rather than history of medicine) will also be published. The journal will also accept significant studies that applied previously developed techniques to new materials, setting the research in the context of current debates on past human and animal health.

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**Materials:** 1435 extremely well preserved human remains of children and adults.

**Methods:** We observed all remains with the aid of low power magnification.

**Results:** No examples of skeletal tuberculosis were identified.

**Conclusions:** No cases of skeletal tuberculosis have yet been recognized in ancient Maya remains.

**Significance:** This is the first project to explicitly address mycobacterial disease in ancient Maya human skeletal collections. It holds implications for histories of disease spread, the relationship between nutrition and disease, and cross-immunity between mycobacterial diseases.

**Limitations:** The absence of evidence is not evidence of absence. In addition, many of the skeletal elements most diagnostic of tuberculosis are poorly preserved in the collection studied.

**Suggestions for Further Research:** Further intensive review of Maya skeletal collections is advised, followed by the application of biomolecular approaches.

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