

Abstract

Examination of 11 metric mandibular traits was conducted on data collected from several sites differences on mandibular morphology for these groups. Based on the dietary history of the populations and their respective regions, - 3,000 BP) sites would share comparable robusticities across all regions based on social and economic continuity as a stable climate resulted in abundant dietary resources which fostered a growth in population in the - 2,000 BP), the population of the two islands crashed coinciding with reduced carrying capacity of the environment due to a reduction in available food resources. The populations expected to show mandibular reduction in the Honshu interior which had engaged in plant cultivation and emergent agriculture as opposed to populations on the Hokkaido and Honshu coast which engaged in marine subsistence. The success of agriculture resulted in an expansion across Honshu, pushing marine subsistence communities northeastward to Hokkaido where the tradition persisted as the Epi- on until the arrival of immigrant populations of the Okhotsk (1,000-600 BP). The Epi- shared practice of marine subsistence. - were not supported citing the presence of more diversified and complex subsistence practices than was initially anticipated.