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**The Three Oral *Tori*
in the Coimbra population
(Portugal) at the beginning
of the XXth century A.D.**

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The remarkable anthropological series formed by E. Tamagnini at the Universidade de Coimbra consists of the exhumed human remains from "La Conchada" cemetery, in Coimbra (Northern Portugal).

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From this collection, only those individuals coming from the different districts of Coimbra, where they also lived and died, were selected for study. The resulting series was made of by 483 individuals: 234 women and 249 men. The personal data sheets indicate that these people died between 1910 and 1938; their professions, age at death and its cause are also noted. They can be considered as a relatively homogeneous group of low socioeconomic level.

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The study of the three oral *tori* demonstrated the high frequencies of all of them, the absence of sexual dimorphism and only a few statistically significant differences between some of the age classes considered. The possible etiological factors (genetical and/or environmental) are also discussed.

Key words: Oral *tori*, Coimbra population, XXth century.

Introduction

Coimbra is located 224 km. north of Lisbon, in the center of Portugal. Because of its geographical situation, skirted by the Mondego river and settled 100 meters above sea level, the town has a continental climate, with cold winters and hot summers (Roque 1982), despite its proximity (45 km.) to the Atlantic Ocean.

The Anthropological Institute of the Coimbra University keeps several important osteological collections made up of the remains of people from different regions of Portugal. The main series was formed by E. Tamagnini between 1931 and 1942 with the cranial and skeletal remains of 1582 individuals coming from the exhumations made at the cemetery of "Conchada" in Coimbra.

We decided to select from the Tamagnini collections (called "Esqueletos identificados" and "Trocas Internacionais") the remains of the people born in the different districts of Coimbra; this sampling permits the supposition of a human group having a more homogeneous genetic-pool than the whole series.

The aim of the present research is to analyze the three oral *tori* (*t. palatinus*, *t. maxillaris* and *t. mandibularis*) in the "Coimbra" sample, in function of age and sex of the individuals,