

## **Alpine Ibex between mythology and reality: a prehistoric point of view.**

*Dimitriadis G., Ph.D<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>Hellenic Rock Art Center, Greece

The present paper is a zooarchaeological approach, through out the symbology of *Alpine Ibex* as the petroglyphs in Italy and all the alpine altitudes in Europe represent it. The *Alpine ibex* was one of the few animal species hunted by the friends of Ötzi, as indicated by the engravings in Valcamonica and Valtellina in the culture horizon of the hunters-gathers societies. It is clear that one of the keywords in order to understand the hunting scenes is sympathy magic, common cultural background for all the tribal societies around the globe. Before hunting it was necessary depict or engrave the animal of the desire, preying and hoping for a positive exit of the mission.