CHAPTER 12

THE HUMAN REMAINS

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Skeletal remains from four different periods were recovered at Tel Te'o: Pre-Pottery Neolithic, Pottery Neolithic, Chalcolithic, and Early Bronze Age. They included intramural burials as well as isolated bones from fills, presumably derived from disturbed burials. The remains were cleaned, identified, and measured as described in Bass (1987). For adults, age and sex determination were carried out using skeletal criteria defined in Bass and dental attrition scores where appropriate. For younger individuals age was based on dental development. For the infants two complementary methods were used. Since this is the first time as far as we know that these standards have been applied to the analysis of infant remains from archaeological sites in this region, they are described below in detail.

1. *Crown Length of the Tooth Germs and Teeth*. The crown lengths of each maxillary and mandibular deciduous first and second incisor, canine, and first and second molar and permanent teeth were measured from the tip of the tooth to the cervical margin, using digital calipers accurate to 0.01 mm (Fig. 12.1). The dental development was assessed by comparison of the crown height of the Tel Te'o sample with recent samples measured by Deutsch and Pe'er (1982) and with archaeological samples recovered of children of known age from a cemetery at Spittlefields, London, dated to 1729–1859 CE (Liversidge, Dean, and Molleson 1993).

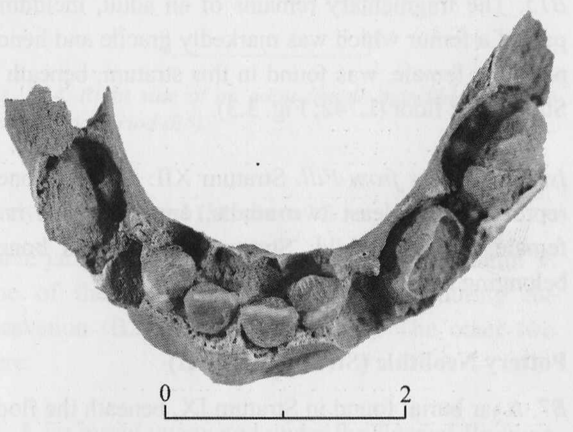

Fig. 12.1. Infant mandible with tooth germs in the jaws measured to determine age.

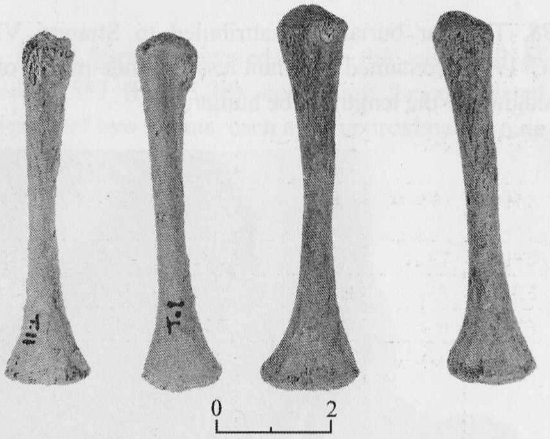

Fig. 12.2. Humeri from infants measured to obtain age estimation.

2. *Humerus Measurements*. The anatomical length of the diaphysis (shaft) of the humerus was measured from the proximal extremity to the distal extremity using digital calipers. Diameter was measured in the anterior posterior direction at the midshaft region (Fig. 12.2). Where possible the right side was used; where incomplete, the left side was used. Although there may be considerable differences between right and left limb bones in adults due to differential use of the right and left limbs, this was not considered important for age assessment in an infant sample. Age was estimated by comparison with long bone measurements of modern infants of European origin (Scheuer, Musgrave, and