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A double grave with yellow ochre at Nymölla in Scania

By Bozena Wyszomirski


In the lower part of a TRB Culture, settlement layer at Nymölla 12, Gualöv parish, Scania, a double grave was found. One of the individuals was a young man, the other an adult woman, the pelvis and femora of which were covered with yellow ochre. This constitutes the first Stone Age grave find with ochre in southern Sweden.

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Topography. Nymölla 12

During road construction in the fall of 1977 a culture layer containing flint artefacts and pottery of the Middle Neolithic Funnel Beaker Culture was found, located immediately west of the bridge over the Skräbbeå stream in Nymölla, parish of Gualöv in northeastern Scania. A number of thick-butted flint axes and transverse arrowheads were excavated. The investigation, led by A. Esping Bodén, was carried out by the Lund branch of the Central Board of National Antiquities in collaboration with Lunds Universitets Historiska Museum.

The culture layer with Funnel Beaker pottery (B) lies ca. 116 m north of a Middle Neolithic Pitted Ware settlement site at Nymölla 12 (A), where 80 m² were excavated during investigations in 1974–1975 (Fig. 1).

Nymölla (formerly called Möllehusen) is a Pitted Ware settlement in northeastern Scania, located ca. 8 km W of Siretorp. The first test excavations were undertaken in the 1930’s. At the time, the layer sequence was not clarified and the chronology was therefore not determined (Forssander 1941). The later investigations were intended to clarify stratigraphy and chronology. A series of C 14 datings – the first such from any Pitted Ware settlement in Scania – is now available. The settlement had originally lain on the extinct beach of the Litorina Sea and was secondarily destroyed by subsequent settlement (Fig. 1 – A). A find-producing layer (Fig. 2) lies between transgression gravel and white marine sand (Wyszomirski 1975 a pp. 132 ff.). The finds, namely artefacts of flint, stone, bone and antler, pottery and animal bones, indicate a hunting and fishing industry (a barbed bone point, tanged arrowheads of bone and slate). There are scattered human bones in the culture layer, and in 1974 a fragment of a human skull was excavated. Among the animal bones those of seal, red deer, wild boar (domestic pig ?) and fish are predominant.

In consideration of the observed stratigraphy and chronological indications as well as on the basis of the finds, affinities with not only the Siretorp settlement, but also with the so-called east central Swedish GR group can be stated. A chronology can be constructed on the basis of the actual geology.
and a series of (non-calibrated) C14 datings offering the values 2700±95 B.C. (Lu-973), 2430±60 B.C. (Lu-1110) and 2270±110 B.C. (Lu-1113). It must be noted that according to the latest evaluations the earliest phase of the GR Culture is dated to the MN I - 2800-2600 B.C. both in Scania and in central Sweden (Welinder 1973 p. 117; Wyszomirski 1975 b p. 73).

The Nymölla settlement was a GR coastal station whose population specialized in selective seal hunting and marine fishing. It appears to have been a permanent station inhabited by perhaps 5-8 families (25-50 persons).

Nymölla 123. The double grave
The stratigraphy of settlement B in the TRB culture layer (Fig. 1) was different. There, finds of flint and pottery were incorporated in a 20-50 cm deep black culture layer. In September 1977 more than 100 m² and some ten hearths were excavated (Fig. 3). The decoration of the TRB pottery from the culture layer (Fig. 4) indicates a dating of the possible settlement to the early MN. A major part of the settlement area has since been destroyed by road construction.

In the lower part of the culture layer a double grave (grave no. 1) was uncovered. The grave was ca. 60-70 cm below the ground surface in a kind of stone setting (Fig. 3). The skeletons both lay in a supine position, their legs stretched out and their heads to the S.

Individual I: the face was turned towards the E. Taken together, the sex indices suggest a male ♂, aged 17 years — Juvenis (Persson 1979). At the centre of the skull there is a hole measuring ca. 4 cm in diameter which was probably caused by a trepanation (Fig. 6, skull in situ). The poor state of preservation of the skeletal parts and of the skull excludes further discussion of surgical methods and/or post-operational survival (cf. Persson op.cit.). However, the regular shape of the hole and the even surface of the bone margin at the periphery of the hole seem to confirm a trepanation (Fig. 7 — after removal to the laboratory).

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Fig. 2. Section of the GR culture layer at the Nymölla 12\textsuperscript{3} settlement. — Profil genom GR kultur­lager på boplatsen Nymölla 12\textsuperscript{3}.

Fig. 3. Plan of the excavated squares at the TRB settlement Nymölla 12\textsuperscript{3}, section of grave no. 1, and possible stone setting around the grave. — Plan över de utgrävda rutorna på TRB boplatsen Nymölla 12\textsuperscript{3}, profil genom grav 1, samt plan visande eventuell stensättning vid grav 1.
Among the foot bones of individual I, lay a phalanx of grey seal (*Halichoerus gryphus*), indicating that the corpse may have been wrapped in a seal skin.

**Individual II**: the face was turned towards the W. This was a female skeleton ♀ (Fig. 8). The age was probably 30-40 years (Adultus). The hips and thighs were covered with *yellow ochre* (Fig. 5) consisting of reddish brown powder (mull). Yellow ochre was also registered in the surrounding soil.

Between the thigh bones lay two micro-blades of flint (Fig. 5 — A, B) of Mesolithic character (Fig. 9). These were the only grave goods (?) in grave no 1.

**Grave no. 2** lay ca. 7 m to the E of the double grave and was destroyed by road construction (Figs. 3 and 5). Only the lower part of the left foot, tibia and bones of the right hand of *individual III* are preserved (Fig. 5). The skeleton lay probably in supine position, orientated SW—NE, the head in the SW, and ca. 7.40 m above sea-level similar to grave no 1.

The skeletal parts are probably those of a female ♀, the age was probably Adultus. A number of animal bones were found in the grave, including bones of grey seal, pig (or wild boar?), cod and horse (Persson 1979). The horse tooth was uncovered by road construction—secondary position?

According to information from a local property owner, an additional disturbed grave (grave no. 3 ?) hade been found a couple of metres S of grave no. 1 in the course of road construction, and on that occasion two skulls were thrown away.

The grey-seal phalanx by individual I suggests a seal skin covering over/around the skeleton. Similar observations have been made in the MN Gotland graves.

In grave no. 6 in Ire, parish of Hangvar, a fragment of a seal claw may indicate a seal skin covering. Wild-boar hooves corresponding to four skeletons in Ire are interpreted as hide underlays or coverings to conceal or enshroud the corpse (Janzon 1974 p. 22).

Grey seal (*Halichoerus gryphus*) and cod (*Gadus*) also occur in the GR settlements nearby, including Nymölla 1235 (the Möllehusen settlement), Siretorp and in Björkärr. Blekinge.
Dating. Culture — Mesolithic? TRB? GR?

The grave cannot be dated with certainty. No charcoal was found in the grave. Bones of Homo have been submitted to the C 14 Laboratory in Lund for determination but owing to the poor condition of the skeletons and the absence of collagen in the bones it is impossible to date them radioactively (oral communication from S. Håkansson, C 14 Laboratory in Lund).

The grave lies in the lower part of the TRB culture layer. Charcoal from hearths is under determination at the C 14 Laboratory in Lund, but from the ornamentation of the pottery the age of the TRB settlement layer can preliminarily be estimated as EN C or early MN (MN I?).

The occurrence of grave goods in grave no. 1 — i.e. two micro-blades of Mesolithic type between the thigh-bones of individual 1 — does not provide sufficient grounds either, for dating the grave.

It would be a gross simplification to date the double grave to the Mesolithic solely on the basis of two micro-blades. Mesolithic flint objects are found frequently and in large numbers at settlements from the Neolithic Stone Age, especially in GR, e.g. Nymölla 1285, Björkärr and the GR settlements in eastern Central Sweden.

Mesolithic flint techniques may also be observed without doubt in the earliest pottery complexes in the East Baltic. No differences between “Mesolithic” and “Neolithic” settlements can be found either in the flint material or in the bone/horn finds. In the early Comb Pottery (KA) settlements in Lithuania (e.g. Dubičaj I, Nietėsiai I), White Russia (Kamen, Turja) and Poland (Osjaków, Sośnia) the occurrence of Janislawice microliths and trapezia is noted (see Spąg, Welinder & Wyszomirski 1976, pp. 239 ff.).

Double graves with ochre are found in Denmark (Mesolithic burial ground in Vedbaek, EN grave from Dragsholm castle and in GR Middle Neolithic burial grounds on Gotland and in eastern Central Sweden (see point 2 in part comparative studies).

Flat graves from the TRB Culture, with ochre, are unknown in Sweden. Lumps of ochre, however, are found sometimes in passage graves (oral communication from M. Strömberg).

A double grave with ochre and grave goods in the form of a bone dagger and a transverse flint arrowhead is known from Dragsholm castle, Denmark (Brinch Petersen 1974 pp. 112 f.). The bone dagger has pitted ornamentation in the Mesolithic tradition. The grave is dated to the earliest EN. Another grave from the same area is dated to c. 3650 B.C. (the A-phase of the TRB Culture, op. cit. p. 117).

The majority of the known trepanned
skulls from Scandinavia are from the TRB Culture. Trepanation, however, is not completely unknown from the Mesolithic in other parts of Europe. One Mesolithic grave with a trepanned skull is known from Franki Suchodolskie in the Kutno district of Central Poland. The Mesolithic cases were only medical trepanations (see point 3 in comparative studies), often with clear traces of healing. For example, a skull from a Mesolithic grave in Vasiljevka at the lower Dniepr has a hole in the left side of the crown (16x18 mm), conical in shape with clear signs of healing (Paluch 1971 p. 38).

There is little reason to connect the double grave with the Pitted Ware settlement of Nymölla 12 situated 116 m to the south (see Fig. 1). The position of the grave in the lower part of the TRB culture layer may possibly indicate a date in the early phase of the settlement. Nevertheless, another interpretation is possible. The relatively good state of preservation of the skeletons suggests that the graves were dug either during the final period of utilisation of the TRB settlement or later, and then there are possibilities that the two settlements were contemporaneous. If the skeletons had been buried during the period of habitation of the TRB settlement, the grave would have been completely destroyed by the trampling of feet, since the skeletons are not placed in houses or larger stone constructions (which would protect them from the pressure of the earth).

We may possibly assume the contemporaneity of the two settlements in consideration of the early dating of the Pitted Ware Möllehusen settlement. It corresponds chronologically with Litorina transgression V in Blekinge: 2700–2500 B.C. (now 2900–2600 B.C., oral communication from B. Berglund) and MN I (Wyszomirski 1975 b p. 193).

The two settlements (TRB and GR) were perhaps inhabited at the same time and were utilised together with great possibilities of contact and a complementary economy: Nymölla 12 as a GR settlement specialising in seal-hunting and sea-fishing and Nymölla 12 as a TRB settlement perhaps with an agrarian economy?

Comparative studies

1. Ochre. Ochre was found on the hips and thighs of individual II in the double grave and in the earth around the skeleton (Fig. 5).

The ochre (previously called red ochre in the archeological literature) in the form of a red-brown powder was sent to the Central Laboratory, Höganäs, for chemical analysis and X-ray diffractometry. The chemical analysis showed the presence of Fe³⁺ (yellow ochre).

Ochre occurs in 20 Pitted Ware settlements and burial grounds in Sweden. Fourteen graves with ochre are known from Gotland, five of which are from Visby, six from Västerbjerjs and three from Ire.

The layer of ochre in grave 9 at Visby is of similar extent to that in the case of skeleton 2 at Nymölla 12 — between the thighbones and at the hips (Janzon 1974 p. 300, Pl. 28).

GR ochre graves have also been found on Oland—Klinta 5:20 and Klinta 2:11 in the parish of Köping — and in Överåda, Södermanland (and also unpublished material in the author’s thesis research).

The occurrence of ochre in the TRB Culture has already been mentioned above. Ochre is known from several passage graves, although its dating and culture are uncertain. Small lumps of ochre were found in section M in the passage grave at Tågarp in the parish of Ö. Tommarp (with only 5 % iron oxide). Some 30 lumps of ochre (with high iron content) were excavated at Hagestad, at the MN grave level in the Carlshögen chamber (Strömberg 1971:44; Strömberg 1971 b p. 59).

Ochre is also known from the dolmen at Brattäs, Röra parish, Bohuslän. The presence of ochre in the Swedish TRB-Culture settlements cannot be established, but is known from Denmark. Ochre was found in hut floors at the MN settlement of Troldebjerg on Langeland. A funnel beaker with traces of red paint (ochre?) is known from the Lindebjerg settlement (Strömberg 1971 a, pp. 322 ff.).

Sparse finds of ochre lumps were made in the STK-Culture graves at Bedinge and in Linköping (Malmer 1962, p. 215).
Ochre-coloured sandstone slabs were found in an LN stone cist from Bjurhovda in Västerås (Jaanusson 1969 p. 158).

It is remarkable that the Stone Age ochre graves known in Sweden stem chiefly from the GR Culture in eastern Central Sweden. In Denmark, on the other hand, they correspond to the Mesolithic/Early Neolithic.

Ochre was found in 15 of a total of 19 graves with 23 skeletons in a Mesolithic burial ground at Vedbaek near Henriksholm in Denmark. From C 14 dating (4100 B.C.) and datable grave goods, the burial ground belongs to the early Ertebölle Culture. Ochre in the form of powder and mull is often present on the skull, hips and thighs. Only eight graves lacked grave goods (Albrethsen & Brinch Petersen 1976 pp. 10 f.).

Another C 14-dated Mesolithic grave (3880 ± 110 B.C.), though without ochre, is known from Melby in northern Zealand, Denmark. The skeleton of a man in supine position with the head towards the W, with two pecked axes by the skull, ought to correspond to the Norslund or Djurholm II stage of the Ertebölle Culture (Hansen et al. 1972 p. 239).

The above-mentioned grave 1 from Dragsholm castle (Brinch Petersen 1974 p. 112) contained a large amount of ochre at the skull. It was dated to the period of transition between the Mesolithic and the Early Neolithic. Grave no 2 (without ochre) stems from the A-phase of the TRB Culture, where among other things TRB pottery and 52 amber beads have been found (op.cit. p. 117).

Mesolithic ochre graves are also known from the South Baltic region. Ochre was found in the form of two horizontal bands of red powder in a Mesolithic grave from Janiszlawice, in the Skiermiewice district in Poland. Among other things, 20 tooth beads, a cylindrical blade block, microliths, bone points and wild boar tusks were found beside the skeleton in a sitting and squatting position (Chmielewska 1954 pp.28 ff.).

A double grave with ochre is known from Pierkunowo in the Mazury Lake district. Ochre (red ochre on the basis of the chemical analysis) covered a woman’s skeleton in supine position with 54 tooth beads (of elk and stag teeth). The grave belongs to the transition period Mesolithic/Early Neolithic — the EN Comb Pottery Culture (Glosik 1969, pp. 190 ff.).

It should be noted that in the well-known Olenij Ostrov burial ground at Lake Onega in the USSR (dated to Mesolithic/Early Neolithic) 8% of a total of 176 graves contained only ochre and no grave goods. Grave goods were found in 162 other graves (unpublished material in the author’s thesis research).

2. Double burials. Grave no 1 from Nymölla was a double burial with two skeletons of different sexes, with their heads in the same direction and their faces turned towards each other.

Double graves occur frequently in the Mesolithic and Neolithic hunting and fishing cultures. Three double burials are known from the above-mentioned Mesolithic burial ground at Vedbaek: no 8 (♀ and child), no 15 (♀ and child) and no 19 (2 adults, ♀ and ♂, and child). The skeletons in grave 19 had their faces turned towards each other as in the Nymölla grave (Albrethsen & Brinch Petersen 1976 p. 9).

Double burials are also known from MN
Pitted Ware finds on Gotland. Two double graves were discovered in Visby (graves no 7 and 8 — adult and child). Grave no I from Västerbys contained two skeletons of opposite sex in a supine position, orientated WNW–ESE (Janzon 1974 pp. 239 ff.). A double burial can also be established from Jakobs 129 in the parish of Eksta on Gotland (ATA).

Two certain double burials are noted from STK Cultures in Sweden and Norway (Malmer 1975, p. 40).

Double burials have also been discovered in the Baltic at the Comb Pottery settlements. Graves no 2 and 3 from the Valma settlement in Estonia (KA II) form a double burial with one female and one male skeleton with their heads turned in opposite directions. Large quantities of grave goods were found in the grave (Jaanits 1959, pp. 38 ff.). Two double burials occur in the KA settlement of Abora in Latvia, where the grave finds included amber figures (Ozols 1972 pp. 52 ff.).

3. Trepanation. The man’s skeleton (17 years old) from grave no 1 at Nymölla, probably had a trepanned skull. Trepanation is suggested by the regular shape and smooth, tapered surface (Fig. 7, Persson 1979).

Marks left by trepanations are known in Sweden chiefly from the Neolithic Stone Age and mainly from the TRB Culture: a trepanned skull from the passage grave at Gillhög, Barsebäck parish and a trepanation from a passage grave at Falköping in Västergötland. In the TRB culture layer at the Sjöholmen settlement in the parish of Stehag, Scania, a spoonlike cranial fragment was discovered which may indicate a posthumus trepanation — the only one known in Sweden (Rydbeck 1933 p. 14; Persson 1978 a).

A skull from MN grave 6 B at Ire on Gotland, has an oval hole in the squama temporalis (10×13 mm), presumably after trepanation (Gejvall 1974 p. 145). The Ire settlement belongs to the Gotlandic Middle Neolithic (GR Culture).

A trepanation is also known from an LN stone cist with gable-hole from Backa in the parish of Varnhem, Västergötland — SHM 5386 (Rydbeck 1933 p. 17; Sahlström 1939 p. 197, Fig. 15).

Trepanations are known from two other LN stone cists from Västergötland. One trepanned skull comes from the Ledsgården stone cist in the parish of Gökhem, SHM 21426, together with two blade arrowheads and fragmentary amber beads (ATA — oral.
A double grave at Nymölla

Fig. 8. Skull of individual II. Photo B. Centerwall. — Skalle tillhörande individ II.

Fig. 9. Micro-blades (drawn at 2:1) found beside individual II. — Mikrospån av flinta (tecknade i skala 2:1), påträffade vid individ II.

communication from Marek Wyszomirski).
One other trepanation occurs in connection with a stone cist and finds of amber beads: from Källegården in the parish of N. Lundby, SHM 21844 (Sahlström 1939 p. 178, Fig. 21).

A trepanned skull from grave 15 in barrow I at Öremölla, Skivarps parish, Scania, stems from the transition period Late Neolithic/ Bronze Age. A bronze dagger and a flint spear point were found as grave goods (LUHM’s collections 20797).

The map (Fig. 10) shows most of the known Neolithic trepanations from Sweden.

A skull trepanation is an artificial drilling or scraping of the human cranium with the aid of surgical instruments, as a rule in the form of a round opening. Thus trepanation means a surgical operation of the skull for medical reasons on living persons, or a magical phenomenon for cultic reasons on dead persons so-called posthumus or post mortem trepanation (Filip 1969 p. 1484; Nemeskéri 1977 p. 24; Paluch 1971 p. 37). Surgical trepanation, which is first mentioned by Brocca (Brocca 1887), is known throughout Europe from the Upper Paleolithic to the Middle Ages and is still used to this day in modern surgery (Filip op. cit. p. 1485; Ullrich 1967). The method is practised in modern times as a protection against epilepsy e.g. on Easter Island (Guiard 1930 p. 44; Rydbeck 1933 p. 14), and in Yugoslavia and northern Albania (Paluch 1971 p. 38).

The specialist literature contains instances of ca. 450-470 trepanned skull finds belonging to the prehistoric period in Europe mostly from the Middle Neolithic in South Sweden, Denmark, southern England, Central Germany, northwest and southern France, the Iberian peninsula and the Upper Elbe region (Nemeskéri 1977 p. 25).

48% of all trepanned skulls from Germany and France stem from the Neolithic, most

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frequently in the ages Maturus and early Senilis. They belong to a grave group distinguished by Fischer as having "rectangular walled chambers" (Fischer 1956; Nemeskéri 1977 p. 27).

A trepanned man's skull was also noted from Norway in Nyelv, Nesseby, Finnmark, where a long period of survival after the operation could be established (Schreiner 1940; Gjessing 1945 p. 338, Fig. 113).

In Denmark trepanned skulls occur in passage graves and long dolmens from the TRB Culture, e.g. in the Naes passage grave on Falster, in the double passage grave at Grydhøj on Aerö and in a long dolmen from Gandløse, NE Zealand (Rydbeck 1933 p. 20).

Most of the European trepanned skulls stem from the TRB Culture: in France and Germany, Walternienburg/Bernburg Culture in Central Germany, Linear-band Pottery Culture in Central Europe (Poland, Czechoslovakia), Globular Amphora Culture, Bell Beaker Culture and Unétice Culture in Central Europe (Poland, Czechoslovakia). They are less frequent during the Bronze Age (Childe 1927 p. 119; Filip 1969 p. 1485; Paluch 1971 p. 39; Realllexikon 1929 pp. 430 ff.).

In France and Germany signs of post mortem trepanations are often found in the form of amulets ("rondelles") made of sawn-out bone fragments (Realllexikon 1929 p. 430; Nemeskéri 1977 p. 15). Post mortem trepanations were probably carried out for magical/cultic reasons (see above).

The low age of the male individual (17 years) with the presumably trepanned skull from Nymölla is not unique. In a grave from the Roman Iron Age in Arlesheim, Germany, a trepanation hole was found in the cranium of a two-year old child (Filip 1969 p. 1485). Nor are so-called double trepanations (with two holes) uncommon; they sometimes occur in the Unétice Culture in Czechoslovakia and in Switzerland (op. cit.).

87 % of all known trepanations from the Stone Age in Europe (Mesolithic/Neolithic) bear signs of healing which are noted as growth of the môns tissue at the edges of the trepanation hole (Paluch 1971 p. 40).

As indicated above, it is impossible to discuss operational methods or post-operational survival on the basis of the trepanned skull from Nymölla, owing to the poor state of preservation of the skull (see Persson 1979).
**Abbreviations**

EN = Early Neolithic (tidigneolitikum)
MN = Middle Neolithic (mellanneolitikum)
LN = Late Neolithic (senneolitikum)
GR = Pitted Ware Culture (gropkeramisk kultur)
KA = Comb Pottery Culture (kamkeramisk kultur)
STK = Battle Axe Culture (stridsyxekultur)
TRB = Funnel Beaker Culture (trattbägarkultur)

ATA = Antikvarisk-topografiska arkivet, Stockholm
Lu = C 14 Laboratory in Lund
LUHM = Lunds Universitets Historiska Museum
SHM = Statens historiska museum, Stockholm

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En dubbelgrav med järnockra i Nymölla Skåne

En dubbelgrav med järnockra hittades i undre delen av TRB kulturens boplatslager i Nymölla 123 i närheten av GR boplatsen Nymölla 1235 (Möllehusen), Gualöv sn, NÖ Skåne. Den utgör det första stenåldersgravfynget med järnockra från södra Sverige.

Kulturlagret med trattbägarkeramik (B) ligger ca 116 m norr om en mellanneolitisk gropkeramisk boplats Nymölla 1235 (A), där under 1974 och 1975 års undersökningar 80 m² har utgrävts (fig. 1). TRB kulturens boplatslager kan dateras till TN C eller MN I.

Dubbelgraven (grav nr 1) fanns inne i en form av stensättning ca 60—70 cm under markytan (fig. 5). Ett av skeletten var täckt med järnockra (9), det andra (cf) hade förmodligen trepanerad skalle (fig. 6). Båda skeletten låg i utsträckt ryggläge i riktning N—S, med huvudena åt S.

Individ I — en manlig individ. Dödsåldern kan beräknas till 17 år. Mitt på skallen finns ett hål, ca 4 cm i diameter, förmodligen spår efter en trepanering. Skallens dåliga bevaringstillstånd omöjliggör en mer detaljerad diskussion om operationsmetoder samt om individen eventuellt överlevt. Men den regelbundna formen och en glatt yta bekräftar morfologi och trepaneringssedan (fig. 6, 8). Bland fotbenen av individ I hittades en falang av gråsäl, som kan tyda på att den döde svepts i sälsskinn. Liknande iakttagelser är gjorda i de MN gotländska gravarna.

Individ II — en kvinnlig individ. Adultus. Skelettets hofparti och lårben var täckta med järnockra i form av rödbrunt pulver. Enligt kemisk analys kunde förekomst av limonitockra (gulockra) påvisas.

Dateringen av järnockragraven kan ej fastställas med säkerhet, då C 14-dateringen på grund av avsaknad av träkol och collagen i benen ej kan genomföras. Två mikrospår hittades i graven som enda gravgods. En säker datering av graven till mesolitikum med hänsyn till dessa fynd är inte möjlig. En sådan datering är dock inte helt uteslutet. SAMTIDIGHET MED KULTURLAGRET (TRB KULTUR) ELLER MED DEN NÄRLÄGGJÄNGE GR BOPPLATSEN (C 14-DATERAD TILL MN I) KAN Också EVENTUELLT FÖRESLÅS. Ett jämförande material med järnockragravar presenteras, huvudsakligen från mesolitikum i Danmark (Vedbæk, Dragsholms slott) och från GR kulturen i mellersta Sverige och på öarna — Gotland, Öland. Dessa förekommer i södra och norra Skandinavien under perioden mesolitikum/neolitikum (trots att mesolitiska järnockragravar är hittills skilda från Sverige).

Trepaneringen av skallen i Nymöllagraven antydes av den regelbundna formen och en glatt yta bekräftar snarare en trepanering (fig. 6, 8). Bland fotbenen av individ I hittades en falang av gråsäl, som kan tyda på att den döde svepts i sälsskinn. Liknande iakttagelser är gjorda i de MN gotländska gravarna.

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