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EDITORIAL:

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AUTHORS:

Edgar Hernández Huaripaucar

Bladimir Becerra Canales

Jorge Ybaseta Medina

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Hernández-Huaripaucar Edgar^{1,4}, Becerra-Canales Bladimir^{1,3}, Ybaseta-Medina Jorge^{1,2}.

1. Editor of the Panacea Magazine, Faculty of Medicine, San Luis Gonzaga University. Ica, Peru.
2. Doctor of Public Health. Professor at the National University of San Luis Gonzaga. Ica, Peru. <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1677-0670>
3. Doctor of Public Health. Research Professor at the Autonomous University of Ica, Peru. <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2234-2189>
4. Doctor of Human Medicine. Professor at the National University of San Luis Gonzaga, Ica, Peru. <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1224-1357>

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The history and evolution of science in general has repeatedly shown that it advances significantly when the paradigms that regulate it change; however, it is also known that new paradigms initially generate rejection, but manage to establish themselves based on concrete evidence (1).

In 2019, the National University of San Luis Gonzaga (UNSLG) of Ica-Peru received four desiccated humanoid bodies found in Nasca, among them one of approximately 1.60 meters in height that preserves a fetal position and crossed upper limbs (Fig. 1).



Figure 1. Whole-body tomographic image of specimen M001 with tridactyly in hands and feet. Source: imaging database of the National University of San Luis Gonzaga.

Currently, this discovery of global significance has sparked the interest of scientists and academics from various countries of the world, where preliminary studies have already been carried out (2,5). The body found, due to its anatomical and structural features at the pelvic level, would correspond to a female specimen, named the mummy "María" and was coded as M001. It has a general morphology and biotype similar to humans and shows, among other characteristics, peculiar morphological and anatomical features such as tridactyly (presence of three fingers) on both hands and feet, which, upon radiological analysis and Tomographic scans show structural, morphological and anatomical congruence, with no traces of having been intentionally manipulated.

Macroscopic examination with magnification of both hands reveals a natural morphology and uniform cutaneous and topographic features, as well as a uniform transition and volumetric harmony between the width of the carpal region and the width of the metacarpus and of this with the width of the three fingers of the hand. Similar morphological characteristics are evident in the foot,

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Imaging studies using X-rays and CT scans of the hand reveal anatomical congruity and harmony between the different carpal bones, giving it a uniform, integrated appearance and volumetric correspondence with the proximal portions of the three metacarpals. A regular volumetric transition is also observed between the metacarpal region and the proximal ends of the first phalanges of the three fingers. Another relevant finding is the presence of four phalanges in each of the three fingers, unlike the three phalanges found in humans.

On the side, at the level of the feet, the tarsus shows harmonious bones and joints, and all the bony components of the tarsus delineate a comprehensive and volumetrically congruent perimetric morphology with each other and with the three adjacent metatarsals. No spaces or steps are observed in the distal portions of the tarsal region as a result of a supposed amputation of the first and fifth metatarsals. Therefore, a uniform volumetric and anatomical transition is noted between the tarsus and metatarsus, as well as between the region of the three metatarsals and the proximal ends of the first phalanges of the three toes. The presence of four phalanges in each of the three toes is also noteworthy, whereas in humans there are only three.

On the other hand, compared to a normal human foot, a different morphology is evident in the calcaneus bone, corresponding to the heel of the foot; that is, the calcaneus lacks the large posterior protuberance and instead presents a rounded area. This posterior protuberance of the calcaneus gives human feet the stability of bipedalism and even allows for a certain degree of backward leaning. Consequently, due to this morphoanatomical feature in both feet of specimen M001, it is deduced that in life this being could not walk upright in perfect verticality, but rather leaned forward; likewise, anatomically and physiologically, it would correspond to this specimen taking a step, requiring it to have the three toes in an abducted and clawed position to achieve greater stability and grip on the surface. This physiological deduction, based on the morphoanatomical evidence of the feet, is biomechanically consistent and observed in all the toes of both feet. Anatomically and technically, both feet show extension of the first and second phalanges and flexion of the third and fourth phalanges.

This gives their toes a "flexed or clawed" appearance, likely for better grip on surfaces and to stabilize their bodies while walking. Other relevant findings are also observed at the head level.

arms, forearms, and spine that differ from normal human anatomy, which will be described in later reports.

The discovery of the probable coexistence of other intelligent biological species in pre-Incan times has not only archaeological and biological implications, but also scientific-historical, cultural, religious and philosophical ones; because it disrupts sensitive issues of society that for centuries were considered immutable truths; however, the most transcendent thing is that it can mean a change of scientific, historical and cultural paradigm that could revolutionize human consciousness, science, history and the perception of the world and life(6-8).

It is important to emphasize that this major bioarchaeological discovery occurred in the Nazca region of Peru, where enigmatic structures already exist, such as the gigantic geoglyphs known as the Nazca Lines, visible only from the air, and the spiral hydraulic wells of Nazca, which are aqueducts demonstrating remarkable hydraulic engineering technology. Other archaeological findings that could support the coexistence of these three-toed beings in pre-Columbian times include the overwhelming iconographic evidence of three-toed beings (9) in geoglyphs, petroglyphs, textiles, sculptures, and ceramics in numerous pre-Hispanic cultures, not only in Peru (Figs. 2 and 3), but also in Mexico, Ecuador, Venezuela, Bolivia, Argentina, Colombia, and Central America. This coincidence cannot be the product of a collective imagination occurring among cultures distant in time and space.



Figure 2. Tridactyl iconographic evidence in petroglyphs, textiles, sculptures and ceramics in multiple pre-Hispanic American cultures.



Figure 3. Petroglyphs of Chichictara (Palpa-Ica, Peru) near the Nazca Lines.

If genetic DNA analysis confirms that it is a species different from humans, it would demonstrate that in ancient In Peru, another form of intelligent life coexisted with the human race; even so, many research questions arise regarding its origin, role, implications, legacy, and disappearance from planet Earth. A call is made to academia and relevant institutions in our country to join forces to lead the scientific research required to elucidate this enigmatic and impactful discovery.

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