Unusual personal ornaments made from dog molars in a Kura–Araxes child burial (Kalavan–1, Armenia)

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Two perforated dog molars were found directly associated with a Kura-Araxes child burial from the third millennium BC in Armenia. Both teeth show trimming of the root ends and boring of a biconical hole through the lingual root with a hand-held stone tool. Expedient manufacture, the anatomical location of the hole and use-wear suggest that the molars were suspended in order to display their crowns as part of a necklace that also included two stone beads. This is an unusual type of personal ornament and the first of its kind reported in the South Caucasus. Its use in a Kura-Araxes burial is interpreted as an active modification of the funerary symbolism during this period.

Keywords: Armenia, Early Bronze Age, Kura-Araxes burial, perforated dog molar, micro-wear analysis
Table S1. M¹ and M² length and breadth measurements of prehistoric dog from Armenia and of recent wolf specimens from the central Balkans, plotted in Figure 4e.

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<th>Region</th>
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\(^1\) c. 5800–5660 cal BC (Badalyan et al. 2010: tab. 1); \(^2\) c. 3650–3350 cal BC (Palumbi & Chataigner 2014: 251 & tab. 1).

References

BADALYAN, R.S., A.A. HARUTYUNYAN, C. CHATAIGNER, F. LE MORT, J. CHABOT, J.E.
