Table 6.1 Western Mediterranean islands: geographical and earliest colonisation data

Island	Mill 1st col	Dist NM	Size (sq km)
1 Sicily	<10	3	25,708
2 Sardinia	<10	205	24,089
3 Corsica	9	87	8,722
4 Brač	8	5.5	395
5 San Domino	6	20	2
6 Palagruža	6	130	0.3
7 Korčula	6	34.5	276
8 Lipari	6	30.2	37.6
9 Salina	6	42.9	26.8
10 Filicudi	6	46.6	9.5
11 Hvar	6	4.1	300
12 Sušac	6	80	4.6
13 Vis	6	23.6	90.3
14 Malta	6	85	246
15 Gozo	6	65	67
16 Capri	5	5	10
17 Ustica	5	53	8
18 Elba	5	10	220
19 Lampedusa	5	210	20.2
20 Giglio	5	22	15
21 Giannutri	5	14	3
22 Šolta	5	7.7	588
23 Pianosa	5	50	0
24 Îles Planes	5	5	0.1
25 Habibas	5	11	0.4
26 Rachgoun	5	2	0.1
27 Île du Roi (Chafarinas)	5	11	0.1
28 Île d'Isabelle (Chafarinas)	5	11	0.1
29 Île du Congrès (Chafarinas)	5	11	0.25
30 Zembra	5	10	3.9
31 Kuriate	5	16	12
32 Panarea	5	42	3.4
33 Levanzo	4	15	7
34 Favignana	4	17	19.4
35 Marettimo	4	30	12
36 Ischia	4	11	46
37 Lastovo	4	25	49
38 Palmarola	4	1.4	32
39 Ponza	4	33	12
40 Zannone	4	27	4
41 Pianosa (Tremiti)	4	35	0.11
42 Porquerolles	4	3	12.5
43 Île du Levant	4	10	9
44 Stromboli	4	56.2	12.6
45 Pantelleria	3	102	83
46 Sv Klemnent	3	5.6	3
47 Ščedro	3	6.7	7.5
48 Svetac	3	47.6	4.3
49 Alicudi	3	87.5	5.2
50 Majorca	3	167	3740
51 Menorca	3	200	702
52 Ibiza	2	92	572
53 Formentera	2	95	82
54 San Nicola	1	20	0.5
55 Kopište	1	87	1
56 Mljet	1	18	98.6
57 Comino	1	70	2.6
58 Bisevo	1	27.8	5.8
59 Cabrera	1	175	13
60 Conejera	1	178	18
61 Linosa	1	19	5.4
62 Montecristo	1 (5?)	10	63
63 Jerba	1	2.5	568
64 Chergui (Îles Kerkennah)	1	25	69
65 Gharbi (Îles Kerkennah)	1	25	100

Mill 1st col: Millennium of first colonisation

Dist NM: Distance to nearest mainland (km)

Table 6.2 Eastern Mediterranean islands: geographical and earliest colonisation data

Island	Mill 1st col	Dist NM	Size (sq km)
1 Cyprus	<10	60	9,251
2 Crete	<10	102	8,259
3 Ikaria	9	47	256
4 Gioura	8	70	20
5 Kythnos	8	39	100
6 Chalki	8	47	28
7 Alonissos	6	43	65
8 Imbros (Gökçeada)	6	16	280
9 Kyra Panagia	6	59	25
10 Skyros	6	33	210
11 Thasos	6	7	380
12 Lefkas	6	0.5	303
13 Corfu	5	5	593
14 Amorgos	5	105	124
15 Andros	5	55	380
16 Astypalaia	5	79	97
17 Chios	5	11	842
18 Giali	5	18	9
19 Kalymnos	5	18	93
20 Karpathos	5	93	301
21 Kasos	5	140	69
22 Kos	5	5	290
23 Kythera	5	15	280
24 Leros	5	32	53
25 Lesbos	5	12	1,633
26 Mykonos	5	112	86
27 Naxos	5 (8?)	132	430
28 Paros/Antiparos	5	115	196
29 Psara	5	67	40
30 Rhodes	5	19	1,400
31 Salamis	5	0.5	96
32 Samos	5	5	477
33 Saria	5	85	21
34 Symi	5	8	38
35 Thera	5	180	76
36 Tilos	5	20	63
37 Ithaca	5	30	96
38 Kephalonia	5	38	781
39 Despotiko	5	112	8
40 Aegina	4	21	83
41 Alimnia	4	40	7
42 Antikythera	4	63	20
43 Gavdos	4	192	30
44 Kea	4	22	131
45 Lemnos	4	62	478
46 Melos	4	105	151
47 Samothraki	4	37	178
48 Meganisi	4	9	20
49 Siphnos	4	85	74
50 Syros	4	75	85
51 Zakynthos	4	18	402
52 Delos	3	112	3
53 Dokos	3	2	20
54 Idra	3	6	50
55 Ios	3	147	109
56 Keros	3	145	15
57 Kimolos	3	106	36
58 Kouphonisia	3	160	6
59 Makronisos	3	3	18
60 Pholegandros	3	131	32
61 Poros	3	0.5	23
62 Sikinos	3	140	35
63 Spetses	3	2	22
64 Tenedos (Bozcaada)	3	19	42
65 Donoussa	3	140	14
66 Heraklia	3	155	18

Table 6.2 (*continued*)

Island	Mill 1st col	Dist NM	Size (sq km)
67 Schinoussa	3	157	9
68 Tinos	3	82	195
69 Nysiros	3	17	37
70 Reneia	3	105	14
71 Seriphos	3	62	75
72 Anafi	2	152	40
73 Lipsoi	2	37	17
74 Patmos	2	48	34
75 Skopelos	2	22	97
76 Therassia	2	178	9
77 Marsa Island	2	1	7
78 Arkos	1	10	5
79 Atokos	1	8	5
80 Castellorizo	1	5	10
81 Kalamos	1	2	25
82 Skiathos	1	4	50

Mill 1st col: Millennium of first colonisation
Dist NM: Distance to nearest mainland (km)

NEW DATA, NEW PATTERNS?

In 1981, Cherry created a plot of cumulative percentage of the islands in the eastern and western Mediterranean with evidence of occupation by a given millennium bc (uncalibrated) (Cherry 1981:62). The graph depicted colonisation as a linear or cumulative process (see Fig. 3.2, Chapter 3). In 1990, Cherry synthesised some significant developments that had taken place since 1981 but did not update the graph in the light of these new discoveries. Cherry's work influenced several subsequent studies (e.g., Vigne 1996), most notably Patton's 'island sociogeography' (1996). Patton discussed the colonisation of the islands vis-à-vis three visibility categories (rather than the western and eastern Mediterranean distinction). He concluded that the timing of colonisation did not follow biogeographical predictions based on the islands' visibility, and he hypothesised that this might imply that the rate of colonisation did not correspond to the rate of discovery (1996:54–5).

In this chapter, we will check the key results from these earlier studies in light of the new data, starting with a revision of Cherry's 1981 colonisation cumulative plot for the whole Mediterranean, and compare rates of island colonisation per period and area. The chapter incorporates earlier work (Dawson 2008, 2011), which is broadly confirmed but has been revised to include data that have become available in the intervening period. The analysis will explore variations and similarities within and between regions, and their links to configuration, with islands assigned to different categories based on their size and distance to the nearest mainland. The following criteria have been used: 'near' is defined as less than 20 km from the nearest mainland (or a day of voyaging using a canoe), and 'large' as more than 50 sq km. The potential role of inter-island configuration is also discussed through further case studies in Chapter 8, where inter-island distance is investigated as a potential factor affecting abandonment.