



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Evolution of tree and shrub exploitation practices during the Neolithic at Asikli Hk, Central Anatolia.

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Abstract

The archaeological site of Asikli Höyük provides evidence of the transition from a nomadic to a sedentary economy across five occupation levels (8400-7300 cal BC). This new lifestyle probably had a major impact on woodland areas, which provided Neolithic communities with timber, firewood and food resources. Using anthracological and dendro-anthracological methods, this analysis showed that trees and shrubs were actively harvested from the beginning of the occupation. Various woody taxa of different calibers have been identified, marked by the dominance of *Pistacia* sp, *Prunus* sp and *Quercus* sp, used throughout the levels for different purposes (heat, cooking, construction, etc.). The various wood-related activities show a specific use of certain taxa, despite the profuse presence of pistachio in many contexts. Thanks to its long period of occupation spanning almost a millennium, this site provides a better understanding of the reciprocal influences between wood exploitation and cultural, technical and demographic systems over time. The aim of this paper is to shed light on how trees and shrubs, which are now a significant part of agrosilvopastoral systems in the studied region, were integrated into the lifestyles of past populations, and how practices evolved alongside the gradual engagement to sedentary life.

Keywords

Archeobotany, Anatolia, Wood exploitation, Past environnements, Human-environment interactions

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