ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Reconstructing Environment and Resource Use: Integrating Palaeobotanical and Anthracological Data from Tell Tayinat during the Early Bronze Age

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Abstract

The second half of the third millennium BCE in western Syria is critical for understanding not only the development of early palatial systems and inter-regional economies, but also for contextualizing the influence of environmental changes widely cited as having a significant impact on these economies (e.g. the 4.2K event). Modifications to land-use strategies and agricultural decision-making practices were major avenues through which ancient societies could respond to changes in their environment, and which shaped economic systems during the Early Bronze Age. The Amuq Plain, located in the Hatay region of southern Turkey, has long been one of the key sequences for understanding the Early Bronze Age in both Anatolia and the Levantine world, and the site of Tell Tayinat can be securely identified as the primary site in the Amuq Plain during the late third millennium BCE (EBIVA-B). This paper will discuss the results of recent excavations of late third millennium levels at Tayinat, focusing particularly on the results of palaeobotanical and anthracological analyses from these levels, and how they can inform us about resource exploitation and agricultural practices during a period of profound social and cultural change.

Keywords

Climate, Environment, Palaeobotany, Anthracology, Resource Use

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