



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Wood Resources and Timber Procurement in Lebanon during the Bronze and Iron Ages: New Evidence from the Chekka Regional Project

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Abstract

It is well-known that the higher mountain ranges of Lebanon played a crucial role in supplying the Eastern Mediterranean with high-quality timber. Studies in the past mainly focused on textual and iconographical sources. Archaeobiological sources, such as pollen cores, phytolith studies, and wood identification from archaeological excavations, have only become available in Lebanon in the past two decades. It is primarily these latter sources that provide crucial evidence for the reconstruction of the vegetation history of the region, gaining an understanding of the local use of the wood resources, and of the anthropogenic impact on vegetation.

This contribution will provide preliminary results from the Chekka Regional Project in North Lebanon. The Bronze and Iron Age site of Tell Mirhan, located in the sheltered bay of Chekka, provides an ideal harbor, and through several wadi systems it also is well connected to the mountainous regions in the east. An environmental and geoarchaeological survey conducted in 2021 and 2022 focused on the reconstruction of the forest cover in the hinterland of Tell Mirhan and also looked into the possible transport routes of timber from the higher mountain ranges to the coast.

Keywords

Lebanon, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Timber Transport, Geoarchaeology

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