



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Subsistence and Economy in Hellenistic Artaxata: Insights from Archaeobotanical Plant Finds in Armenia

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Abstract

Artaxata, situated in Armenia's Ararat Valley, served as a royal residence for the Armenian Kingdom, with its Hellenistic cityscape extending across 18 hills. Recent excavations by the Armenian-German Artaxata Project have focused on the eastern lower city, located beyond the fortified urban core. Due to intensive agricultural activities in the Ararat Plain over recent centuries, Hill XIII now appears as a minor elevation. This area, occupied for approximately 200 years (from the 2nd/1st century BCE to the 1st century CE), reveals multi-phase structures. In Phase I, the complex is interpreted as a sanctuary, while in Phases II and III, it likely served as a residential structure. After the destruction of the dwellings in the 2nd half of the 1st century CE, the area was used as burial ground. This presentation introduces both published and newly gathered archaeobotanical data, shedding light on the subsistence strategies, economic practices and diet in Hellenistic Artaxata. Furthermore, plant remains from burial contexts may provide valuable insights into funerary customs in Hellenistic Armenia, addressing several key topics of this session.

Keywords

Archaeobotany, Hellenistic, Armenia, Diet, Burials

Session

6. Life and death: Human behaviour and practices

Type of paper

Oral presentation