



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Archaeobotanical approach to plant environments and agrarian practices of coastal neolithic communities in the Central Levant the case of Tabarja Wata Slam 100

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Abstract

Geopolitical instability and armed conflicts have had a strong hampering impact on archaeological investigation in the Central Levant (present day Lebanon) during several decades. Subsequently, archaeobotany is much less developed in this part of the Near East than in neighbouring regions. Indeed, no archaeobotanical study of early farming communities had so far been undertaken on Lebanese territory. Tabarja Wata Slam 100, a large-scale systematically excavated coastal site, dating to the Middle and Late PPNB (8164 Cal BC - 6593 Cal BC) as well as to the Pottery Neolithic, has yielded charred plant remains collected from 1563 stratified archaeological contexts. Two complementary archaeobotanical disciplines, anthracology and carpology, are mobilised to reconstruct the environmental and socio-economic parameters of the first Neolithic agrarian societies in the Central Levant and to study the way various crops were successively integrated into the local diet. The preliminary carpological results reveal the presence of cereals (wheat and barley), pulses (pea, lentil, broad bean and vetchlings) as well as fruit trees. The outcome of this study will provide a firm foundation for the development of archaeobotanical research on the origins of plant management in Lebanon, and help complete the picture on the domestication process in the eastern Mediterranean.

Keywords

Archaeobotany, Neolithic, Carpology, Anthracology, Central Levant

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