

MACROREMAIN ANALYSIS OF THE HIGH MEDIEVAL SEDIMENTS FROM THE FORMER MINORITE MONASTERY IN OLOMOUC, CZECH REPUBLIC

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During the reconstruction of a depository in the city of Olomouc, medieval layers which contained wood fragments, leather and bone fragments were excavated. According to the pottery chronology, the sediments dated back to the High Medieval period. The excavated area was probably part of a Minorite monastery.

Approximately 150 litres of sediment were processed by flotation for macroremain analysis. A rich assortment was found there of over 80 plant species. Because of the presence of bone, leather and wood fragments, we suppose that this area was part of the monastery garden where rubbish or litter was deposited. As well as common useful species, such as *Fragaria*, *Rubus* and *Vitis vinifera*, some relatively rare plants were found: *Anthemis tinctoria*, plant used for dying fabric, *Cichorium intybus* which could be used as a coffee substitute, and *Juniperus cf. sabina*, a tree which is a medicinal plant used for healing cystitis or for causing abortions. An interesting find is of seeds of *Nepeta racemosa*, a plant which is not native to Europe, but comes from the Caucasus, which is planted for medicinal and ornamental use.

Among the weeds, some species which were found are very threatened now, mainly due to modern agromonomical technology, including *Agrostemma githago*, *Bupleurum rotundifolium* and *Stachys cf. annua*. Ruderals were represented in typical composition such as *Chenopodium*, *Atriplex*, *Hyoscyamus niger* and *Solanum nigrum*. However, some currently rare or endangered species were found: thermophilous *Onopordum acanthinum* and *Urtica urens*. Also, *Ranunculus sceleratus* and *Stellaria palustris* form part of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea association of vegetation in bare pond bottoms or periodic pools. Another endangered species of periodically wet habitats is *Ranunculus sardous*. It is also necessary to mention some nitrophilous species which grow along large rivers or in alluvium, because of the vicinity of the river Morava. Into this group belong *Cucubalus baccifer*, *Solanum dulcamara*, *Humulus lupulus* and *Urtica dioica*. Rich species composition indicates various stand conditions and intensive use of neighbouring vegetation.

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