

CHARRED SEEDS AND FRUITS FROM THE MESOLITHIC-NEOLITHIC TRANSITION IN NORTHERN SPAIN: LOS GITANOS AND ARANGAS CAVES

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Key words: Seeds, Neolithic, Mesolithic, Atlantic Europe

In this paper, the results of a carpological (seed) analysis of two Mesolithic and Neolithic assemblages from northern Spain are presented, Los Gitanos in Cantabria and Arangas in Asturias. Although seeds and fruits are scarce in both contexts, these sites allow us to get a preliminary view of the human use of plant resources in this region. Whereas pulses have not been found, a great variety of cereals seems to have been cultivated. However, specimens of wild plants outnumber those of cultivated plants. However, the samples might be biased by their origin in cave contexts, which were probably not the main settlement places for the communities we are studying. Thus, the necessity of developing survey programmes oriented towards the search for late Mesolithic and Neolithic open air sites is stressed.

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