

MACRO-REMAIN ANALYSIS OF THE LATE BRONZE AGE DITCHES IN BŘEZNICE U BECHYNĚ, CZECH REPUBLIC (PRELIMINARY RESULTS)

Tereza ŠÁLKOVÁ¹, Ondřej CHVOJKA²

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The late Bronze Age settlement in Březnice near Bechyně (South Bohemia) was investigated during 2005-2009. As well as commonly found features, many ditches were also found (about 1/3). In settlement areas of the late Bronze Age several such ditches have been excavated in south and west Bohemia in the Czech Republic, in southwest Germany and Austria. These ditches are linear pits oriented in a north-south direction and the length (usually 4-7m) is four times the width. The ditches are usually filled with burned pottery, ceramic weights and stone artifacts. The results of macro-remains analysis of the late Bronze Age settlement in Březnice represent extraordinarily rich collections of archaeobotanical finds. Until now, five ditches out of ten have been analyzed. Extracted macro-remains from these objects bear attributes of waste origin where *Chenopodium album*, *Polygonum aviculare*, *Fallopia convolvulus* are the most frequent. In the analyzed samples the main cereals were barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and millet (*Panicum miliaceum*). Less frequent were species of wheat: bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum*), spelt (*T. spelta*), emmer (*T. dicoccum*) and einkorn (*T. monococcum*). Other macroremains found were legumes: lentil (*Lens esculenta*), pea (*Pisum sativum*) and broad bean (*Vicia faba*). Poppy seeds (*Papaver somniferum*) were rare. Particular ditches display specific characters of species composition ranging from a rather low background composition to a high concentration of charred macro-remains. Preliminary interpretations of such archaeological features should reflect their subterranean settlement character, whereas their function as offering places is not excluded.

¹ University of South Bohemia, Laboratory of Archaeobotany and Palaeoecology, Faculty of Science, Branišovská 31, 37005 České Budějovice, e-mail: terezasalkova@seznam.cz

² South Bohemian Museum, Dukelská 1, 37051 České Budějovice, Czech Republic, e-mail: chvojka@muzeumcb.cz