

## PLANT REMAINS FROM AN IRON AGE PIT AT KARABOURNAKI, NORTHERN GREECE

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Plant remains retrieved from successive layers that filled an Iron Age pit at the coastal site of Karabournaki, nowadays within the modern city of Thessaloniki, are presented in detail. The pit, which contained destroyed clay cooking installations, pottery, bone and sea-shell, was rich in a variety of cereal and pulse species as well as fruit and seeds of weed species or of plants growing in the wild. Glume wheats, dominant in the Neolithic and the Bronze Age, are still represented by glume bases and spikelet forks, while free-threshing cereals like barley and bread/durum wheat are represented by both grain and rachis internodes. The presence of silica awns and lemma tips in the samples is impressive and in some samples constitutes the main archaeobotanical component of the pit samples. Among the fruit finds, grape pips are the most common and a few examples of pressed grapes are also present. Pressed grapes are widely distributed in various parts of the site of Karabournaki and despite their limited number, may point towards the production of a local wine. The mixed composition of the pit samples suggests refuse and fuel charred within the context of Iron Age cooking in a hearth or other cooking installations. Archaeobotanical evidence from the Greek Iron Age in the north of Greece (10<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> centuries BC) is rather sparse, consisting mainly of preliminary publications. The detailed presentation of this assemblage, from a secure context of the Iron Age of northern Greece, makes a significant contribution towards our knowledge of plant exploitation by Iron Age communities in the region.

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