

PLANT MACROFOSSILS FROM THE DEPOSITS OF LAKE SCHWARZENBERG (SOUTHERN BOHEMIA, CZECH REPUBLIC) AND FROM ASSOCIATED MESOLITHIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Pavla ŽÁČKOVÁ¹, Petr POKORNÝ^{1,2}, Petr KUNEŠ¹, Petr ŠÍDA³, Ondřej CHVOJKA⁴

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Buried sediments of the former Lake Schwarzenberg were discovered in the late 1970s in Třeboň Basin, southern Bohemia. In the 1990s extensive modern investigation of the site started. The lake originated by the end of the Last Glacial Maximum (around 16000 BP) and terrestrialized in the middle Holocene, about 4500 BP. Over the last few years, archaeological survey and excavations around the former lake has confirmed a number of Mesolithic sites. Some are well preserved in a waterlogged environment and date to the very start of the Holocene. Wooden artifacts discovered are all made from pine wood.

Detailed botanical analyses of plant macrofossils, pollen and algal remains, and geochemical analyses of lake sediments and peat provide a detailed insight into Late-glacial and early Holocene environmental history of the site and the region. This paper is based mainly on the results obtained from the analyses of plant macrofossils extracted from one central profile and from three littoral ones.

The first organic deposits began to form in the centre of the lake basin at about 16000 BP. For this time period, treeless vegetation of steppe-tundra character can be reconstructed from the pollen spectra. During the Late-glacial Interstadial, organic production increased and it is possible to detect this period by macroscopic remains of oligotrophic macrophytic vegetation (oospores of Charophyta, seeds of *Batrachium* sp., *Potamogeton* cf. *gramineus*). In the littoral zone of the lake, vegetation of reed and tall sedge beds was present at the same time (*Carex rostrata/vesicaria*, *Carex* cf. *diandra*, *Typha angustifolia/latifolia*, *Menyanthes trifoliata*). The Younger Dryas chronozone is recognized by a decline in the presence of plant macrofossils. Finds of *Potamogeton praelongus* and *P. perfoliatus* give evidence of climatic deterioration. The start of the Holocene is well detected by the rapid development of macrophytic vegetation (*Batrachium* sp., *Najas marina*, *N. minor*, *Nuphar pumila*, *Myriophyllum spicatum*, *Potamogeton filiformis*, *P. alpinus*).

Regardless of the results of archaeological excavations, a Mesolithic settlement is reflected in the investigated profiles by the presence of pollen grains of anthropogenic indicators, as well as by macrofossils of some palatable terrestrial plants (*Rubus saxatilis*, *R. idaeus* and *Corylus avellana*) within the lake sediments. Enhanced influx of charcoal particles into the lake is dated to the early Holocene. Early occurrence of two plants – water chestnut (*Trapa natans*) and hazel (*Corylus avellana*) can be related to their deliberate introduction. Their first finds are radiocarbon dated to around 9500 uncal BP.

¹ Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, Charles University Prague, Benátská 2, 12801 Praha 2, Czech Republic, e-mail: pa.zackova@seznam.cz; cuneus@natur.cuni.cz

² Institute of Archaeology, Academy of Sciences, Letenská 4, 11801, Praha 1, Czech Republic, e-mail: pokorny@arup.cas.cz

³ Department of Archaeology, University of West Bohemia, Pilsen

⁴ Museum of South Bohemia, Czech Republic, České Budějovice