

IWGP Research Group: Analysis of Archaeological Food Remains

1. Aims and purpose of the work group

- i. Provide a platform within the International Work Group for Palaeoethnobotany (IWGP) for researchers of all career stages and levels of experience interested in the analysis of archaeological remains of food.
- ii. Promote the development of research and knowledge exchange in this field.
- iii. Foster communication within and beyond the research community. This can involve sharing preliminary results, communicating novel approaches and concepts, and discussing methodological advances.
- iv. Provide support and opportunities for networking and skills development for early career researchers.

2. Methodological focus

The Research Group focuses on evidence from the analysis of archaeological remains of food (e.g. isolated amorphous objects/lumps, foodcrusts, etc) including analytical approaches (but not limited to): High-resolution microscopy (DM, SEM), phytolith analysis, starch analysis and biomolecular analysis.

3. Thematic and chronological focus

This research group focuses on investigating, discussing and promoting a better understanding of the identification and analysis of archaeological remains of food, in all shapes and forms. The research group does not have a specific chronological or geographical scope as evidence for food preparation, cooking and consumption may derive from any period or area.

4. Meetings

- i. The research group will meet once every four years.
- ii. Meetings aim to provide a discussion forum for current research and debates in the field.
- iii. Meetings also aim to provide opportunities for skills training and knowledge exchange, for example in the form of practical or theoretical workshops.
- iv. The meetings will be organised as hybrid events to allow in person and remote participation. If justified, a meeting can also be held online in its entirety.
- v. When a meeting falls in the year of the IWGP conference, the research group will aim to organise a thematic workshop, session or related event during the IWGP conference.
- vi. Each meeting is organised by at least one main organiser who is associated with the research group and becomes a member of the research group committee (see 6). The group committee provides support for the organisation of meetings.

5. Organisation of the work group

- i. The research group is overseen by a committee with the following members:
 - a. A minimum of a chair or two co-chairs. In each cycle, one to two co-chairs will take an active role in the organisation of the next meeting. The committee will also include the co-chair(s)

who organised the previous meeting of the working group, which will ensure that they are able to provide support to the incoming co-chair(s).

- b. One communications officer. The task of this role is to manage and moderate the group's mailing list, and to oversee and update the group's website.
 - c. Two ordinary committee members. The role of the ordinary members is to support the committee in their business and be active in decision-making. It is not expected that the ordinary committee members are involved in the organisation of meetings.
 - d. One student representative. The role of the student representative is to promote student matters and support the committee in their business and be active in decision making. It is not expected that the student representative be involved in the organisation of meetings.
- ii. Terms of service:
- a. Each chair or co-chair serves for a period of four years.
 - b. The communications officer serves for four years and stands for re-election.
 - c. The ordinary committee members and the student representative serve a minimum of two years and stand for re-election.
 - d. Each committee member must notify the co-chairs in advance in case they decide to step down from their role before their term ends.
 - e. Committee membership is limited to four consecutive years per individual. The only exception to this is when the communications officer or ordinary member agrees to organise the next meeting and becomes co-chair.
- iii. Nomination and election of committee members:
- a. Nomination and election of committee members happens at the meeting.
 - b. The person(s) who offer(s) to organise the next meeting will become co-chair(s).
 - c. Members interested in becoming communications officer, an ordinary committee member or student representative should self-nominate and will be elected by research group members via a simple majority.
 - d. Elections will take place anonymously via an online poll to take place during the research group meeting. The poll will be circulated via the mailing list so that all members have the opportunity to vote.

6. Liaison with IWGP

- i. The research group represents an official body within the IWGP.
- ii. The research group has a webspace within the IWGP webpage, where the activities of the group are presented.