

THE ARCHAEOBOTANICAL RECORD OF THE IBERIAN SITE OF PUIG DE SANT ANDREU (ULLASTRET, GIRONA PROVINCE, CATALUNIA): PRELIMINARY RESULTS

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INTRODUCTION

- The site of Puig de Sant Andreu constitutes an important Iberian oppidum, located in Ullastret in the northeast of the Iberian Peninsula.
- It was occupied between the last quarter of 6th century and the beginnings of 2nd century b. C.
- Systematic archaeobotanical samples were taken. Their study is still in course, but we can say that they are quite poor.
- In this study we focus on a concentration of seeds that was found under the known circulation levels, over a lenticular hearth. It was dated, according to the ceramic materials, in the first middle of the 5th century b. C.
- Although we know from other sites that agriculture was one of the more important economic activities in the Iberian period, we find that structures in this site are quite clean, presenting a small quantity of organic material.

THE PUIG DE SANT ANDREU BARLEY CONCENTRATION IN CONTEXT

- In the 2007 excavation season a concentration of seeds was find in the context of an occupational level situated under the site walls functional use.
- Other similar concentrations of hulled barley have been found in different Iberian sites, corresponding to diverse chronological periods:
 - Sant Esteve d'Olius (Olius), 3rd century b. C.
 - Puig de Sant Andreu (Ullastret), middle of 5th century b. C.
 - Vinarragell (Borriana), first Iron Age.
 - Cerro de las Cabezas (Valdepeñas), 3rd century b. C.



RESULTS

	TAXA	NUMBER
Cultivated plants	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	712
	<i>Pisum sativum</i>	2
	<i>Setaria italica</i>	392
	<i>Setaria</i> sp.	94
	<i>Triticum aestivum/durum</i>	70
Ruderal plants	<i>Triticum</i> sp.	3
	<i>Cerealia</i>	177
	<i>Avena</i> sp.	7
	<i>Bromus</i> sp.	1
	<i>Gypsophila</i> sp.	1
	<i>Lolium</i> cf. <i>perenne/rigidum</i>	5
	<i>Lolium</i> cf. <i>temulentum</i>	52
	<i>Lotus</i>	1
	<i>Malva</i> sp.	1
	<i>Melilotus</i> sp.	1
	<i>Polygonum convolvulus</i>	1
	<i>Polygonum lapathifolium</i>	1
Others	Indet	5
	<i>Hordeum vulgare lema</i>	1



DISCUSSION AND FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Very clean hulled barley grains without almost no chaff remains:
 - Only one lemma fragment found.
 - Very few weeds.
- Why are hulled barley and foxtail millet together?
 - Foxtail millet was used to fill the gaps between barley grains.
 - Could be the reflection of spring cultivation.
 - They were employed together as fodder for animals.
- A small quantity of *Triticum aestivum/durum* is present too:
 - Some wheat seeds were planted together with barley.

From our point of view, the combination of hulled barley and foxtail millet in this concentration would be derived from the advantages in storage or a cooking or processing that involved both species.

- In one hand, we do know that both species got burned together.
- In the other hand, it is not very probable that such a clean grain was used as fodder.
- Finally, the presence of wheat and the weeds that we identified seem to point to a winter crop.

Otherwise, the study of the Puig de Sant Andreu archaeobotanical materials is still in course.