



Basel / Wilhelmshaven, March 2008

Dear colleagues,

We are organizing a symposium entitled **“On-site microremain data from archeological sites and their potential for the reconstruction of human food ecology”** at the joint 12th International Palynological/ 8th International Organization of Palaeobotany Conference (IPC/ IOPC 2008) which will be held in Bonn, Germany from August 30 – September 5, 2008.

You are invited to contribute to our session which is aimed to present the state of the art and gives the opportunity to discuss further needs and approaches. Registration and abstract submission are open at <http://www.paleontology.uni-bonn.de/congress08/index.htm> until April 30. If you decide to participate, please select 33 as your session preference when submitting your abstract. Here is a short description of our symposium:

There is only little systematic research on pollen from archaeological layers in contrast to plant macro-remains. Pollen and other microremains, however, can give us alternative hints on many activities and nutrition in prehistoric and historic periods. Many plants were used before producing seeds and fruits and are therefore usually not traceable in the archaeobotanical (macroremain) record. Consequently, many useful plant taxa become only visible when micro-remains are analysed, in addition or comparison to macro-remains. Analysing suitable sediments/ deposits, e.g. organic layers, dung (coprolithes) etc. for pollen and spores allows reconstructing certain aspects of the environment in which humans and their livestock were moving around.

In the planned session we would welcome papers mainly dealing with pollen analysis (or in general: botanical microremains) from archaeological layers (on-site-data). Especially appreciated are papers comparing macro- and microremain data. We would like to demonstrate the great potential of on-site data for the reconstruction of former diets, activities and environments in which humans and their livestock moved around.

There is the possibility to publish papers of the session in “Vegetation History and Archaeobotany”.

Please don't hesitate to contact us (Jacomet/Bittmann) if you need any additional information.

With best wishes, looking forward to seeing you at the conference in Bonn,

Stefanie Jacomet Felix Bittmann

Prof. Dr. Stefanie Jacomet
IPNA / IPAS Institute of Prehistory and Archaeological Science
Dept. of Environmental Sciences
Basel University
Spalenring 145
CH-4055 Basel
Tel: +41 61 201 02 11
E-mail: stefanie.jacomet@unibas.ch
<http://pages.unibas.ch/arch/>

Dr. Felix Bittmann
Niedersaechsisches Institut fuer historische Kuestenforschung
Viktoriastr. 26/28
D-26382 Wilhelmshaven
Germany
Tel: 49 (0)4421 915 146
E-mail: bittmann@nihk.de
www.nihk.de