

Archaeobotanical Investigation at Bylany Culture Settlement (Early Iron Age) Černý Most, Central Bohemia

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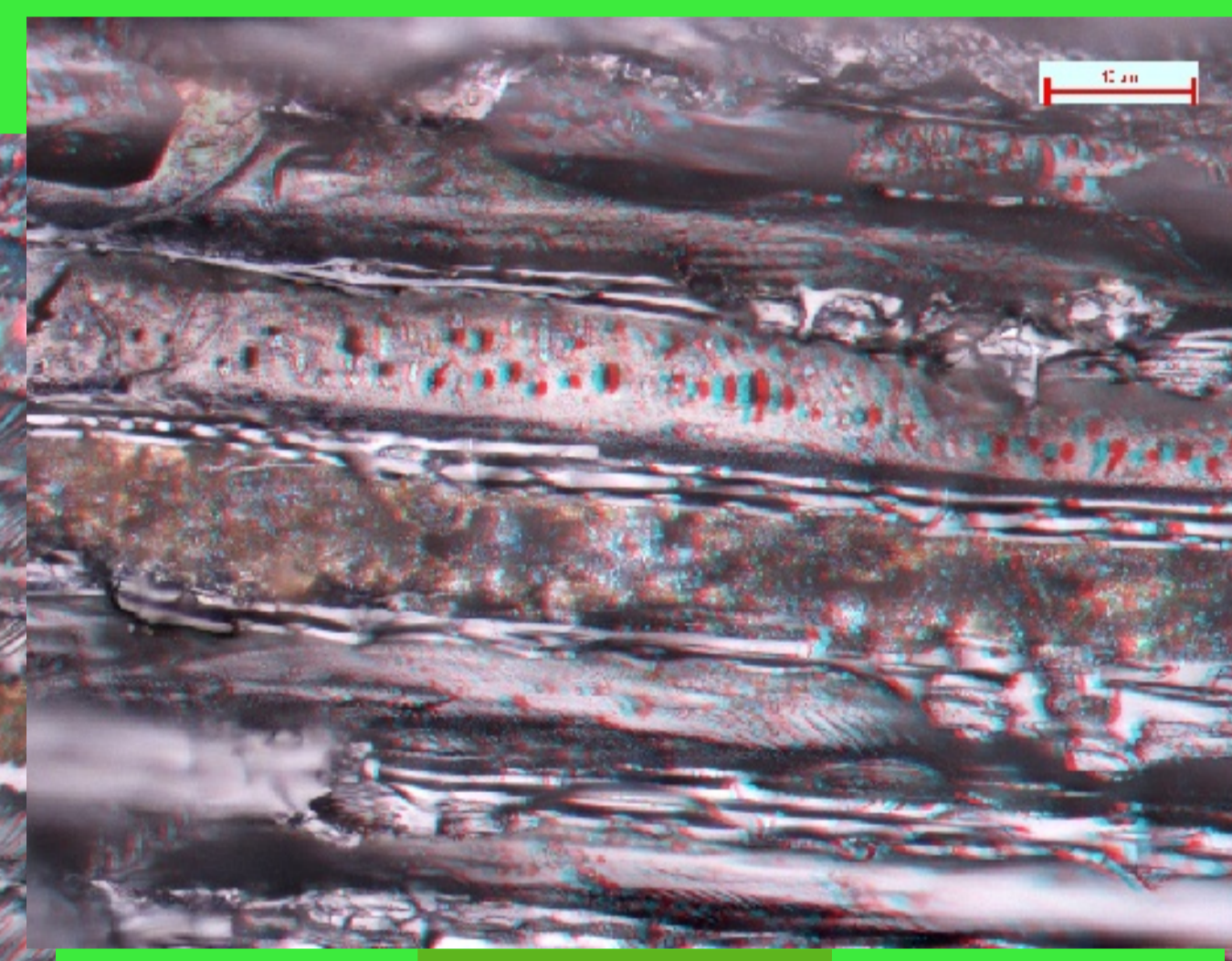
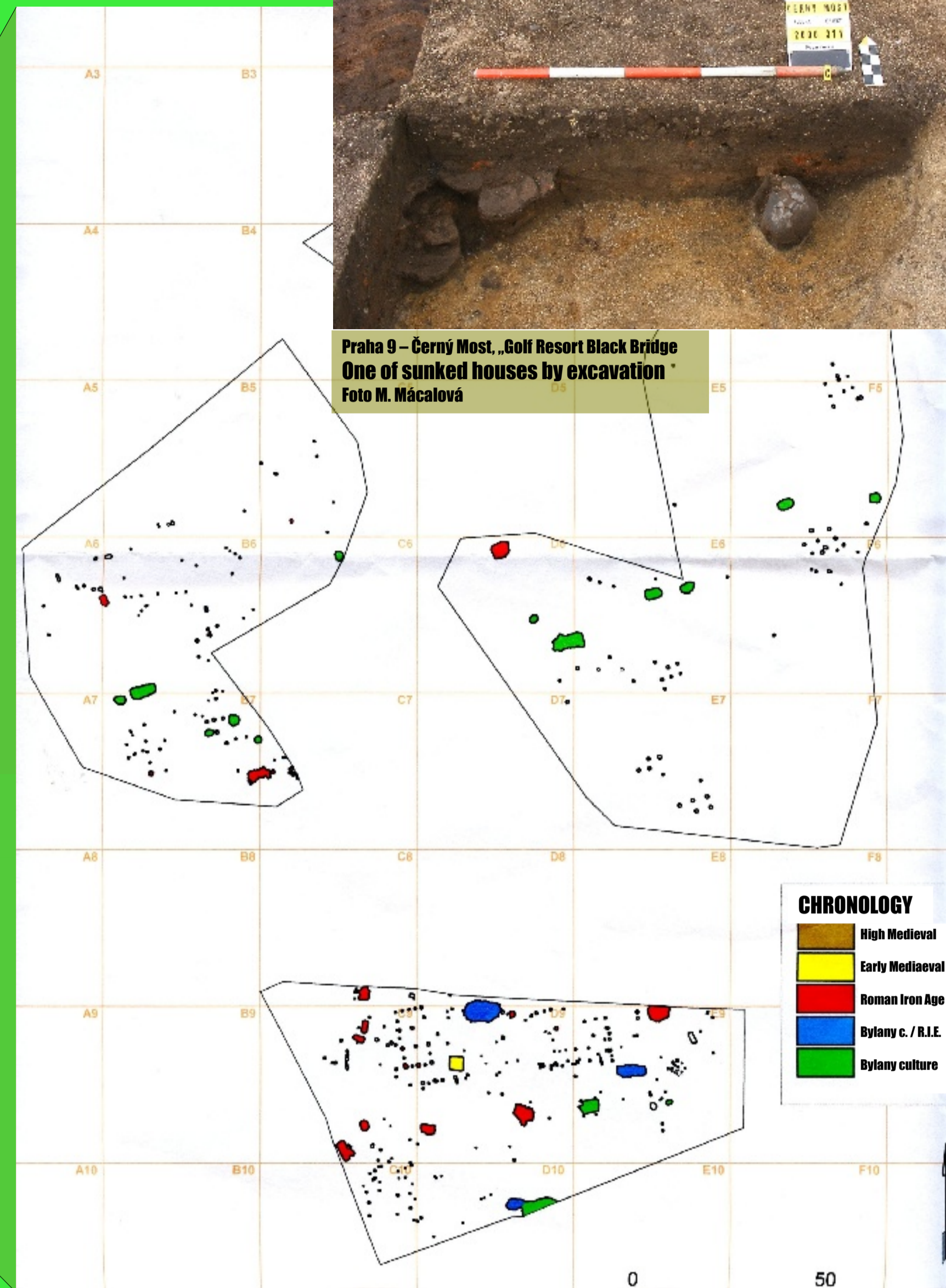


SITE

Polycultural site (Early Iron Age Bylany Culture (7th Century BC), the Roman Iron Age and the High Medieval Period) was discovered by rescue excavations for Golf Resort Black Bridge at the junction of two small streams at the eastern periphery of Prague. Presented results come from 8 sunked houses from the Early Iron Age. It is the biggest known settlement belonging to the Bylany Culture.



Praha 9 – Černý Most, „Golf Resort Black Bridge“
One of sunked houses by excavation
Foto M. Macalová



beech (*Fagus* sp.)

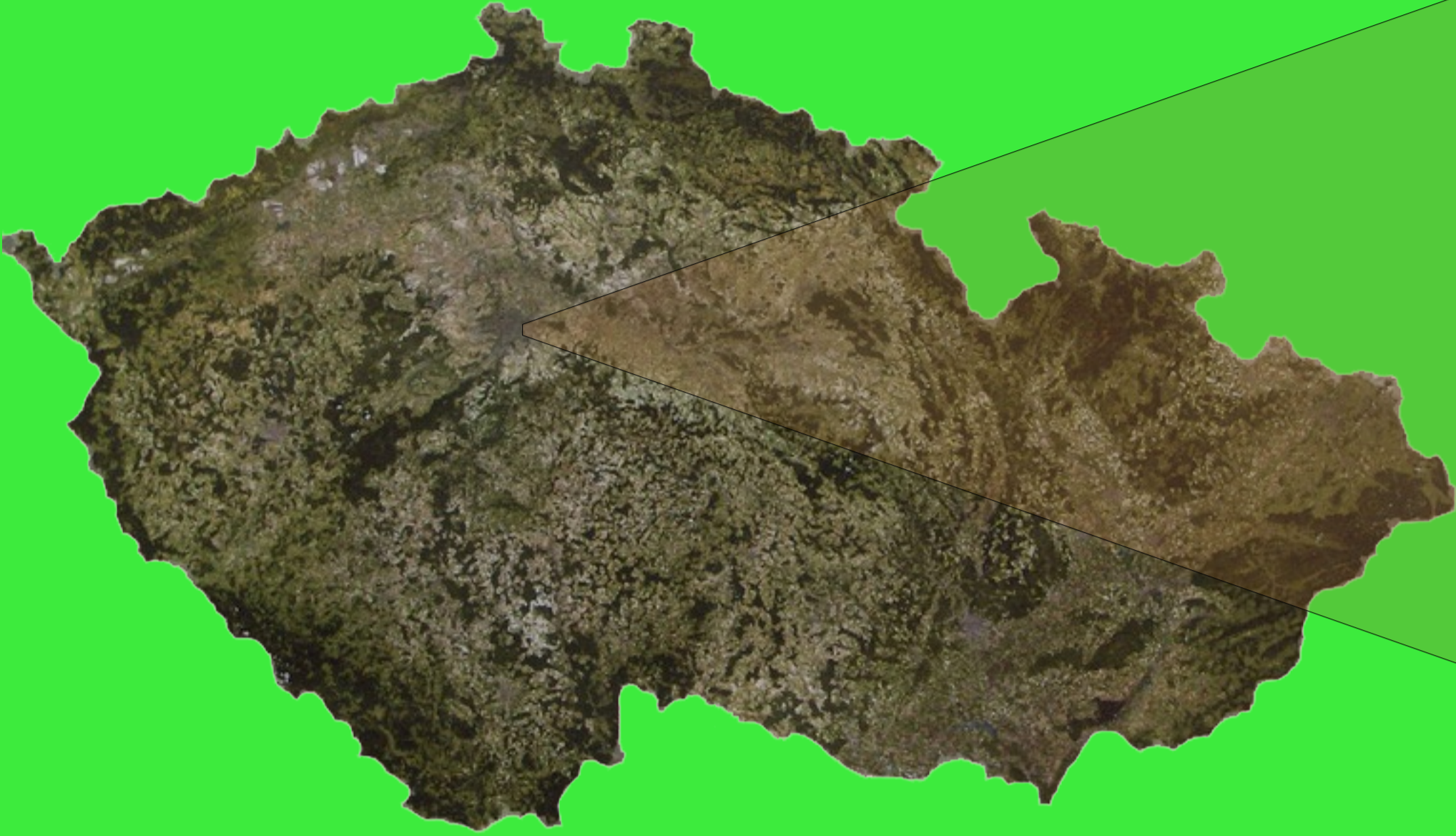
Pictures of charcoal are anaglyphs - use 3D glasses
(microphotography by Nikon MIS Elements, photo J. Beneš)

maple (*Acer* sp.)

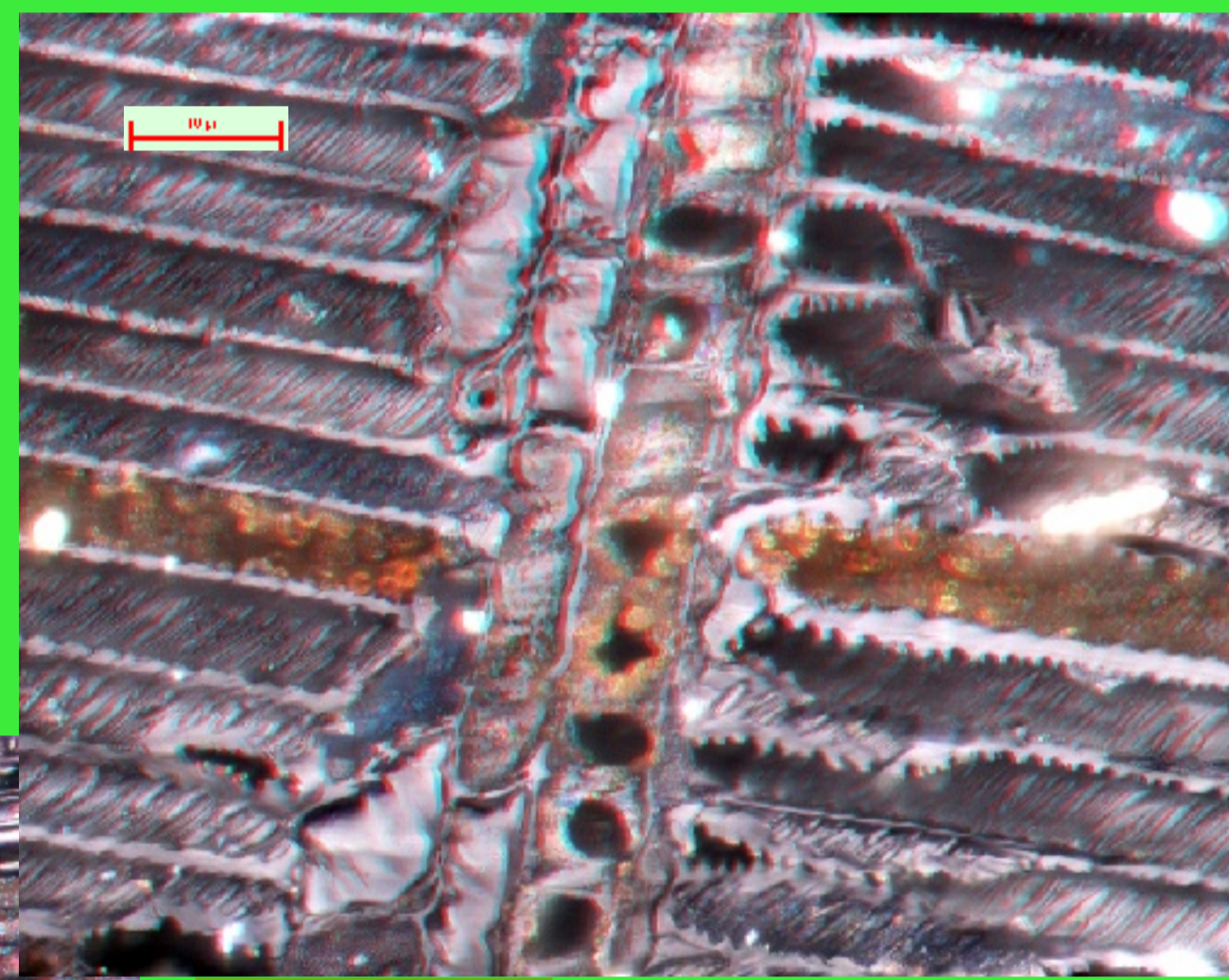


Praha 9 – Černý Most, „Golf Resort Black Bridge“
Pottery from feature 309
Foto J. Frolík

Praha 9 – Černý Most, „Golf Resort Black Bridge“
Typical pottery of Bylany culture from one of sunked houses
Foto J. Frolík



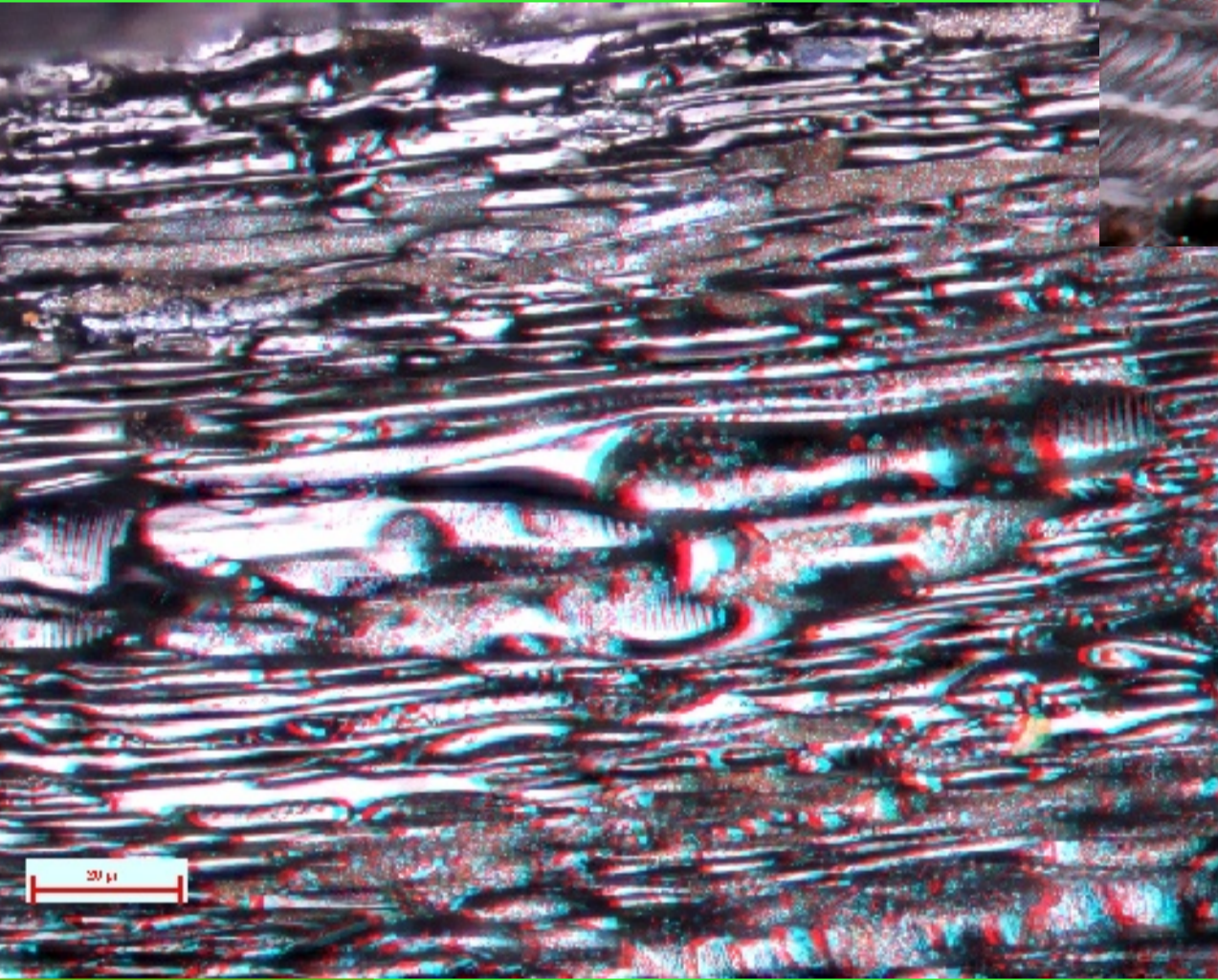
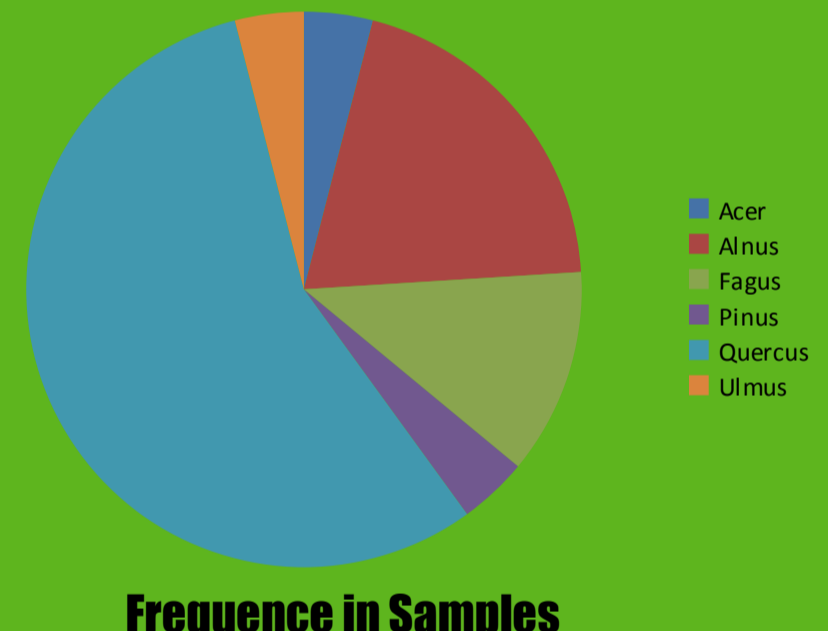
Praha 9 – Černý Most, „Golf Resort Black Bridge“
Pottery from feature 309
Foto J. Frolík



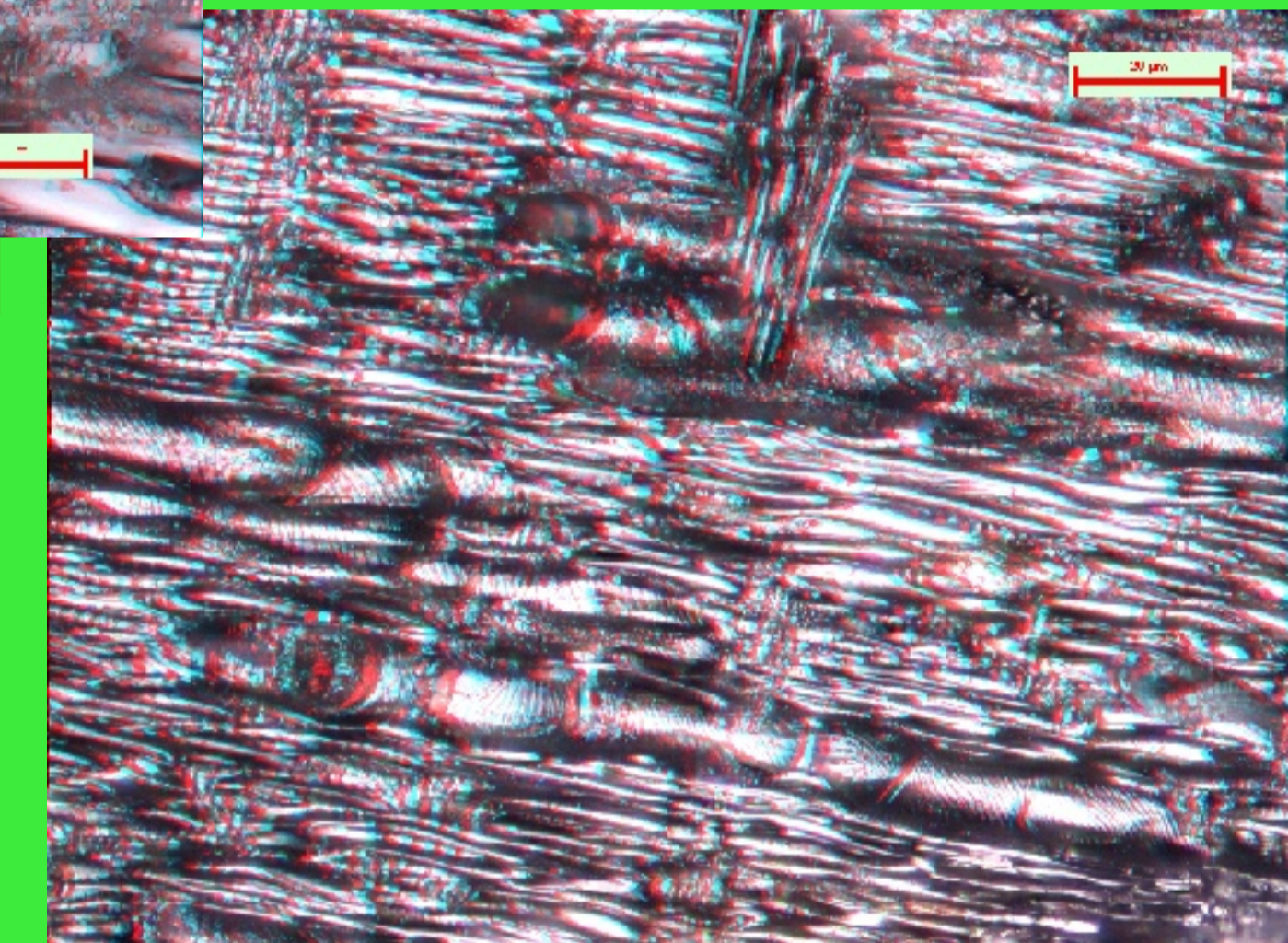
pine (*Pinus* sp.)

Charcoal

Analysis of charcoal indicates oak dominated woodland with relatively higher ratio of beech in frequency. This fact could indicate possible climatic deterioration in the Halstatt period.



alder (*Alnus* sp.)



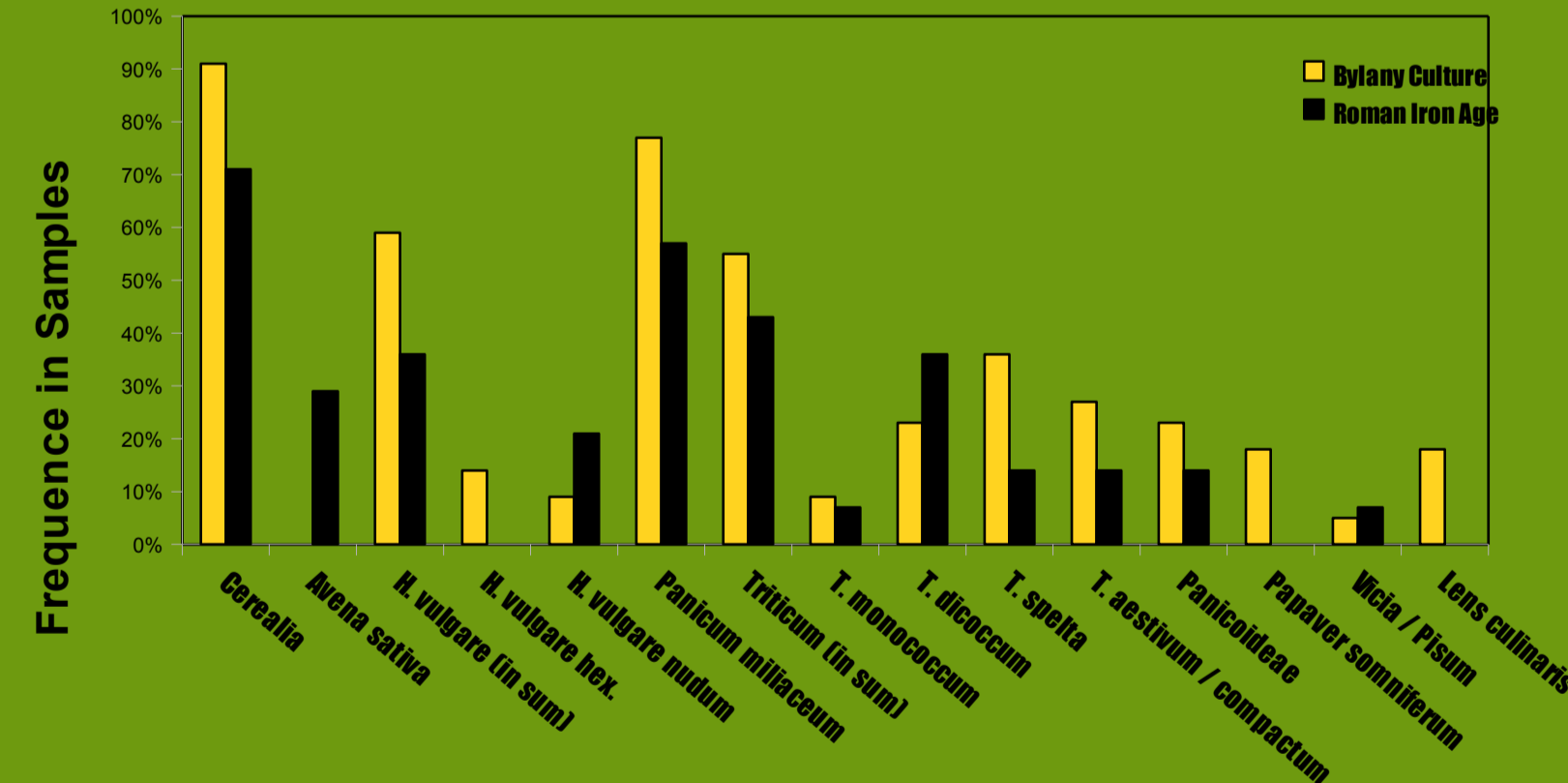
Pomoideae

Charred plant macro-remains

22 samples from 11 features gave more than 850 charred macro-remains of plant reproduction organs. This assamlage is the first published from the settlement of the Bylany culture.

Crops

The spectrum of grown plants represents chart. It shows different pattern in the Bylany culture and in the Roman Iron Age. Cereals are generally less frequent in the second period except for oat, naked barley and emmer. Apparent is absence of poppy and lentil in the Roman Iron Age there. Total number of identified grains and forks is however too small to make any decision about changes in local agriculture.



emmer (*Triticum dicoccum*)



spelt (*Triticum spelta*)



naked wheat (*Triticum aestivum / durum*)

	length	breadth	height	L / B	L / H	B / H
<i>Triticum monococcum</i>	4.5–5.1–5.7	2.1–2.5–2.7	2.5–2.6–3.0	1.80–2.10–2.38	1.80–1.90–2.00	0.94–0.94–1.00
<i>Triticum dicoccum</i>	4.0–4.3–4.5	2.5–2.9–3.2	2.0–2.3–3.0	1.25–1.42–1.61	1.50–1.84–2.25	1.00–1.26–1.50
<i>Triticum spelta</i>	4.5–5.1–6.1	2.2–2.9–3.2	1.5–2.2–2.5	1.56–1.74–2.05	2.00–2.43–3.00	1.20–1.38–1.47
<i>T. aestivum / durum</i>	3.5–4.4–5.5	2.8–3.1–3.4	2.0–2.4–2.9	1.25–1.41–1.62	1.64–1.84–2.20	1.14–1.31–1.43

Proportions of found wheat grains (min. – avg. – max.; all in millimetres)

Registered vegetation types

Ruderal vegetation: Various goosefoots (*Chenopodium album* agg., *Ch. ficifolium*, *Ch. hybridum*, *Ch. glaucum/rubrum* and some other) made absolute majority of identified macro-remains at all. Other species except of *Polygonum aviculare* agg. were found only infrequently:

Persicaria maculosa *Persicaria lapathifolia* *Mollisus alba*

Segetal vegetation: Only *Fallopia convolvulus* was found more frequently. Other species were very rare

Camelina microcarpa *Geranium cf. Pusillum* *Polycnemum arvense* *Valerianella dentata*
Galium spirium *Papaver rhoeas* *Thlaspi arvense* *Vicia tetrasperma*

Dry pastures: There were found only few samens:

Galium verum *Origanum vulgare* *Thymus pulegioides*

Wet meadows: Only one seed of *Lychnis flos-cuculi* was found.



Poaceae

Poaceae

The high frequency (63%) of various graminean types is apparent. Big seeds belong to segetal species like *Bromus hordeaceus*, but the small ones could represent apart from weeds (*Apera spicaventi* and other) some meadow or pasture taxa (*Poa*, *Festuca*, *Arrhenatherum*, *Alopecurus* and so on). However any interpretation is impossible without better identification.



Bromus hordeaceus / secalinus

Conclusions

These archaeobotanical data are quite sparse, but they are value contribution for study of Halstatt period in Bohemian lowland, because there is only few detail archaeobotanical information.



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