

RECENT ARCHAEOBOTANICAL INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE RANGE AND ABUNDANCE OF CROP PLANTS IN BRONZE AND IRON AGE SETTLEMENTS IN THE RHINELAND AREA, NORDRHEIN-WESTFALEN, WESTERN GERMANY

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Key words: Bronze Age, Iron Age, Rhineland, Crop plants

During recent decades, numerous sites dating back to the last two millennia BC have been studied archaeobotanically in the Rhineland by K.-H. Knörzer and at the Laboratory of Archaeobotany, University of Cologne. New investigations within the scope of a doctoral thesis topic enable the comparison of the plant spectra from more than 40 Bronze and Iron Age settlements.

On the one hand, obvious differences in the crop assemblages can be shown. While the earlier Bronze Age settlements do not have a wide range of cultivated plants, the settlements of the late Bronze Age offer a broad package with wheat, barley, millet, oil plants and legumes. Their husbandry continued to the early Iron Age, where in most settlements up to a dozen plants were cultivated. In the late Iron Age this wide spectrum decreases and barley especially gained in importance. This development can also be seen in the crop weed assemblages.

On the other hand, it is possible to compare the contemporary Iron Age settlement assemblages with the aim of detecting agricultural production and consumption sites.

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