

The Importance in Integrated Palaeoethnobotanical/ Archaeological Research to Consider the Distribution and Transport of Plant Material

Abstract

Quaternary palaeoecology was originally limited to climatic studies based on plant remains and stratigraphy of bogs. In the beginning of this century pollen analysis became the main tool in this field and later developed as an independent field of research. The method was originally designed for dating purpose but soon it became the synonym to vegetation history. Collaboration with archaeology started early, first in the field of dating. Now this branch of botany has become an intimately related field of archaeological research. In these processes pollen analysis has changed, taking up problems and working in deposits in which the original assumptions are less valid or totally invalid.

Macrofossil analysis kept its own integrity and evolved as a separate field of research (also in collaboration with archaeology). In many cases now the difference between the two are no longer valid. The methods applied in field and laboratory will of course differ due to differences in size and resistance but the conclusions must now in many cases be based on the same set of assumptions. The implications of this in field and laboratory will be discussed.