



18TH CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKGROUP FOR PALAEOETHNOBOTANY

MILLETS

A major problem for the identification of millets is the large number of small-seeds species that belong to this group which present similar morphological characteristics. The lab session at the 18th IWGP aims to refine the criteria used for the identification of millets that are found in archaeological sites and provide general guidelines for archaeobotanists working in tropical areas. .

The earliest attempts to develop criteria for the identification of archaeological come from the framework of African archaeobotany, and are based on the researches carried out in the 70's by Bruken and Hilu and colleagues who worked on finger millet and pearl millet (Brunken *et al.* 1977, Hilu *et al.* 1979).

Jacomet's work later implemented the criteria for the identification of other species, such as broomcorn and foxtail millets (Jacomet 1987). In the early 2000's, a comprehensive study was published by Fuller who provided guidance for the identification of the most common millets found in archaeological sites (Fuller 2006).

The lab session is open to archaeobotanists who are interested in learning the fundamentals of the identification of millets. Modern reference material, representative of the most common species, will be described and will serve as base for the identification of archaeological specimens.

Dorian Fuller and Marco Madella will lead this laboratory session

References

Brunken, J., de Wet, J. M., & Harlan, J. R. (1977). The morphology and domestication of pearl millet. *Economic Botany*, 31(2), 163-174.

Hilu, K. W., De Wet, J. M. J., & Harlan, J. R. (1979). Archaeobotanical studies of *Eleusine coracana* ssp. *coracana* (finger millet). *American Journal of Botany*, 66(3), 330-333.

Jacomet, S. (1987). *Prähistorische Getreidefunde: eine Anleitung zur Bestimmung prähistorischer Gersten-und Weizen-Funde*. Selbstverlag.

Fuller, D. Q. (2006). *A millet atlas: some identification guidance*. London: University College London.