NAKED WHEAT

The lab session is structured to train participants on how to differentiate between tetraploid and hexaploid wheat to ensure that this important distinction does not go unremarked in the archaeobotanical assemblage.

The presence of tetraploid naked wheat was first reported by Hillmann (1986), who defined the rachis criteria for the identification of naked wheats, and Jacomet and colleagues who recognized tetraploid wheat in the Late Neolithic Swiss Lake dwellings (Jacomet and Schlichtherle 1984; Jacomet *et al.* 1989).

Later studies proved the co-existence of tetraploid and hexaploid naked wheat in Neolithic dwelling of Central Europe (Schlumbaum et al. 1999). In recent years, Kirleis and Fishcer prove that the tetraploid naked wheat was among the staples used by the Funnel Beaker North group in Denmark and Germany (2014). In addition the interrelation of the origin of tetraploid naked wheat and the beginning of agriculture in the Alpine foreland, as well as northern Germany have been discussed in Kreuz *et al.* 2014.

Since the 6th IWGP in Groningen, 1983, the meeting has become a platform to evaluate the role of tetraploid naked wheat among the early farmers and an opportunity to advance the identification criteria. The 16th IWGP in Thessaloniki, 2013, with its theoretical and practical lab sessions, highlighted the importance of training new generations of archaeobotanists on the identification of tetraploid wheat.

Here at the 18th IWGP, we pursue the same education goal and we invite the attendees to bring specimens of naked wheat chaff or grains to the lab-session for training in the analysis of their samples.

The laboratory session will be held by Angela Kreuz, Ferran Antolin and Marlu Kühn

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