
Archaeological site Casa Grande: A case study of underwater archeology in the State of Goiás, Brazil

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Résumé

Underwater Archeology is a field of research that uses specific methods for the study of archaeological sites submerged or closely related to aquatic environments. The conservation of submerged archaeological artifacts has an interdisciplinary character and is an incipient theme when considering studies addressing submerged artifacts in freshwater environments. The goal of the study was to gather information about the conservation of the archaeological site Casa Grande after its flood to the formation of the water reservoir of the João Leite stream, through inferences on the deposition process and type of sediment, bioturbation, and physicochemical parameters of water. The results showed that the Archaeological Site Casa Grande is in good condition after six years of flooding. The artifacts found through underwater prospecting were classified into five categories, the most representative category being ceramic pottery (bricks and tiles). The granulometric analysis showed that the sediment deposited in the artifacts was composed of very fine sand (65%), silt (25%) and fine sand (10%), with brown dark grayish (dry sediment) and brown very dark grayish (humid sediment). In relation to bioturbation, the community analysis of benthic macroinvertebrates showed a community depleted with the dominance of two species of exotic molluscs (*Corbicula fluminea* and *Melanoides tuberculata*), larvae of Chironomidae, and Oligochaeta, which together with *Macrobrachium amazonicum* (freshwater shrimp) and fish species abundant in the area, provide alteration in the deposition of the sediment before the behavior of foraging of the species. The physicochemical parameters of the analyzed water evidenced variation in the profile (depth) and seasonal, suggesting that artifacts in different depths are subject to different effects considering the physical-chemical and biotic pressures of the environment. The lack of hydrosedimentology and hydrosedimentometry data of the water reservoir makes it difficult to discuss the burial of archaeological remains and a long term projection. The results presented in this study give support to future research in the site Casa Grande, with great potential for the study of ceramic pottery artifacts in the context of Architecture Archeology, and encourages discussion on decision-making in relation to archaeological rescues at sites undergoing permanent flooding.

Mots-Clés: Historical Archaeology, Bioturbation, Conservation.

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