
Exploring pottery use in the Southwestern Atlantic Europe: an approach from the organic residue analysis

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Résumé

The origin and spread of pottery vessels marked an important change in culinary practices of prehistoric societies. Its introduction across Europe followed different geographic

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patterns and processes. In this context, the introduction and adoption of pottery technology in the western extreme of the continent occurred later than in other parts of South Europe. This presentation is focused on the earliest evidence of pottery use along the Southwestern Atlantic coast of Europe. In this way, representative pottery assemblages from Portugal, Spain and France are used to investigate the role of this technology in relation to the arrival of the first domesticates to the region. By applying organic residue analysis on extracted lipids (i. e. gas chromatography, gas chromatography-mass spectrometry and gas-chromatography-combustion-isotope ratio mass spectrometry), this presentation assesses the function of pottery during this unprecedented cultural transition, which supposed the end of the hunter-gatherers communities in the region. Our results reveal considerable geographic variability in early pottery use related to the processing of different animal products. The results have significant implications for discussing regional patterns in Neolithic diffusion and the nature of early agropastoral economies in western Europe.

Mots-Clés: organic residue analysis, lipids, isotopes, Southwestern Europe, Neolithic