
Neolithic woodland management practices at Gueldaman Cave 1 (Algeria). Plant evidence for fuel and fodder.

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Résumé

Gueldaman Cave 1 (Algeria) presents a wide sequence from Iberomaurusian to Late Neolithic (Kherbouchet *et al.*, 2014), including moments of major changes in landscapes. Analyses of plant remains (wood and seeds/fruits) show a shift in vegetation from last hunter-gatherers to first farmers' levels: a Late Glacial phase of plant colonization with Cupressaceae formations, which are gradually integrating some elements of sclerophyllous vegetation, such as several species of *Pistacia*; then, Neolithic levels showing *Olea europaea* formations dominating the spectra. These changes must be reassessed as climatic response of vegetation to the final deglaciation process, and to a particular woodland management, including fodder provisioning, as the cave was used as animal penning. The hypothesis of massive use of *Olea europaea* for animal feeding has been contrasted by a microscopic study of the ovicaprine coprolites. Identification of Monocotyledon species and *Olea* leaves in these coprolites shows the species mainly used as fodder. The presence of different parts of *Olea* (wood and olive stones) points to the input of the entire branches to the cave, then using them for fire. The presence of others sclerophyllous species is also investigated.

Mots-Clés: Gueldaman, Algeria, Neolithic, animal penning, woodland management, fodder

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