The paleolake of Abusir is situated at the western edge of the cultivation. During the third millennium B.C., this was the principal entryway into Abusir and Saqqara necropolises. Since 2002, an interdisciplinary project focusing on environmental history of the lake and its vicinity has been under way. In 2007, four sondages were opened in order to examine in detail development of the area during the Holocene. The main goal of this research is reassessment of the lake’s history and its importance for the ancient Egyptian civilization and local cultic topography.

Results of macro-remain analysis during field seasons 2007-2010 three units of samples have been analysed. All of them are mudbrick materials dated to the Old Kingdom period: sondage A-laying made of mud bricks; sondage MM-made of mud bricks, and sondage B-deposits of the Late Period were analysed for comparison. One out of natural sediments above the existing structure in the sondage A (mud-brick mat) was sampled.

Water species: Chama sp., Cattails sp., Nymphaea sp., Sphagnum sp.
Woods and scrub: Olea europaea, Quercus sp., Ficus carica, Citrus sp., Eucalyptus sp., Populus sp., Salix sp.
Others: Tamarisk sp., Willow sp., Peplar sp., Thorn sp.

Most interesting find from mud bricks of Abusir Lake landing installation deposits (sondage A, layer 007) is watermelon. It is one from the oldest direct evidences in Egypt found in archaeological contexts.

The present archaeobotanical research documents situation during 2600-2400 B.C. and sheds new light on the landscape and environmental development of the area at that time.

Mud bricks contained small number of very fragmented fresh wood and charcoal. It enables estimation role of local wood species in the Old Kingdom period. Majority of fragments belong to different tamarisk and acacia species as well as sycamore wood.