FLORA ANTICA – A database of trees of ancient Italy

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The database collects information on ca. 50 trees and their remains to be found in Italy during the first centuries of the Roman Empire (1st-3rd AD). The focus of the research is Pompeii with its extensive possibilities to combine archaeobotanical and iconographical sources; further evidence comes from Rome and research throughout the borders of the Italian peninsula. The data is presented online at www.flora-antica.de and will be open to the public soon.

As much information as possible is presented for each species. Three different kinds of sources are considered: A - archaeobotanical finds (seeds and fruits, wood and on-site pollen), B – ancient Latin and Greek texts who report on the referred plant, and C – representation in ancient frescoes.

If possible the archaeobotanical data is presented in plant use categories like food, medicine etc. These categories are comparable to those found within literary sources.

The structure of the database makes it possible it possible to add further plants or research areas in the future.