

ARCHAEOBOTANICAL MACROREMAIN ANALYSIS OF THE MEDIÉVAL CESSPIT 938 FROM CHRUDIM, CZECH REPUBLIC

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The medieval town of Chrudim, a prominent royal town in eastern Bohemia, was situated on an important trade route from Prague to Moravia. The areas of three ground-plots belonging to three houses were investigated in archaeological salvage research in 2006. Several features were discovered including cesspits, waste pits and a cellar with a barrel vault. Results of archaeobotanical analysis carried out on cesspit nr. 938 are presented. This is one of three circular cesspits with stone walls, chosen for its very fine stratigraphy. The cesspit was in use from the 14th to the 17th century, and it was partially emptied several times during this period. Based on the macroremain analysis, the former vegetation of urban ground-plots and the dietary habits of the medieval townsfolk are reconstructed. Approximately 13000 plant remains belonging to 71 species were identified. Useful plants such as *Fragaria vesca/viridis*, *Vitis vinifera*, *Rubus idaeus* and *R. fruticosus* are abundant. *Brassica nigra* seems to have been frequently used as a spice. *Ficus carica* was identified as an ordinary imported fruit. A difference in structure of weed and ruderal vegetation between the High Medieval and the Early Modern period sediments was confirmed. This is connected with a change of lifestyle and agricultural methods in the Early Modern period compared with the older period. The high concentration of useful plants suggests the possibility of the partial preservation of the original fillings of vessels found in the cesspit.

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