MACROFOSSIL FINDS FROM PORVOO
A Medieval Town in Southern Finland

Mia LEMPIÄINEN1, Terttu LEMPIÄINEN2, Terhi LINDROOS3, Päivi HAKANPÄÄ4 & Marianna NIUKKANEN5

Porvoo has been an important centre of trade since the 13th century. Archaeological excavations have been carried out in several sites in Porvoo.

Log buildings, stone structures, streets, graves and other structures revealed altogether over 20 000 macrofossil finds and 130 different plant species have been identified.

Most interesting macrofossil finds are weedefs of Agrostemma githago, Anthemis cotula, Anthemis ruthenica, Centaurea cyanus, Chrysanthemum segetum, Hyoscyamus niger and Urtica urens.

Finds of cultivated or collected plants were grains of Hordeum vulgare and Secale cereale and seeds of Arctostaphylos uva-ursi, Fragaria vesca, Vaccinium myrtillus, Rubus chamaemorus and Rubus idaeus.

Leaves of Bryophyta, were found in a grave of a newborn baby. They were attached to the skull of the baby and originated from a pillow made of mosses.