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Archaeobotany in Romania – investigations in the Late Bronze Age fortification Cornești-Iarcuri

There are only a few studies of macro plant remains from Bronze Age settlement contexts in Romania. A high-resolution sampling of several cultural layers has been carried out within the Late Bronze Age fortification Cornești-Iarcuri, in the Banat region. It is the largest known prehistoric settlement in Europe. More than 200 samples from the Late Bronze Age, the Copper and the Iron Age were studied. The analyses of macro-remains from cultural layers dating to the Copper Age show that the principal crops were the glume wheats emmer (*Triticum dicoccon*) and einkorn (*Triticum monococcum*), while the Late Bronze Age spectrum encompassed a large variety of domesticated plants, comprising the cereals hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum*), emmer, einkorn, spelt (*Triticum spelta*) and now high amounts of broomcorn millet (*Panicum miliaceum*) and very small quantities of foxtail millet (*Setaria italica*). Furthermore, the pulses garden pea (*Pisum sativum*), lentil (*Lens culinaris*), and field bean (*Vicia faba*), as well as the oil plant gold-of-pleasure (*Camelina sativa*) were identified. The spectrum of the Early Iron Age feature contained hulled barley, broomcorn millet, bread wheat, einkorn, spelt, garden pea, lentil, broad bean, gold-of-pleasure, flax (*Linum usitatissimum*), and poppy (*Papaver somniferum*). ¹⁴C-dates from millet from the Late Bronze Age layers yielded ages between 1415 and 1265 cal. BC. The investigations were integrated into studies of vegetation history and geoarchaeology, which indicate increasingly dry conditions for the Late Bronze Age.