



The Role of Chemical Markers and Chemometrics in the Identification of Grasses Used as Food in Pre-agrarian South West Asia (Paperback)

By Michelle Cave

British Archaeological Reports, United Kingdom, 2004. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.This work explores the way in which novel chemical criteria can be used to identify charred remains of grains of small-grained grasses used as food by pre-agrarian hunter-gatherers in south-western Asia but which have hitherto rarely been identified with any precision. The grass family Gramineae or Poaceae, is the most diverse, abundant and widespread family of higher plants on the planet. Grasses correspondingly have enormous ecological and economic importance worldwide. Their importance is reflected in the prominent role of grain from wild grasses in hunter-gatherer subsistence. In order to reconstruct past subsistence practices and diet, especially of arid-zone hunter-gatherers, it is important to identify the remains of grasses recovered from archaeological sites. However, the recovered grass remains are most often charred, therefore the interpretive potential can be realized only if these charred remains are accurately identified at the level of genus and, in some cases, species. There are enormous problems in identifying charred remains, particularly when relying totally on gross morphological criteria. There is therefore a need for alternative criteria, such as that utilized by chemical analytical techniques. The core rationale...



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Reviews

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