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# There is no Smoke without Fire: Anthracological Analysis of the Feature A, Cabeço da Amoreira, Muge Shell-middens, Portugal

Roxane Matias<sup>\*†1,2</sup>, Patrícia Monteiro<sup>‡1,2</sup>, and Nuno Bicho<sup>§1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Centro Interdisciplinar de Arqueologia e Evolução do Comportamento Humano (ICArEHB) – Campus de Gambelas, 8005-139 Faro – PORTUGAL, Portugal

<sup>2</sup>Universidade do Algarve (Ualg) – Campus de Gambelas, 8005-139 Faro – PORTUGAL, Portugal

## Abstract

This poster presents the anthracological results from a rather unique and spatially confined context called Feature A, in the Mesolithic shell-midden of Cabeço da Amoreira, Muge, Portugal, radiocarbon dated to  $6633 \pm 20$  BP. Through taxonomic and taphonomic analyses, the main objective was to contextualize and characterize the presence of charcoals in this specific context and to assess the ecological past.

The totality of collected charcoal fragments was analysed and the identified taxa were: *Pinus* sp., *Pinus pinaster*, *Pinus* cf. *pinaster*, *Pinus pinea*/pinaster, *Pinus* sp. *sylvestris*, *Quercus* sp., *Quercus* subg. *quercus*, gymnosperms and angiosperms, corroborating with other studies regarding Mesolithic landscapes in the surrounding archaeological sites in the Tagus valley.

The results point to the use of specific wood as fuel and the late deposition of charcoal by natural or anthropic means in this particular context, or deposited together with the other artefacts, namely red deer remains (*Cervus elaphus*) and lithics. As suggested by the spatial analysis study from Gonçalves (2017), this context was probably the place of a specific economic activity of carcass processing and extraction of bone marrow content and later used as a deposit zone, justified by the presence of charcoals and other materials.

**Keywords:** Anthracology, Taxonomy, Taphonomy, Landscape, Mesolithic, Muge

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\*Speaker

†Corresponding author: roxanematias7@gmail.com

‡Corresponding author: patriciaadmonteiro@gmail.com

§Corresponding author: nunofbicho@gmail.com