

Archaeobotany of *Triticum* in Prehistory: Domestication, Spread and Speciation

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Abstract: Some species from genus *Triticum* played crucial role in process of domestication, e.g. *T. boeoticum* and *T. dicocoides*. Current archaeobotany offers complex information about domesticated species, combining both archaeological as well as palaeoecological perspective. In the first part of our paper, different aspects of domestication are discussed, especially the role of *Triticum* among other plant species in temporal and chorological context in the Neolithic of the Near East. Special attention is paid to the behaviour of humans and their role in plant selection, supporting suitable individual plant properties. Some new theories and studies are discussed, especially searching for *T. dicocum* origin. The second part of the paper focuses on *Triticum* species in archaeobotanical assemblages in Balkans and Central Europe. Special attention is dedicated to archaeobotanical assemblages in Slovakia, Czech Republic, Austria and Germany, where cultivated species of *Triticum* are found first in LBK (Linienbandkeramik) culture context. This archaeological linkage seems to be fundamental for early non-ploughing agriculture in Central Europe during Holocene climatic optimum in Atlantic period. The core of the paper is dedicated to the history and spread of individual *Triticum* species (*T. monococum*, *T. dicocum*, *T. turgidum*, *T. timopheevi*, *T. spelta*, *T. compactum*, *T. aestivum*) in the temporal and geographical context of Europe.