

# Abstract

This thesis researches forest history and human impact on it in prehistory and early Middle Ages by means of soil charcoal analysis, i.e. pedoanthracology. It focuses on a site called „Roztocký háj“ with long-term human settlement near Roztoky u Prahy in central Bohemia. Pedoanthracology brings information about past woody vegetation that is very local and without much anthropogenic influence. On the other hand, archeoanthracology focuses on charcoal originating from archeological excavations directly from human settlements. These charcoals are therefore formed by human behaviour and provide general view on woody vegetation in wider surroundings of the site. Comparing results of these two approaches in Roztoky is allowed by long-term archeological excavations. They provided previously analyzed and partially published charcoal dataset. Newly obtained pedoanthracological dataset brings finer spatial scale, allows to find out the effect of local conditions on the charcoal spectra and also allows identification of possible purposefully selected taxa in the archeoanthracological assemblage. Another part of this work describes present-day vegetation around the soil profiles and examines it's possible continuity with the past vegetation. 4 soil profiles provided quite species-rich (17 taxa) charcoal assemblage which was quite difficult to analyze because of poor preservation and high fragmentation of the charcoal. Oak is the most dominant taxa followed by pine, ash and hornbeam. Generally low amounts of charcoal indicate very low fire activity in the captured period. Profiles show similarities in their development with a zone indicating a shift in dominant taxa and increase in charcoal amount. Based on the taxa composition, the origin of the lower parts of the profiles can be attributed to older periods of agricultural prehistory and the shift in dominant species to increasing human impact. This conclusion was to some extent supported by comparison with the archeoanthracological dataset. Chronological reconstruction of the vegetation history is complicated due to absence of planned radiocarbon dating which we were unable to obtain on time. Striking discontinuity was found between present-day vegetation and charcoal spectra.

**Keywords:** anthracology, vegetation history, prehistory, soil charcoal, pedoanthracology, Roztoky u Prahy