

Abstract

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Studies in Organic Archaeometry V: Chemical analysis of organic material found in traces on an Neolithic terracotta idol statuette excavated in lower Austria

In an Early Neolithic settlement found in Lower Austria and excavated by the Prehistoric Department, Museum of Natural History, Vienna, pieces of broken terracotta figurines were found, all of them belonging to male and female statuettes (the latter being considered as so called idols).

Traces of an organic material found on one of them were analyzed at the Vienna University of Technology.

By means of GC-MS and ensuing chemometric data analysis this organic material could be identified as birch bark pitch, a material frequently used for many purposes in prehistoric Europe.