

18TH CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKGROUP FOR PALAEOETHNOBOTANY

Lecce, 3rd - 8th June 2019



PROGRAM AND ABSTRACTS



**UNIVERSITÀ
DEL SALENTO**

HUMANS AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT IN EPHEBUS AND THE EPHEBUSIA – A COMPARISON OF ON-SITE AND OFF-SITE PALAEOECOLOGICAL DATA

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During the past seven millennia, huge environmental changes have occurred in the environs of the (later) city of Ephesus (W Turkey) due to the delta progradation of the Küçük Menderes and its tributaries within an extended former marine embayment. In addition, an ever increasing human influence on the landscape (settlements, agriculture, herding) has been documented for the area with an emphasis since the beginning of the 1st millennium BCE. For the first time, various environmental signals from the Roman harbour and harbour canal of Ephesus have been compared to synchronous data from the (supposedly unchanged) natural lake of Belevi in the hinterland of Ephesus. The results of palynological, microfaunal, parasitological, geochemical, sedimentological, mineralogical and tephrochronological analyses from both areas were evaluated in order to study the interactions between the antique city and its surroundings.

In contrast to the natural site of Belevi, sources of pollen influx other than pollen rain and surface runoff water have to be considered in addition for the Roman harbour basin and canal of Ephesus. During the period when the harbour was in operation, several pollen types increased significantly, several of them probably related to harbour and naval activities such as the unloading of ships. The clearly changing pollen spectra after the intensive use of the harbour may be due to the damage of parts of Ephesus during an earthquake and declining settlement activities thereafter.

Key-words: paleoecology, human impact, harbour activity, hinterland, Western Turkey
