

## CULTIVATED PLANTS OF THE NORTHERN PONTOS DURING THE GREEK COLONIZATION

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From the very beginning of developing in the new territory, the Greek colonists utilised plant assortment that well known to them. Archaeobotanical remains from archaic Greek settlements of second half of the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> centuries BC, such as Mirmekion, Kozyrka 9, Chertovatoe 7 and others demonstrate that two cereals, naked wheat and hulled barley, prevailed together with peas and vetch in composition. Such structure was during all time of the Greek colonization of Northern Pontos. The assortment consisted of *Triticum aestivum s.l.*, *Hordeum vulgare* and legumes *Pisum sativum*, *Lens culinaris*, *Vicia ervilia*, *Lathyrus sativus* and *Vicia faba*. This list shows the big similarity on all huge area - from Chersonessos up to Bosporan region. Hulled wheats *Triticum dicoccon*, *Triticum monococum*, *Triticum spelta* and *Panicum miliaceum*, *Secale cereale* and *Hordeum vulgare var. coeleste* were also present, although in less significant quantities.

The assortment used by Greek colonists considerably differed from what was known in agricultural economy of neighbouring Scythian and Cherniakhov tribes. *Hordeum vulgare*, *Panicum miliaceum* and also hulled wheats had the advantage in the early Scythians economy of 5<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> centuries BC. These differences are certainly related to a diverse form of economic activity. Archaeobotanical data shows that beginning with the Neolithic and continuing into the first millennium hulled wheats played the basic role in the agricultural economy of various tribes, and only with arrival of the Greek colonists naked wheats appear as one of the basic cereals. Their occurrence is definitely connected with by a different level of the economic activity. More progressive ways of managing the agricultural economy was characteristic for the Greek colonists.

Vegetable and garden cultures were part of the economy too. Finds of figs, peaches, grape and nuts, which were originally brought from Greece, show that fruits held a certain importance in the diet. According to written sources to the beginning of colonization by Greeks of Northern Pontus viniculture in Greece already was advanced. In materials from Northern Pontus grape pips meet, beginning from the earliest settlements of 7<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> century BC. Usually this occasional pips were in amphoras and belong to *Vitis vinifera*. The quantity of finds grows in materials of 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD. Grape pips are mostly found in fragments, smashed. Grape probably use for the wine-making or for eating as raisins.

Practically impossible to identify fossil grape pips as wild or cultivated (Zohary & Hopf 2000, p. 153). Janushevich Z.V. believes that discovery of small grape pips in the Chersonesan materials indicates prevalence of its small-berry population, which is close to wild grape *Vitis sylvestris* (Janushevich, Nikolaenko 1979, p. 126). This grape was domesticated here and used for selection. Later varieties of grapes imported from Greece were used for selection due to what Crimea experienced a great qualitative advance in viticulture development in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD. It was in that time when a range of cultivated varieties emerged there – vinous, currant, and table grapes (Janushevich 1986, p. 69). Janushevich Z.V. thinks that the discovery of a large number of grape seeds in the layers dating from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC in Ilhurat at Bosporus is an evidence of rather an early commence of wine-making in the North coast of Black Sea.

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