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Parasitic nematode eggs from Buiston Crannog, Ayrshire 1989: Assessment report

by

John Carrott

Summary

Eight samples of sediment from excavations at Buiston Crannog, Ayrshire during 1989 were submitted for examination for the eggs of parasitic nematodes. They were almost barren of such remains.

Keywords: Buiston Crannog; Ayrshire; parasitic nematode eggs; *Trichuris*

Authors' address:

Environmental Archaeology Unit
University of York
Heslington
York YO1 5DD

Telephone: (01904) 433843-51
Fax: (01904) 433850

Prepared for:

AOC Scotland Ltd.
The Schoolhouse
4 Lochend Road
Leith
Edinburgh EH6 8BR

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Introduction

Eight selected samples of sediment were submitted to the EAU for examination to determine the presence, or otherwise, of the eggs of parasitic nematodes, and by implication of faecal material.

Methods

The samples were examined using the 'squash' technique of Dainton (1992).

Results

Only one of the samples examined, that from context 402, yielded any parasitic nematode egg remains. This sample contained a single *Trichuris* sp. ovum.

The other contexts examined were as follows: Contexts 12; 227; 308; 312; 316; 327 and 341.

Discussion

None of the samples contained sufficient numbers of parasitic nematode eggs to be of interpretative value. Preservation of other microfossils (such as fungal spores and diatoms) and of plant macrofossils was good which suggests that parasitic nematode eggs were never present in significant numbers within the deposits.

Statement of potential

These samples offer no potential for further analysis of parasitic nematode eggs.

Recommendations

No further work on this work is recommended.

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Reference

Dainton, M. (1992). A quick, semi-quantitative method for recording nematode gut parasite eggs from archaeological deposits. *Circaea* **9**, 58-63.