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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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Following Schliemann – Potential of the Peloponnese peninsula for dendroarchaeology

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Several dendroecological studies are available from the Mountains of the Peloponnese region, while thorough studies from historical buildings and archaeological sites remain very limited. The study of a well-preserved piece of juniper with 250 rings from Shaft Grave V at Mycenae, excavated by Heinrich Schliemann in 1876, but still undated, inspired us to take a closer look on the potential of Peloponnese peninsula, home of the Bronze Age Mycenaean culture, for dendrochronology. In the context of the Balkan-Aegean Dendrochronology Project: «Tree-Ring Research for the Study of SE-European and East Mediterranean Civilizations» we carried out dendroarchaeological surveys both in historical buildings and archaeological excavation sites throughout the Peloponnese. Among others we examined timbers from Byzantine and post-Byzantine buildings, as well as charcoal pieces from the Late Bronze Age site of Ayios Vasileios, a new Mycenaean palace, located south of Sparta. Our findings so far suggest that both local and imported timber, mainly conifers, was used for historical buildings, while the presence of rather unexpected species like the tropical hardwood Azobé (*Lophira alata*) was also recorded in some cases. Charcoal pieces from Ayios Vasileios correspond to local timber, including low altitude Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*), high altitude Black pine (*Pinus nigra*) with narrow rings useful for dendrochronology, but also deciduous oaks (*Quercus* spp.). Through the systematic study of this region we hope to solve the mystery of Schliemann's juniper from the Shaft Grave V and follow the rise of the Mycenaean civilization.

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