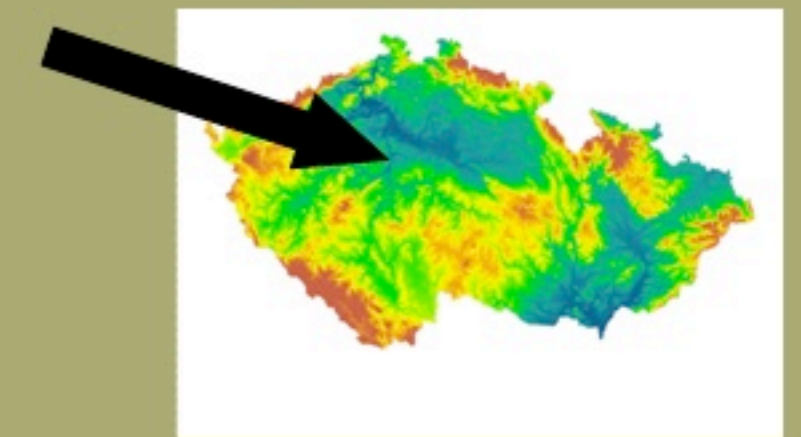


Anthracological and geoarchaeological analysis of early medieval houses in Rožtoky u Prahy (Czech Republic)

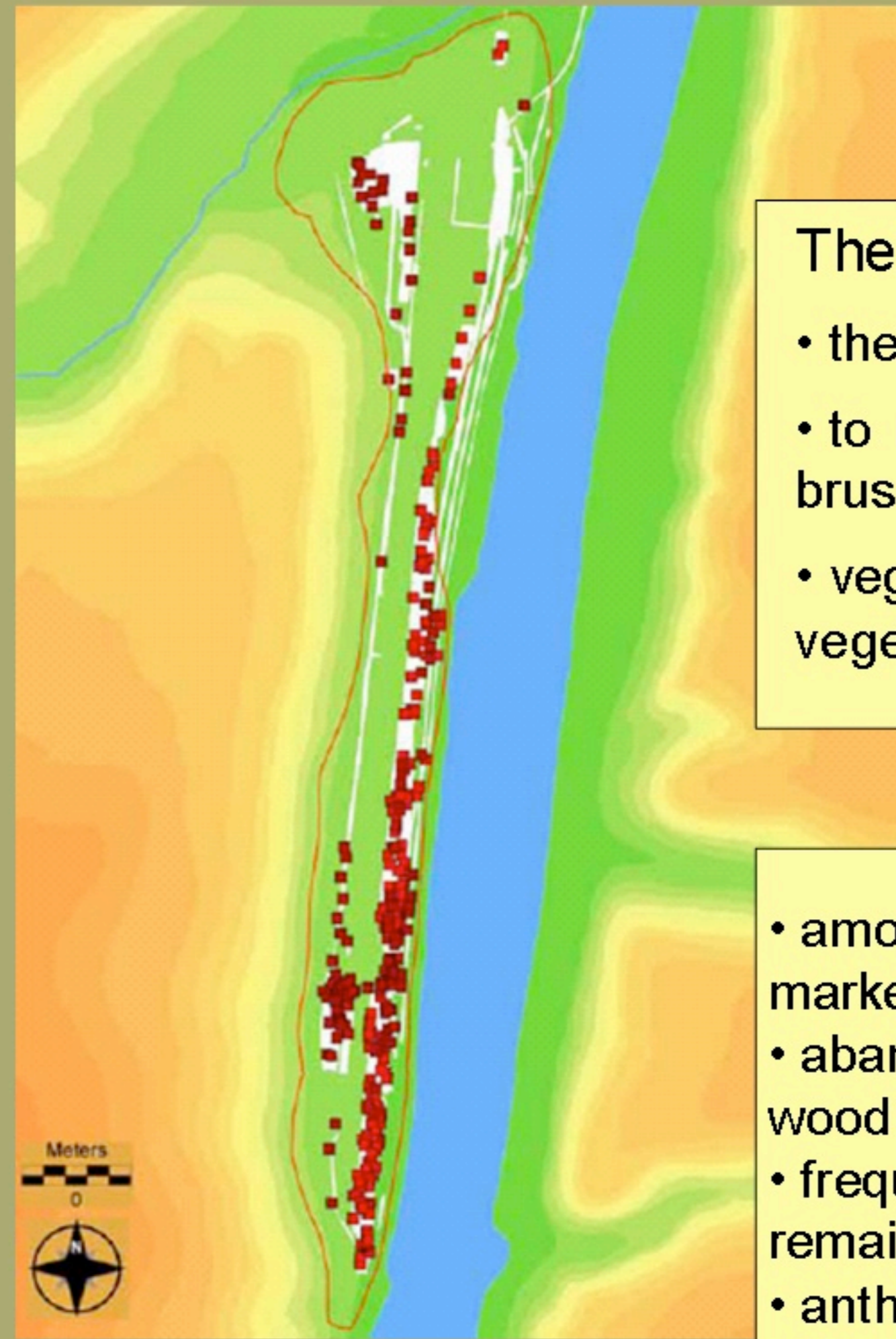
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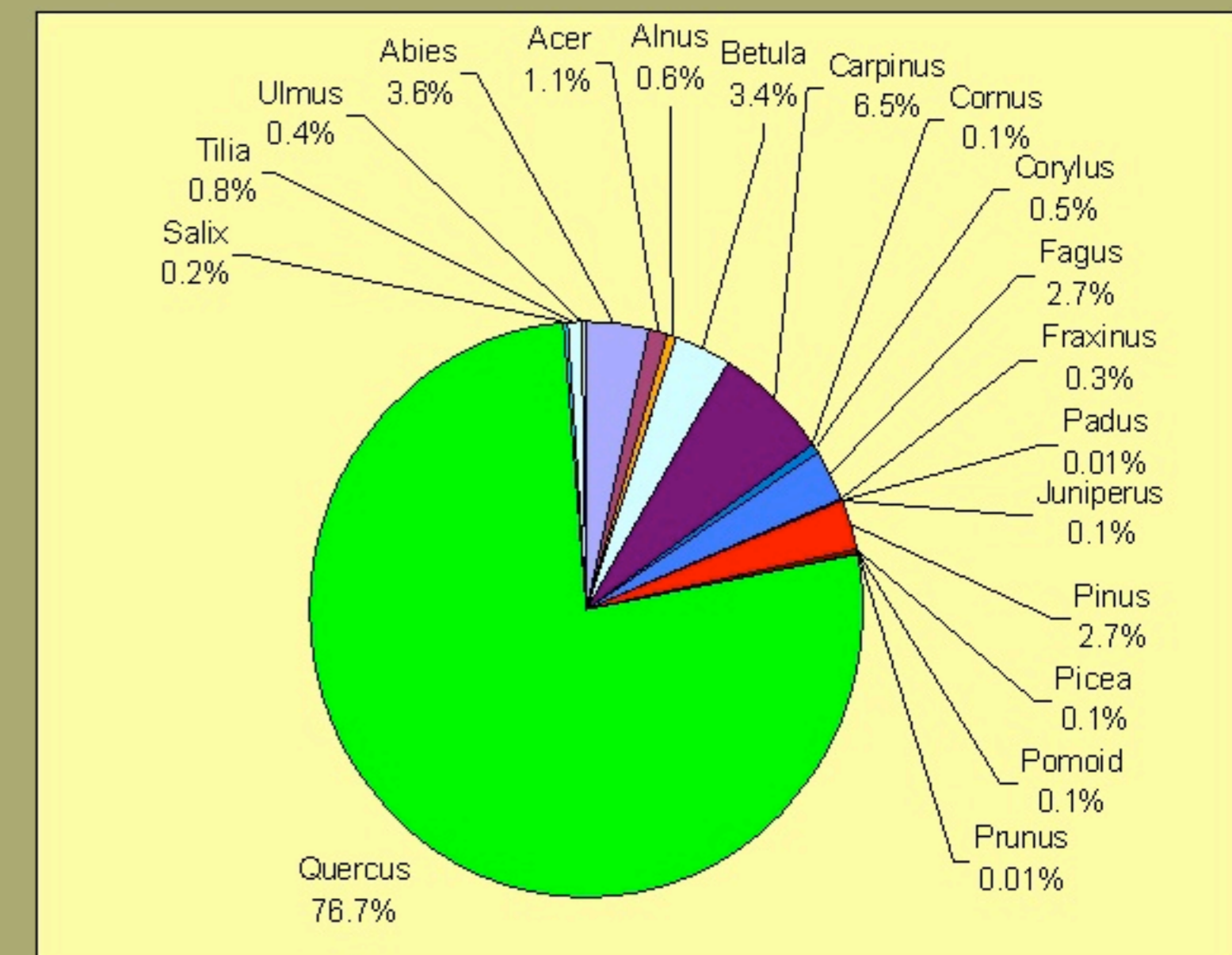
The large agglomeration of settlement features from the 6th and 7th centuries AD has been discovered in Rožtoky u Prahy. These finds belong to the so called **Prague Culture** which is believed to represent the earliest Slavic populations in Central Europe. The unusually high number of early medieval houses (more than **600 houses**) and their location on the floor of a deep canyon-like valley is to much extent enigmatic.

Hypothetically, this concentration of people may be explained by the site being located not only on the major long-distance route, but also at a ford across the river.

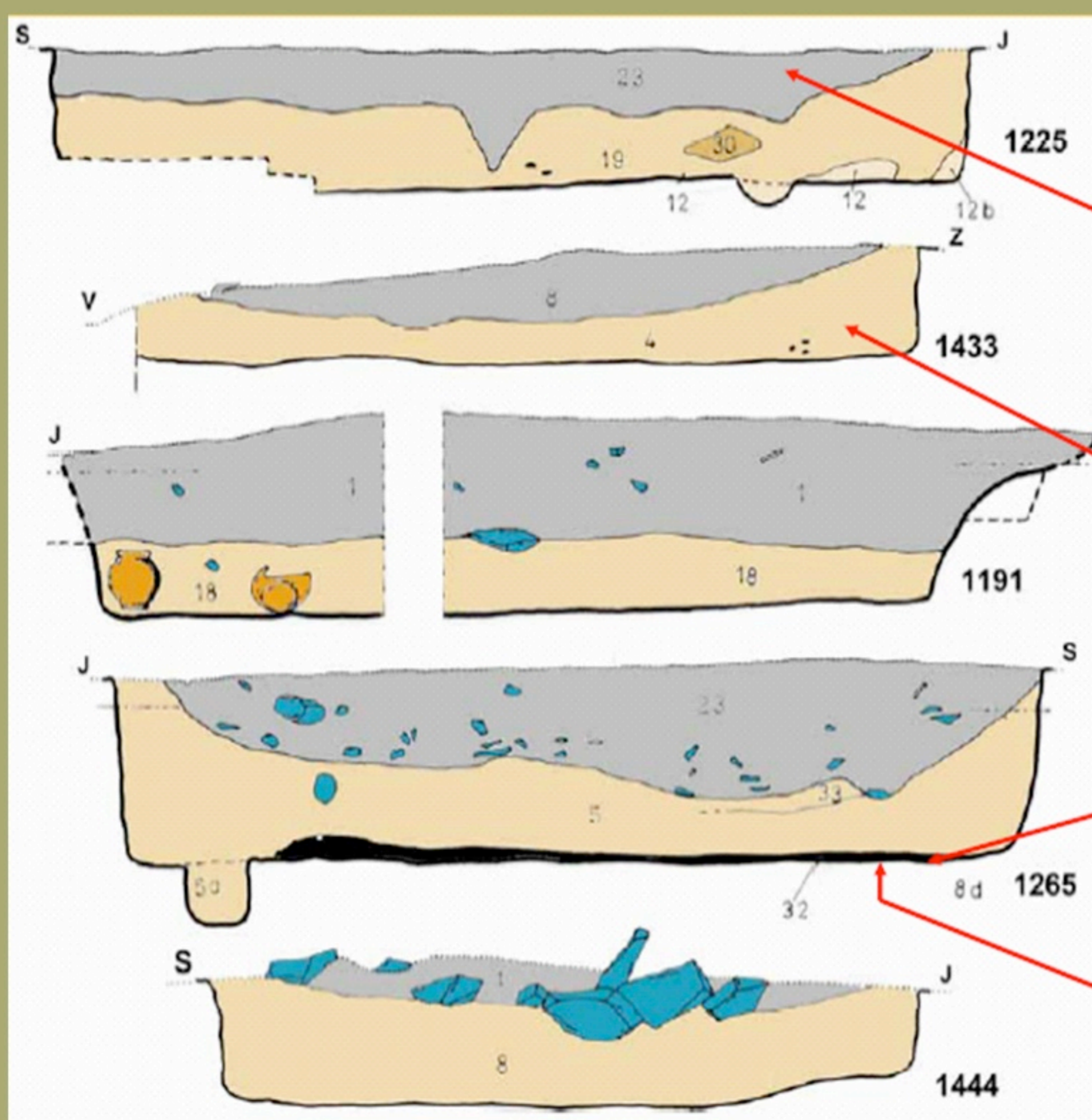
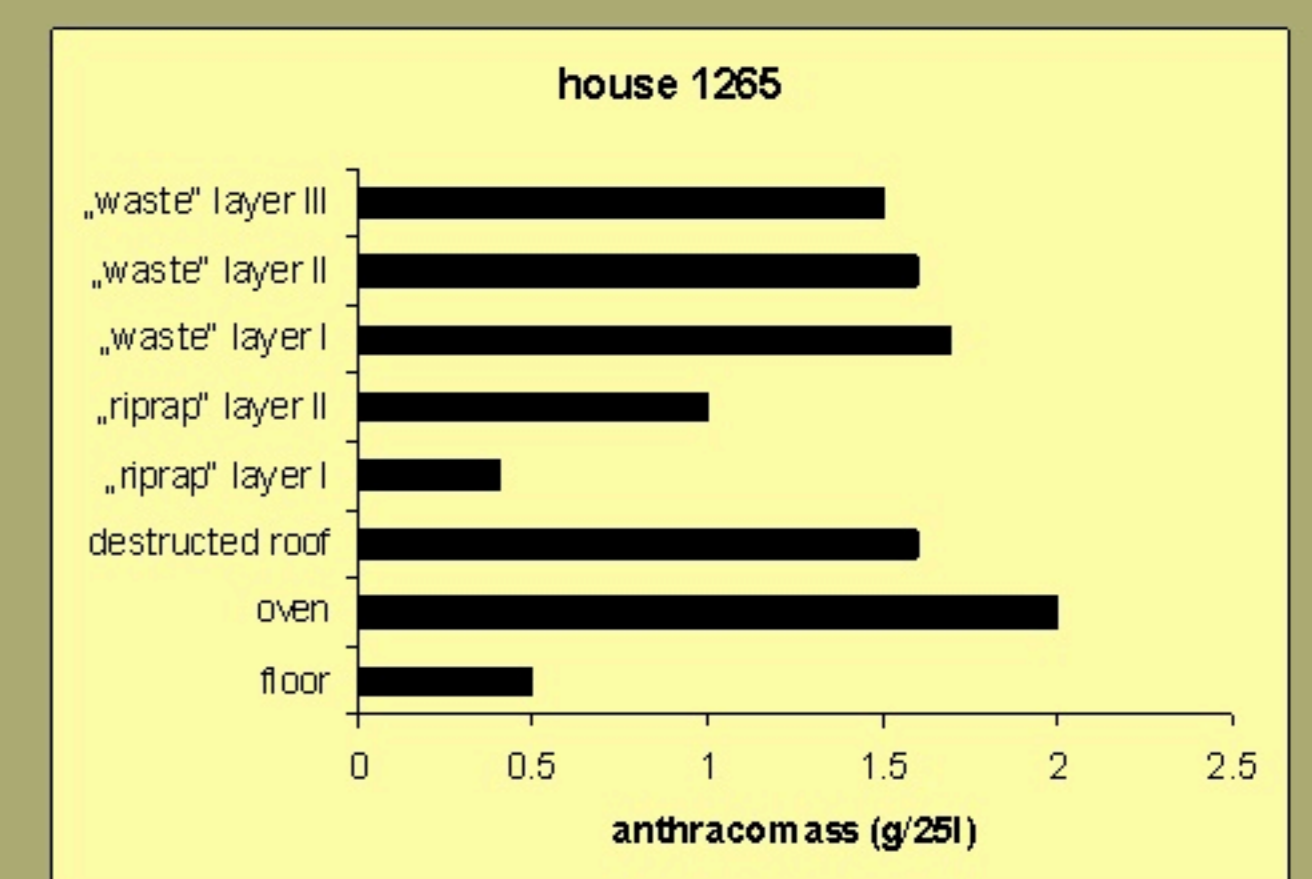
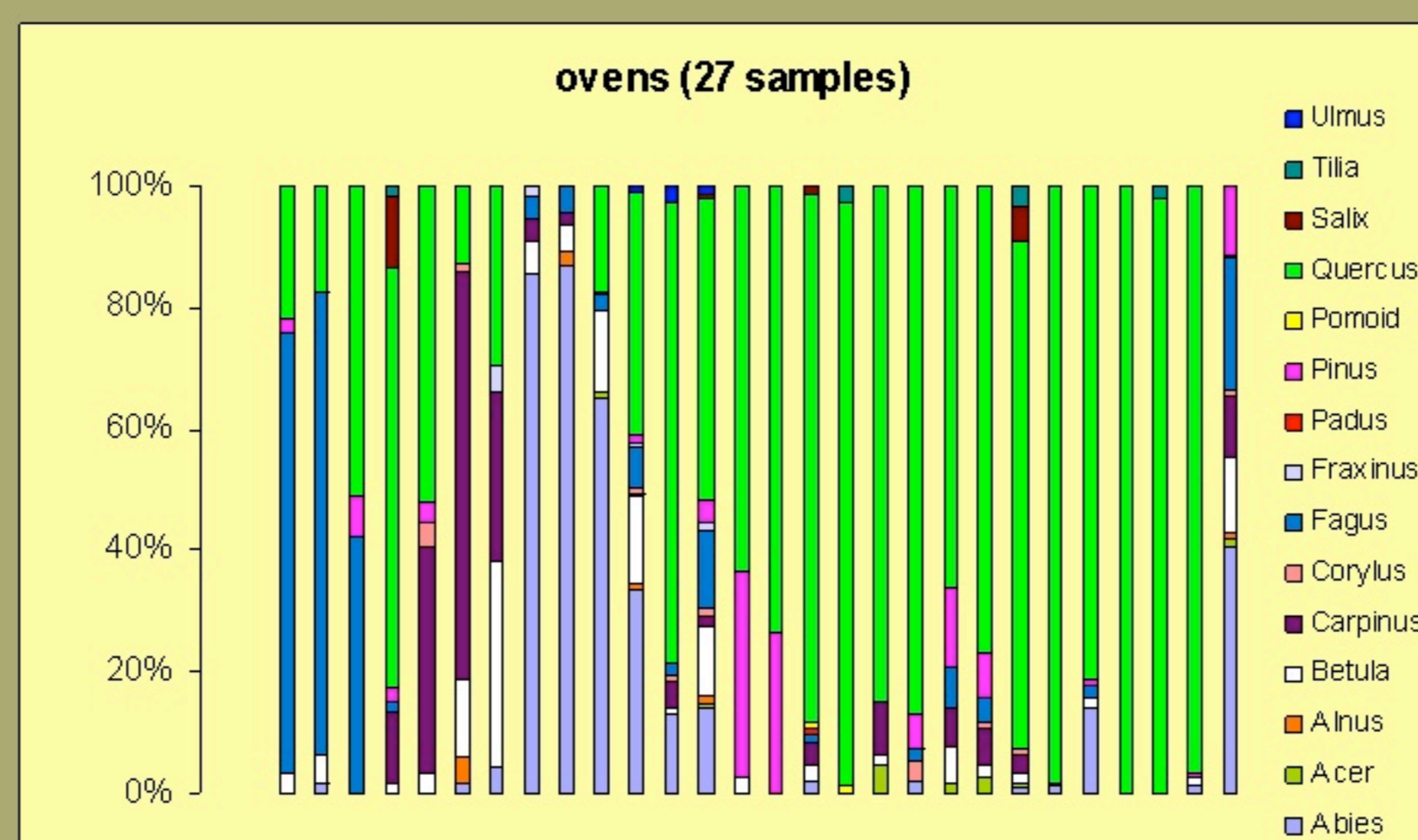
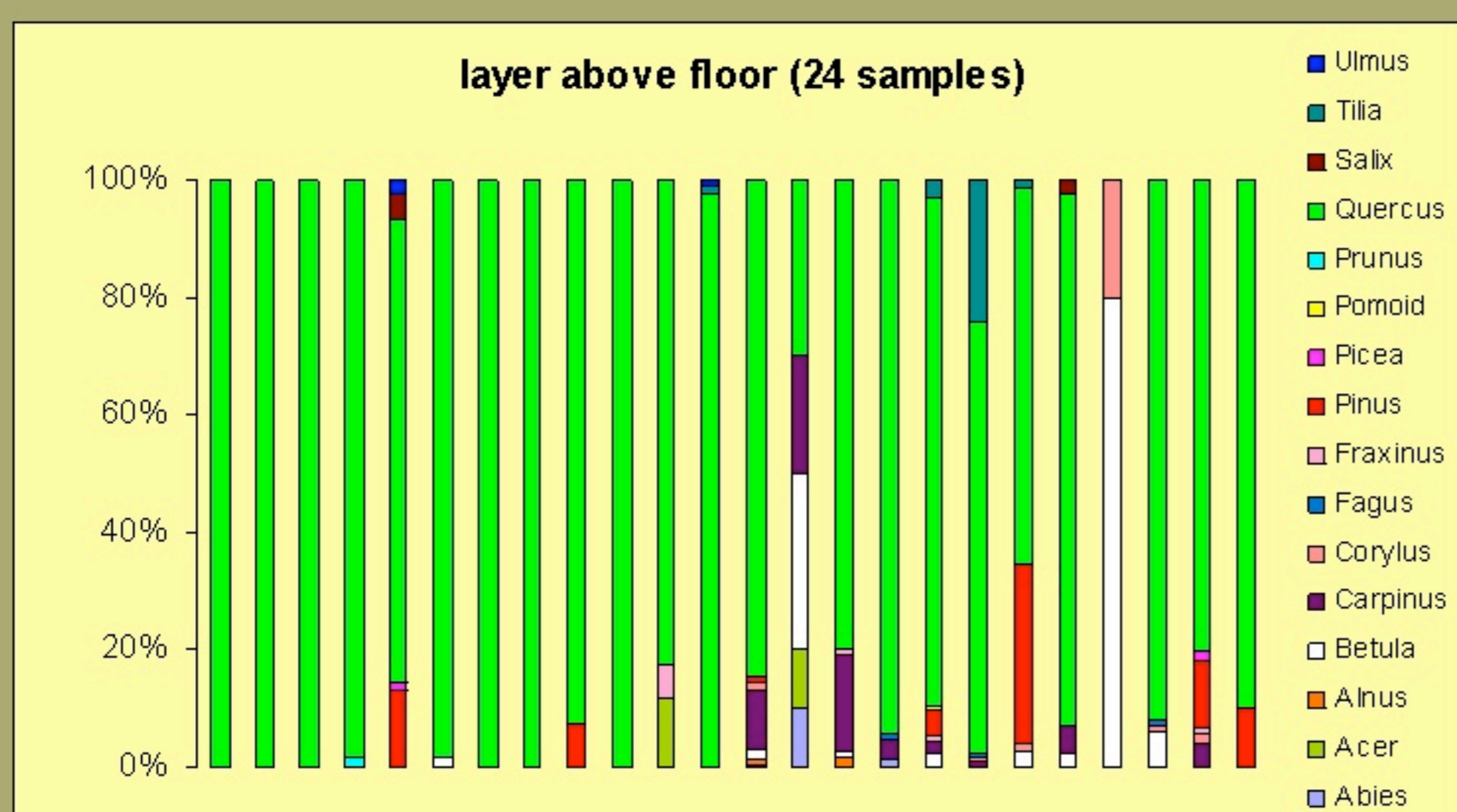
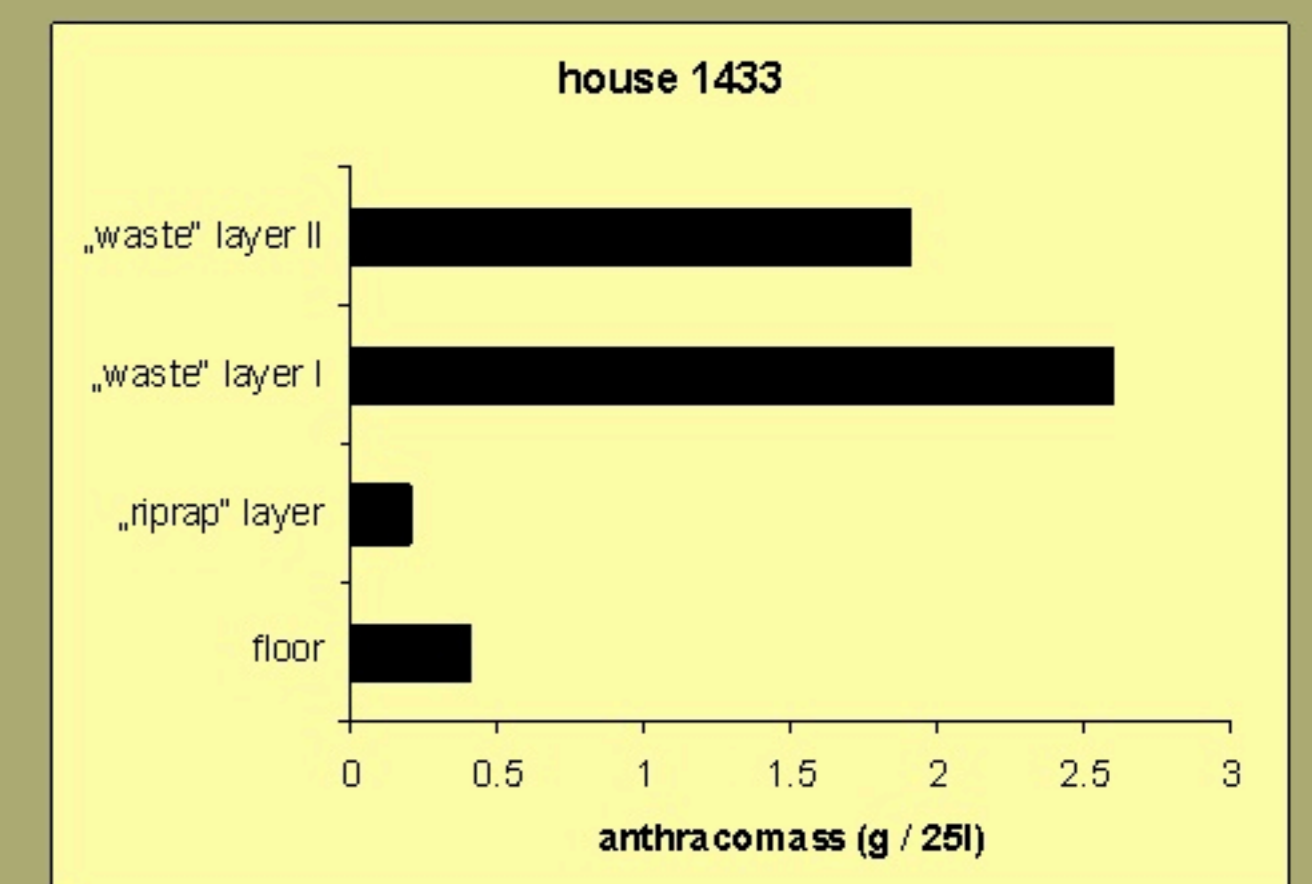


The anthracological analysis:

- the analysis of **16 119** charcoal fragments (18 plant species), 137 samples
- to reconstruct a mosaic of oak-hornbeam forest land, sparse coppice and brushwood used for pasture
- vegetation composition indicates the strong human influence on the vegetation in close proximity



- among the studied archaeological layers the charcoals from the **ovens** were markedly different (ovens with dominance of oak, beech, fir, hornbeam, pine)
- abandoned ovens with dominancies of coniferous charcoals – old construction wood or remains of new constructions
- frequent charcoal from green wood (low reserves for great arrival community, remainders of new constructions, fish smoking...)
- anthracological analysis clearly demonstrate a different anthracomass in archaeological layers of houses.



this layer usually contain a huge amount of charcoal, stones from destroyed ovens and decomposed organic matter („waste“ layer)

20-40 cm thick layer, poor of charcoal and other human activities remains is typical by light orange spots features, which were interpreted as the concentrations of clay minerals. Those concentrations develop postsedimentary during the change of Ph which forced clay minerals movement down the profile („riprap“ layer)

this layer is interpreted as the remain of last human activities in the house before destruction or a part of destroyed roof or oven (decomposed organic matter, remains of bones and charcoal together with strong bioturbation)

floor layer is usually missing and just trampled background more rich of clay minerals and less of voids is preserved

