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# Pedoanthracology, a relevant tool for past ecosystems and landscapes reconstruction

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## Abstract

Origin of present day vegetation is closely related with anthropic activities. Therefore historical and palaeoecological data should be more considered when facing environmental management, especially in context of socio-economic mutations. Since more than 30 years, pedoanthracology allows the investigation of past occurrences of fire events and the taxonomic identification of the correlated burnt woody vegetation by anatomical analysis and absolute dating of charcoal fragments which are present in soils and soil sediment sequences. This original approach contributes in a better understanding of past ecosystems and landscapes structures related to anthropic activities (origin of alpine meadows and mediterranean grasslands, holocene forests composition, naturalness). This communication provides a brief overview of the recent developments in pedoanthracology, focusing on why this discipline would be very helpful for the current ecological studies.

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