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Environmental reconstruction of a Roman Period settlement site in Uitgeest (The Netherlands), with special reference to coprophilous fungi

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Abstract

A palaeo-environmental reconstruction from the Roman Period settlement site Uitgeest-Dorreveest (northwestern Netherlands) based on samples of old soil horizons derived from sods used for building well walls is presented. The settlement was situated in an open landscape, not far from the coast, about 50 km north of the Roman-German border. The site has revealed archaeological evidence for local prosperity and trade with inhabitants of the Roman Empire. Pollen, other microfossils, fruits, seeds, mosses, mites and beetles indicate that the sods were taken from moist, slightly brackish, grazed meadows. The record of fungal spores points to the presence

of dung. The various ascospore types, derived from coprophilous fungi that are generally neglected as palaeo-environmental indicators, have been described, illustrated, and their indicator value discussed.



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## Keywords

Palaeoecology; Coprophilous fungi; Sordariales; Roman Period; The Netherlands

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