Vörs-Máriaasszonysziget - a multi-period archaeological site in SW Hungary

É. Svingor1, K. T. Biró2, K. Gherdán3, Zs. Medzhiradszky4, M. Molnári1, Zs. M. Virág5, N. Kalócz6, I. Fútó1

1Institute of Neanderthals of the HASS (ATOMIK), Budapest, Hungary
2Interdisciplinary Museum, Budapest, Hungary
3Institute of Neanderthals of the HASS (ATOMIK), Széchenyi Intelligencia Központ, Budapest, Hungary
4ELTE University, Dep. of Paleontology and Geobiology, Budapest, Hungary
5Hungarian Natural History Museum, Dep. of Botany, Budapest, Hungary
6National Archaeological Institute of the HASS, Budapest, Hungary

Vörs-Máriaasszonysziget is a multi-period archaeological site spanning from the Early Neolithic (around 5500 BC) to the Early Medieval (Hungarian Conquest) period. The site lies in Southwest Hungary, near Lake Balaton. The exceptionally favourable environmental conditions of the territory offered an ideal setting for habitation. Sites and finds from almost all periods of prehistory were found here, rich till the historical ages. The site has special importance in several points of view [1].

(1) Vörs is known as one of the northernmost extensions of the Stelevalo culture of Southeastern origin, and at the site human remains, representing the richest strata of Transdanubia, were found in two graves.

(2) It represents a very special environment supplying new data on the beginning of agriculture in the Carpathian Basin [2].

(3) The climatic changes and the varying sediment discharge to the lake changed the environment of the site that is traceable in the archaeological finds.

Excavation area and pottery sequence at Vörs

There were at least 8 distinct periods of habitation separated on the basis of traditional archeological methods. 15 to 20 samples from each period were chosen through microscopic investigation of fabric and form for archaeanalyst analysis. The pottery assemblage of the locality provided a good possibility for a diachronic study of changes in raw material selection and pottery manufacture.

It is probable that there was a common raw material at the site, available and used at all the examined periods. This raw material is represented by the fabric and chemical composition of the basic pottery groups. In certain cases this material was tempered in different ways: in Stelevalo culture with vegetable material;

— in Lengyel, Kostolac and Kiterpeszeg cultures with gypsum.

In all these cases a local origin is very probable [3].

### References

### Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time span</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>14C (bp)</th>
<th>Radiocarbon age (BP)</th>
<th>Calendar age (BC)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Bronze Age</td>
<td>12798</td>
<td>VÖ-21319</td>
<td>24.8</td>
<td>3270 ± 70</td>
<td>3200 ± 70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Bronze Age</td>
<td>12762</td>
<td>VÖ-21319</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>3270 ± 70</td>
<td>3200 ± 70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Bronze Age</td>
<td>12766</td>
<td>VÖ-21320</td>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>3270 ± 70</td>
<td>3200 ± 70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The samples for radiocarbon dating were selected from four main periods and dated according to the standard laboratory procedures. The obtained results were processed with the standard radiocarbon method. The samples were processed according to standard procedures, and the results are given in the form of calendar ages, which were calculated using the CALIB program. The results are given in the form of calendar ages, which were calculated using the CALIB program. The results are given in the form of calendar ages, which were calculated using the CALIB program.