PROJECT TITLE: Archaeobotanical Approaches to Coupled Human-Natural Ecosystems in the Mediterranean

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Project Description

Area of Research: This research focuses on assessing human adaptation to shifting environmental conditions in Mediterranean prehistory, through application of archaeobotanical and paleoenvironmental methods.

Research tasks: The student will help to prepare, sort, identify, and document plant remains from a drained wetland (Lake Maliq) in Albania and an associated Neolithic through Early Iron Age archaeological site situated at water's edge. Analysis will focus on macrobotanical remains such as seeds and wood, with the resulting data to be integrated with existing microfossil (pollen) and lithostratigraphic evidence from Lake Maliq.

Subject to funding availability, the student may also have the opportunity to participate in excavation and the recovery of plant remains at a Late Bronze Age (Mycenaean) site in southern Greece.

Training provided to the student: The student will receive training in wood and seed anatomy and identification, selection of an appropriate sample / sub-sample to address specific research questions, the use of a comparative collection for the identification of fossil plant remains, and the integration of regional (pollen) and local (microfossil) paleoenvironmental indicators. The student will also receive training for written and oral presentation of research.

Expectations the student should meet: The student should have strong organization, observation, and communication skills.