



Conference:

Wood charcoal production, charcoal burners, charcoal kilns
Inventory of the knowledge and perspectives of research

September the 12th and 13th 2013

Faculté des Lettres et des Sciences Humaines de l'Université de
Limoges

Call for abstract

The current forest landscapes are inherited from centuries of forest management to supply, among other products, the fuel necessary for human activities. Indeed charcoal used to constitute the main industrial and domestic type of fuel in both urban and rural areas. In this sense, the wood charcoal production constitutes a territorial socioeconomic phenomenon. Even though information from written sources become scarce for ancient periods, numerous archaeological remains attest to the importance of charcoal for recent and past communities, when the condition of preservation allow us to decipher and interpret such remains. Nevertheless, the economic importance of charcoal production for historical and protohistorical communities has been neglected by the academic historiography. This is why it seems important for a conference to focus on this subject. Indeed, its historical and archaeological objects offer numerous research issues. The study of ancestral gestures and practices, the spatial approach of woodland dynamics, the palaeobotanical and biogeographical analyses of forests in which charcoal was produced, are so many approaches investigated by researchers for around thirty years. They have , until now, never been the object of a synthesis.

Because the study of charcoal production combines numerous disciplines (history, ethnography, archaeology, geography, archaeobotany, ecology etc.), most of the scientific investigations are published and presented in specialised reviews or meetings and therefore remain isolated. The wood charcoal production is far from being a simple subject of study, and turn out to be extremely polymorphic. As a matter of fact, this topic is more complex than it seems and requires some interdisciplinary approaches in order to allow a holistic study. This conference convenes as the first demonstration gathering researchers of different disciplines. Therefore it constitutes an opportunity to review the state of the

art and the methodologies used, as well as to discuss the creation of a network of researchers in order to homogenize fieldwork practices and analytical procedures and to allow better comparisons between different areas of study.

The meeting will be structured around three themes:

First theme: The wood charcoal production as a socioeconomic phenomenon in the heart of territories: biological and forest spaces, economic spaces, social spaces;

Second theme: Knowledge, cultures and technical heritage: gestures, practices, tools;

Third theme: New approaches around the wood charcoal production: tools and methods.

Organising committee

Sandrine Paradis-Grenouillet (Géolab UMR 6042 CNRS), Romain Rouaud (Géolab UMR 6042 CNRS),
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Scientific committee

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Abstract submission deadline: April the 30th 2013

If you are interested in submitting a paper or a poster, please send your abstract (about 2000 signs, in Word format) to s.paradis@wanadoo.fr

You will be informed by email before **June the 30th 2013** if your submission has been accepted by the scientific committee

