MuseoEurope 2023, Maribor (19. – 21. October)

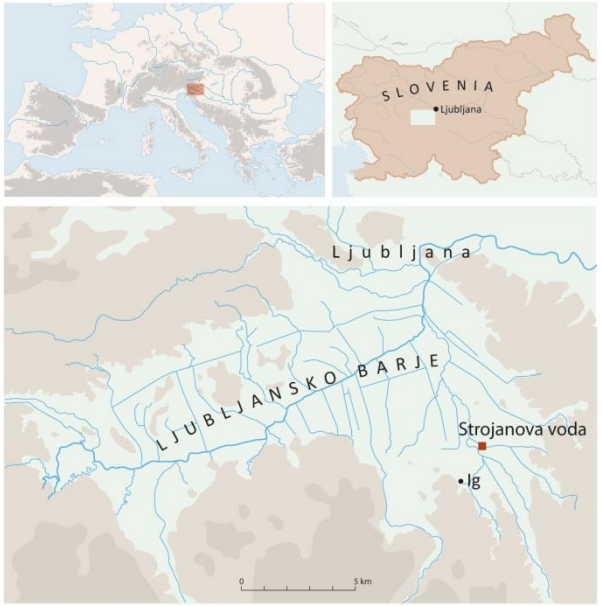
Red dogwood, the forgotten ethnobotanical heritage of the pile-dwellers

Tjaša Tolar

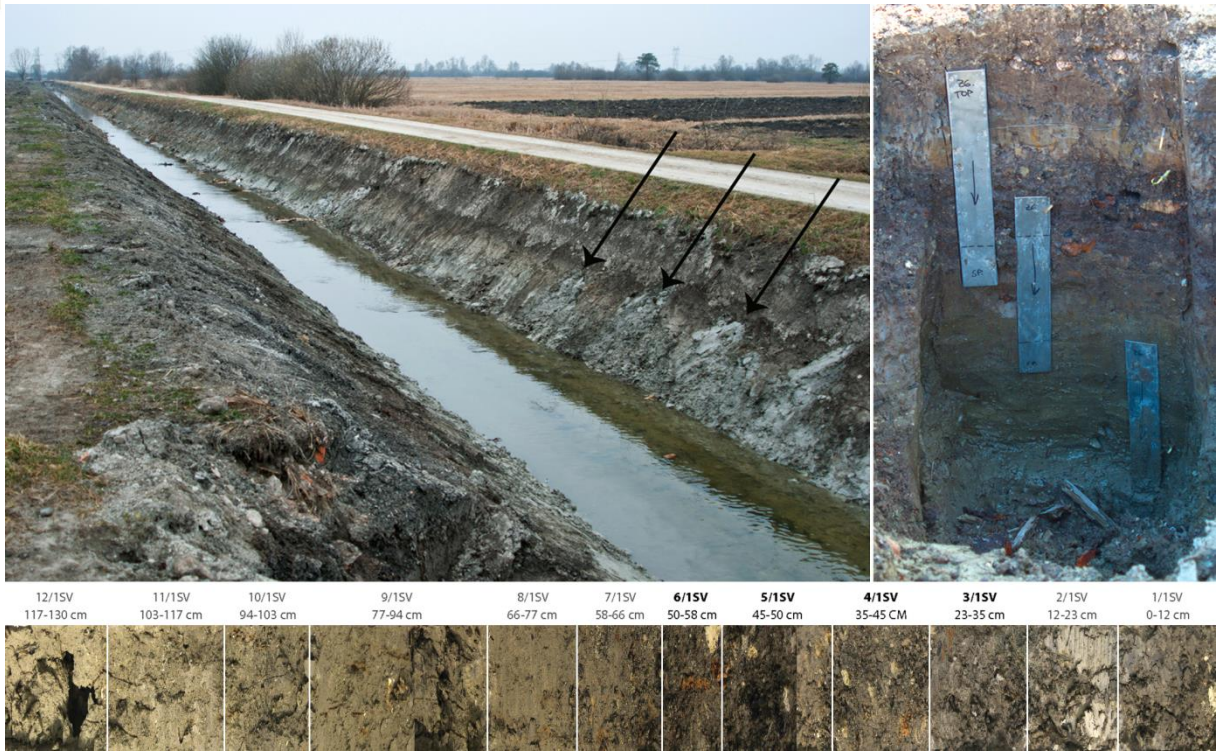
Tip COBISS: 3.15 Prispevek na konferenci brez natisa
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During excavations in 2012, numerous fragments of *Cornus sanguinea* shells were found in the cultural layer of the Late Neolithic pile-dwelling settlement of Strojanova voda in Ljubljansko barje, Slovenia.

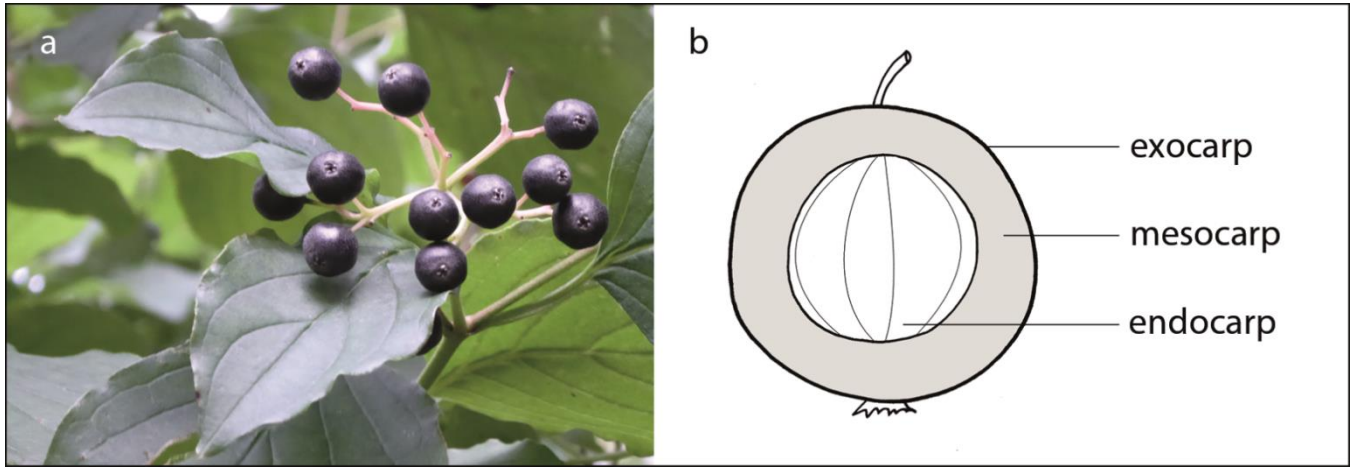


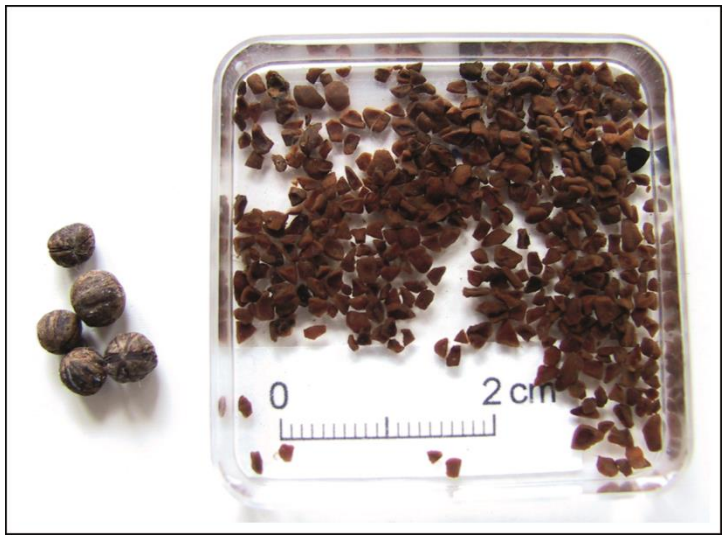



0
2 cm

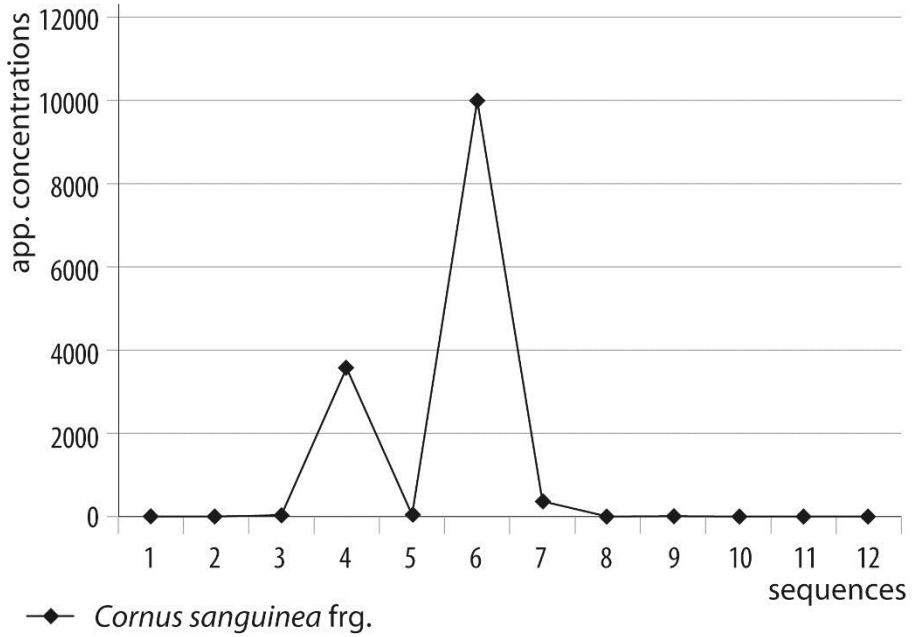
Cornus sanguinea
(red dogwood, rdeči dren)

The fruits of the red dogwood are considered inedible, but the numerous crushed endocarps in the culture layer suggest that they were used for some purpose.





Sequences of 1SV	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
app. conc.	0	0	38	3571	44	10000	370	0	5	0	0	0



C14 dates of shell fragments:

from 7/1SV: 4005 cal BC median
from 4/1SV: 4008 cal BC median

What for ?

The experiments
and chemical analyses
were performed to obtain
information about
possible use.



Observations during experimental work



After processing on a quern-stone, very fine and malleable material was obtained.



Some oil has been extracted by boiling and cooking.



During cooking, the substance of the fruit visibly foams in the water.
The unpleasant smell of the cooked „soup“ convinced us that these fruits had not been used for juice extraction.

After crushing the fruits in the mortar, it became cleaner than before.



Dying the textiles ?



Washing and cleaning ?



Possible uses

Observed properties:

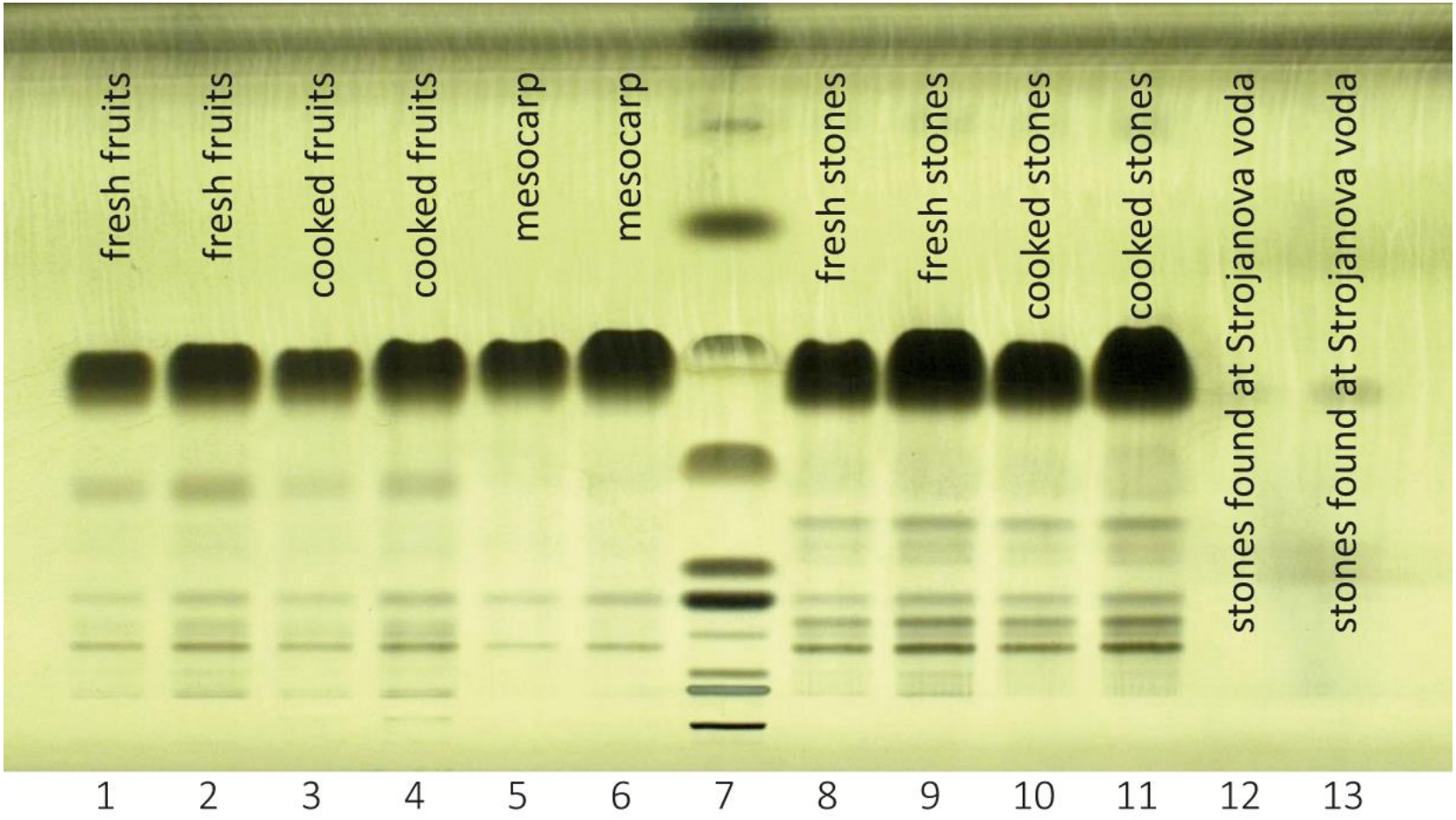
oily, emollient, foaming, cleansing

- for oil,
- for cosmetics (i.e. body soap or cream),
- for detergent
- or even medicinal purposes

Chemical analyses confirmed the presence of:

- saponins
- lipids
- anthocyanins (i.e. red and blue pigments)
- proanthocyanidins

Lipids


fresh fruits
fresh fruits
cooked fruits
cooked fruits
mesocarp
mesocarp
fresh stones
fresh stones
cooked stones
cooked stones
stones found at Strojanova voda
stones found at Strojanova voda
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13

Conclusions

Red dogwood fruits could in addition to OIL extraction very likely be used as a type of:

BODY SOAP, CREAM or DETERGENT FOR DISHES

The antioxidative characteristics of proanthocyanidins are efficient as antiage and antibacterial agents in today pharmacy.

New chemical analyses should be done.

Application of the pile-dwellers heritage



oil extraction



soap making


ZA
ZADOVOLJNO
OBČUTLJIVO
KOŽO
THE BODY SHOP
MEDITERRANEAN ALMOND MILK WITH OATS
INSTANT SOOTHING MASK
MASQUE APAISANT INSTANTANÉ