

Paleoethnobotany Lab Report #53
University of California, Berkeley
65 Kroeber Hall
Berkeley, CA 94720

A relational database of unknown seeds

Melinda Green, William T. Whitehead and Christine A. Hastorf

October 2002

This report is a document describing the database and its uses for the PEB laboratory

A. Purpose: To provide a usable and convenient paper and electronic database for all the unknown seeds and plant parts from archaeological samples encountered in the lab

B. Scope: All unknown plant parts that are referenced in any PEB article, report or publication that are unidentified at the time of publication should be referenced by the PEB lab unknown number so future researchers can refer back to the permanent plant part for research or verification.

C. Format: All unknowns will have a unique numeric tag and all relevant information about the unknown should be recorded in each project's notes and permanent records and in the electronic database. Paper copies are housed in a binder set for easy browsing and referral.

D. Description of database

The database is a Filemaker pro 6.0 format relational database housed on the primary TAP pc in the PEB lab. The fields used for description of the unknown are as follows

1. Unknown #: A unique numeric tag assigned in sequential order for each unique unknown plant part

2. Year: year unknown was identified

3. Provenience: All relevant information about the unknowns archaeological context. At a minimum this should include the project name, the unit, level, loci, event, flot id and any spatial locators associated with the unknown

4. Authority: this is the initials of the last person who has made an assignment of identification to the unknown. This field begins with the record create and is amended as the unknown is inspected by other lab members or researchers

5. Solved?: if an unknown is confidently identified this field is marked with a Y, if it is still unknown a N is used in this field.

6. Definate ID: is field is used if the unknown is confidently assigned a genus and species.

7. Possilbe ID: this field is used to store the possible id of the unknown

8. Disposition of sample: this field is used to note the location of the sample or any information about its wherabouts.

9. Synonymy: this field is used if another unknown in the collection is the same as the one now assigned

10. Notes: This field is used to make an discussion on the unknown that is relevent but does not fall into any of the above categories.

11. Photo of unknown: this is a container field used to house a TIF or JPG of the unknown

12. Line drawing1: this is a contaner field used to house a TIF or JPG of a line drawing scan of the unknown.

13. Linve drawing2: this is a second container field used to house a TIF or JPG of a line drawing scan of the unknown.

Paleoethnobotany Unknown
Seed Collection
Reference Card
May 2002

UNK # 1

Year 1983

Provenience 7-2-6-3-3-1 1982 #295

Authority GP

Solved?

Definite ID

Possible ID Convolvus, Malva

Disposition of Sample

Notes

Synonymy

Notes

