

Allegheny County Late Woodland Villages

		18AG8	18AG43	18AG44	18AG144
		Barton II	Moore Village	Wallizer	Paw Paw
Nut/Pit Fragments	Possible Uses				
acorn (carbonized)	edible		1		
hazelnut (carbonized)	edible		5		
hickory (bitternut)	not palatable		54		
hickory (indeterminate)	some sp. edible		4		
hickory (thick-shelled)	edible		41		
walnut	edible	X	17	21	
wild plum (carbonized)	edible		4		
other/unspecified nuts				92	X
Seeds					
blackberry (possible)	edible, roots are medicinal		X		
blueberry (possible)	edible				
copperleaf	medicinal				7
grape	edible	X			
locust	some sp. w/ edible legume pulp	X			
native pennyroyal	medicinal, insect repellent			1	
pokeweed	medicinal, pigment/dye, edible leaves	X			
sumac	fruits used in a tea, mixed w/ tobacco		X		1
other seeds			X		3
Native Domesticates					
amaranth			X		
goosefoot			X		1
knotweed					13
Tropical Domesticates					
legume (possible)			1		
maize cob			1		
maize kernal			1		X

X = Presence noted, but not quantified

Some Conclusions

- 1) Seeds from medicinal plants and nuts are the most widely distributed ethnobotanical remains from flotation samples at Late Woodland, Allegheny County sites (present at all four sites).
- 2) By comparison, plant domesticates (both native and tropical cultigens) are more restricted in their distribution.
- 3) Though not illustrated above, this pattern may be related to elevation differences. The Moore Village and Paw Paw site, where domesticates were recovered, are both situated at around 160 meters above sea level, while the other two sites are considerably higher (18AG8 = 201m, 18AG44 = 222m).
- 4) This pattern is likely related to shorter growing seasons at higher elevations rather than differential preservation (freeze-thaw cycles). While no domesticates were recovered at the two higher elevation sites, medicinal seeds were recovered at all four sites regardless of elevation, and consumable (food plant) seeds were recovered from three of the four sites. One would expect these "wild" seeds to be absent if preservation was an issue.

Questions

- 1) Is this pattern replicated elsewhere in Maryland and/or in surrounding states?