

HYK A 5/7  
3301

CHRISTCHURCH - Latex impressions from pots Ref. X17-10; X17-52; X17-142; X17-205

The latex impressions; pots and fragments were examined visually and microscopically. Although there are a great many impressions, unfortunately they lack depth to give sufficient detail by which accurate identification can be made.

Most of the impressions are of grass stems with an occasional deeper and wider impressions suggesting a cereal straw, from the external markings it is most probable the cereal is an oat (Avena sp.)

X17-10: Six latex impressions.

One whole grain of Hordeum sp. (barley) most likely H. distichon L., two-row barley as the grain is not showing the length nor the characteristics associated with the six-row type. Two small fragments of a cereal grain are also present. One fruiting perianth of a Rumex sp., which could be either a sorrel or a small dock, the damaged perianth has only one side visible so it is impossible to see the presence or absence of tubercles which would help to give an accurate identification.

X17-52 Six latex impressions lettered A-F

F. Long fine strands of a grass with thin stems, such as Poa pratensis L. - smooth stalked meadow grass, or one of the fine fescues. One segment of the lomentum of Raphanus raphanistrum L., wild radish.

E. Shallow straw impressions with an Avena caryopsis, from the size and shape it is most probably Avena sativa L. - the cultivated oat.

D. Too shallow to identify.

C. Rumex achene and a fragment of a cereal grain - not identifiable because of the size and positioning.

B. Nothing identifiable.

A. Straw impressions, most probably Avena, and a few pieces of broken grains. The grass stems again are so criss-crossed that they conceal details of any spikelets present.

X17-142 Seven latex impressions

These impressions show fragmented cereal grains with occasional pieces of fractured rachis segments, mostly of a Hordeum species. The amount of stem and straw impressions completely obliterate any identifiable detail.

X17-205

A collection of very shallow markings of grass stems, so faint that it is impossible to assess. From the length of the stems combined with the diameter, it is most likely to be of a grass such as Poa pratensis L. or a fine fescue.

P.J. PARADINE

CHRISTCHURCH. Latex impressions.

The latex impressions from this site would appear to be very interesting and, if possible, it is quite likely that on closer examination they would reveal quite a lot of cereal grains. When sherds show this amount of impressions it is usual for the pottery to contain quite a lot of actual plant material, and a more precise and accurate analysis can be given of the cereals. Sample Ref. No.s X17 142 and X17 52 would be the most valuable for information, if small pieces of the sherds were available to break down?

Over all, the impressions are far too criss crossed to identify any of the straw and this in turn tends to turn the rachis segments to one side, but in a lop-sided manner. Amongst all the straw there is the odd grain, No. 142 shows fragments of cereals and rachis segments, but most are actually hidden by the vast amount of straw, or too shallow to be certain of their origin. It would be most interesting to examine the material first hand. X17 52 shows a small piece of *Raphanus raphanistrum* pod; a possible *Avena caryopsis* (oat) a piece of achene from a *Rumex* (dock or sorrel) and some more very interesting grain and rachis fragments. X17 205 appears to be mainly grass stems, but are so faint that it is unfair to attempt any assesment. X17 10 has a very good barley grain (*Hordeum* sp.) complete and one fragmented grain, there are also impressions of grass caryopsis, achenes of a dock or sorrel (*Rumex* sp.) perianth enclosed and broken grains.

If a more accurate description is required - and the latex impressions strongly suggest the possibility of plant material being impregnated in the sherds, then small pieces which can be broken down would be most welcome.

