

1 **Title:** *Identification of woodland management practices and tree growth conditions in*  
2 *archaeological fuel waste remains: a case study from the site of Çatalhöyük in central*  
3 *Anatolia, Turkey*

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7  
8 **Abstract:** This paper presents the results of dendroanthracological analyses conducted on the  
9 anthracological assemblage retrieved from Neolithic and Chalcolithic occupations excavated  
10 at Çatalhöyük (central Anatolia, Turkey). Besides standard botanical identification of the  
11 charcoal macroremains, a range of anatomical features were also recorded including the  
12 presence of fungal decay, traumatic growth, tyloses and discontinuous growth rings. The  
13 qualitative assessment of growth ring curvature (following Marguerie and Hunot 2007) was  
14 supplemented by quantitative estimations of minimum wood diameter (following Paradis et  
15 al. 2013) alongside sequential ring width measurements. Botanical identifications,  
16 dendroanthracological features and quantitative measurements obtained from individual  
17 charcoal fragments, were analysed using multivariate statistical techniques. These permitted  
18 assessing the relative importance of wood size, type and species in prehistoric fuel selection,  
19 and obtaining a detailed view of environmental and management impacts on prehistoric  
20 woodland growth conditions. The results of this work indicate the deep antiquity of woodland  
21 management practices in the semi-arid continental regions of Southwest Asia dating as early  
22 as the Neolithic period.

23  
24 **Keywords:** dendroanthracology, charcoal analysis, woodland management, Neolithic,  
25 Çatalhöyük

## 26 27 **1. Introduction**

28 Beginning with its earliest applications, anthracology has been increasingly concerned with  
29 the question of human impacts on woodland environments (Western 1969, Salisbury and Jane  
30 1940). Some early work focused on taxon identifications and shifts in the relative proportions  
31 of taxa used as fuel, thereby indicating shifts in woodland composition (e.g., Chabal 1992,  
32 Chabal 1994 and Chabal 1997 see also review by Asouti and Austin 2005). Contemporary  
33 anthracology seeks to reconstruct woodland management practices through the integrated  
34 study of taxon identifications, estimates of the minimum diameter of wood and the condition  
35 of fuelwood (cf., Dufraisse 2008, Marguerie and Hunot 2007). The importance of wood size  
36 and condition in fuelwood selection is also confirmed by various ethnographic and  
37 experimental accounts (cf., Asouti and Austin 2005, Alix and Brewster 2005, Dufraisse et al.  
38 2007, Henry and Théry-Parisot 2014, Théry-Parisot et al. 2010) which demonstrate that the

39 calibre and condition (e.g., deadwood, green/seasoned wood) of the wood collected as fuel  
40 can be as important determinants of fuel selection as the (real or perceived) burning qualities  
41 of the different tree or shrub species. In addition to this, woodland management practices  
42 such as coppicing, pollarding, shredding, transplanting and other silvicultural applications  
43 exert long-lasting impacts on the structure and composition of woodland vegetation. Thus  
44 detecting the wood anatomical signatures of such practices in archaeological fuel wood waste  
45 remains is a topic of perennial interest in anthracology. Cyclical cutting, control of species  
46 composition and structure are documented in a wide range of broadleaved woodlands in  
47 Europe and Southwest Asia (cf., Peterken 1981, Rackham 2001, Asouti and Kabukcu 2014)  
48 and, more rarely, in slow-growing coniferous woodlands (Asouti and Kabukcu 2014: Fig.  
49 13). This paper presents the results of the systematic application of a wide range of  
50 techniques employed in anthracology for assessing woodland growth conditions, and  
51 preferences with regard to species, size and condition of fuel logs, to secondary fuel wood  
52 waste and *in situ* hearth charcoals from Çatalhöyük. The excellent preservation of this large,  
53 multi-period anthracological assemblage rendered Çatalhöyük an ideal case study for testing,  
54 in a systematic manner, the applicability of these approaches.

55 In anthracology, the identification of woodland management practices (commonly limited to  
56 the detection of coppicing) focuses primarily on quantitative and/or qualitative estimations of  
57 wood calibre. It is argued that the preservation of a uniformly narrow range of stem diameters  
58 constitutes evidence of coppicing, which is frequently found in charcoal assemblages derived  
59 from construction timber and charcoal production kiln fires (e.g., Nelle, 2002, Dufraisse  
60 2008). On the other hand, woodland management practices for domestic fuelwood production  
61 include a diverse array of harvest strategies, which invariably result in the production of  
62 equally diverse wood diameter classes. Furthermore, as fuelwood waste is subject to a series  
63 of taphonomic filters, including conditions in various fire installations and post-depositional  
64 alterations, the minimum wood diameters reconstructed from charcoal remains may be  
65 smoothed, thus limiting the value of diameter estimations as a tool for reconstructing past  
66 woodland management practices. In addition, detailed evaluations of growth-ring width series  
67 have been predominantly applied to timbers from historical buildings and kiln charcoal fuel;  
68 by contrast, their application to fuelwood remains has been piecemeal (Billamboz 2003,  
69 Deforce and Haneca 2015). The Çatalhöyük anthracological assemblages, including a  
70 representative assemblage of well-preserved fuel waste remains from different hearth types  
71 accumulated over long periods of time, present a unique opportunity to test the applicability  
72 of these methods for assessing charcoal taphonomy and reconstructing prehistoric domestic  
73 fuel wood production and use.

74 It is often difficult to differentiate between the impacts of woodland management practices  
75 such as coppicing, pollarding, shredding, lopping, etc. and environmental impacts on wood  
76 anatomy (e.g., through fluctuations in rainfall and ground moisture, defoliation caused by  
77 browsing, disease and pests, fire damage, etc.). This situation is further compounded by intra-  
78 specific variation that characterises the wood anatomical structure of seedlings, shoots (long  
79 and short) and stems. Various studies of managed woodlands (e.g., Rozas 2003, Corcuera et  
80 al. 2006, Schweingruber 2007, Copini et al. 2010, Altman et al. 2013, Deforce and Haneca  
81 2015) have demonstrated that management practices impact on wood anatomy by enhancing

82 or hindering annual growth (expressed as fluctuations in growth-ring width) independent of  
 83 environmental fluctuations. For example, coppicing often involves mixtures of coppice stools  
 84 and standards (large, mature trees). Generally, shoots growing from cut down coppice stools  
 85 have wider growth rings and larger vessel diameter compared to seedlings. After a cycle of  
 86 thinning, the remaining trees experience improved growth conditions with an abrupt increase  
 87 in ring width (referred to as “growth release periods”; cf. Schweingruber et al. 1990,  
 88 Corcuera et al. 2006, Altman et al. 2013, Schweingruber 2007). This growth release is  
 89 sustained for 5-10 years during which time ring width remains substantially higher than  
 90 average growth years. By contrast, in the years leading up to a cycle of thinning, a majority of  
 91 the sprouts and stems of coppice stools display reduced growth rates, due to high canopy  
 92 density causing increased competition for light and nutrients. This is described as a “growth  
 93 suppression period” (cf. Schweingruber et al. 1990, Rozas 2003, Bleicher 2014). Pollarding,  
 94 pruning and browsing will result in a sudden reduction of growth rate due to trauma and  
 95 defoliation and subsequent return to normal growth, (Thiébaud 2006, Schweingruber 2007:  
 96 139). Characteristic anatomical features associated with trauma and stress include series of  
 97 successive very narrow growth rings with missing latewood, false rings, callus and scar  
 98 tissue, collapsed vessels, fibres, tracheids, and traumatic canals/gum deposits. In the context  
 99 of prehistoric Southwest Asia, such features had never been systematically recorded in  
 100 anthracological research before their large-scale application to the wood charcoal assemblage  
 101 from Çatalhöyük, which provided a unique window into the nature of environmental and  
 102 human impacts on prehistoric woodland growth conditions and ecology.

## 103 **2. Regional setting**

104 Çatalhöyük is located in the Konya plain, south-central Anatolia (Figure 1). The present-day  
 105 continental climate of the Anatolian Plateau gives rise to a predominantly semi-arid steppe  
 106 vegetation also impacted by millennia of human settlement and economic activities,  
 107 especially pastoral production (Fıncıoğlu et al. 2007) (Figure 2). The Konya basin floor  
 108 (~1000 m a.s.l.) is formed by the now dry bed of the late Pleistocene Konya palaeolake  
 109 (Driessen 1970) and is surrounded by mountain ranges. During the Holocene, extensive  
 110 alluvial deposits carried by the Çarşamba and May rivers entering the Konya Plain from the  
 111 north-facing slopes of the Taurus mountains to the south of the plain, created fan-shaped  
 112 landforms deposited directly on the former palaeolake bed (Boyer et al. 2007). The Çarşamba  
 113 and Selerecki alluvial fans were host to the Neolithic settlements of Çatalhöyük and Can  
 114 Hasan III respectively.

115 The Neolithic höyük (Çatalhöyük East mound) is one of the largest in Southwest Asia (~13  
 116 ha) and was occupied between ~7.1-6ka cal BC (Figure 3). It was formed by superimposed  
 117 rectilinear mudbrick structures, built in agglutinated ‘neighbourhoods’ that typify the late  
 118 aceramic and ceramic Neolithic habitations of central Anatolia (Düring 2006). Successive  
 119 excavations at the site have identified several occupation phases: 12 levels (I-XII) as  
 120 identified by Mellaart’s excavations and 14 phases (G-T) in the South Area, 5 phases (F-J) in  
 121 the North area and 7 phases in the TP Area (M-S) identified by the Hodder excavations  
 122 (Hodder 2014). The Chalcolithic Çatalhöyük West mound lies just 300 metres to the west of

123 the Neolithic mound and dates to ~6ka-5.5ka cal BC (Marciniak and Czerniak 2007) (Figure  
124 3).

125

### 126 3. Material and methods

127

#### 128 3.1 Sample selection and laboratory analysis methods

129 As the main objective of the study was to characterise fuel use and management practices,  
130 samples for analysis were selected from 2 groups of contexts: *in situ* burning deposits and  
131 secondary midden/waste disposal areas. From a fuel use perspective, short-lived contexts  
132 and/or primary deposition contexts (e.g. hearths, fire spots) are likely to represent the remains  
133 of their last episode of use, thus providing a unique snapshot of fuel use practices and also  
134 holding great potential for understanding the different combinations of fuel types used. On  
135 the other hand, deposits accumulated in the long term (e.g., middens, building infills and  
136 other contexts containing dispersed charcoal scatters; cf. Chabal 1992, Chabal et al. 1999) are  
137 likely to contain charred fuel refuse derived from multiple episodes of discard. In the context  
138 of Çatalhöyük, it has been argued that the daily cleaning and disposal of fuel waste would  
139 have resulted in a mostly homogenous accumulation of year round fuel use, thus reflecting  
140 long-term fuel preferences and consumption patterns through the lifetime of the site (Asouti  
141 2005, 2013).

142 In the present study, wood charcoal fragments were analysed from a total of 93 contexts (50  
143 midden, 43 hearths and firespots) representing all excavated phases in the Çatalhöyük East  
144 and West mounds from which charcoals were available for analysis. The “dispersed  
145 charcoal” assemblage from Çatalhöyük East mound (Neolithic) comprises 39 midden  
146 contexts (encompassing phases South G-T and TP) yielding 2306 identified and 337  
147 indeterminate fragments. No verifiable midden samples were available from South N;  
148 therefore this phase is not represented in the present study. A further 39 primary fire features  
149 were also analysed from South P, South Q, South R and South S from Çatalhöyük East,  
150 which yielded 953 identified and 49 indeterminate fragments. From the West mound  
151 (Chalcolithic) anthracological assemblage 11 “dispersed charcoal” contexts were analysed,  
152 including midden-like deposits, building infill and floor deposits. A further 4 primary fire  
153 features were analysed from West mound resulting in 53 identified and 3 indeterminate  
154 fragments. Due to the low resolution of the phasing and the low density of the charcoal  
155 materials observed in the West mound assemblage, it is presented here as a single phase.

156 Charcoal fragments were sorted with the aid of a GXMMZS0745TL-R Zoom  
157 stereomicroscope. Depending on their size, wood charcoals were either hand- or pressure-  
158 fractured with a carbon steel razor blade in order to produce a fresh section in all three  
159 anatomical planes (transverse, radial longitudinal and tangential). Each section was examined  
160 under a high power, epi-illuminating BF/DF Brunel ICM 110M metallurgical microscope at  
161 magnifications of x50, x100, x200, x400 and x500. Botanical identifications (commonly to  
162 genus or family level) were made by using published identification manuals, dichotomous  
163 wood anatomy keys and wood anatomical descriptions of specimens from Southwest Asia

164 and Europe (Western 1969, Fahn et al. 1986, Schweingruber 1990, Greguss 1955, 1959,  
165 Akkemik and Yaman 2012, Crivallero and Schweingruber 2013). Furthermore,  
166 archaeological charcoals were compared to the modern wood charcoal reference collection  
167 and the thin sections wood reference collection held in the Archaeobotany Laboratory of the  
168 University of Liverpool. For each botanically identified specimen the presence/absence of the  
169 following features was also recorded: pith, bark, tyloses, fungal hyphae, resin canals, gum  
170 deposits, callus/scar tissue, boreholes, collapsed vessels or tracheids, narrow growth rings,  
171 false growth rings, tension/reaction wood, radial cracks and mineral deposits. These are  
172 discussed in greater detail below.

173

## 174 **3.2 Dendroanthracological analysis methods**

175

### 176 **3.2.1 Diameter estimation and calibre of wood**

177 The ring curvature estimation criteria originally developed by Marguerie (1992) and  
178 Marguerie and Hunot (2007) classify growth rings into three groups: Curvature Degree (CD)  
179 1: weakly curved rings; CD 2: moderately curved rings; and CD 3: strongly curved rings. The  
180 definition of curvature classes is based on the observation that small branches and twigs have  
181 strongly curved growth rings while moderately large stems have CD 2 and large mature stems  
182 CD 1 growth rings. This method for the assessment of wood diameter has been criticised by  
183 some authors as insufficient; curvature degree determination is done based on arbitrarily set  
184 classifications and can be misleading in specimens with abnormally narrow growth rings (see  
185 especially discussion in Paradis et al. 2013). However, a significant practical advantage of the  
186 CD method is that it can be performed quickly and concurrently with standard botanical  
187 identifications. It therefore provides an expedient tool for assessing overarching trends in  
188 charcoal taphonomy. In the present study, CD (1-3) classification was recorded for each  
189 identified specimen.

190 In order to produce more precise estimations of minimum wood diameter ranges, the  
191 “trigonometric tool” of radius calculation developed by Paradis et al. (2013) was also applied  
192 to select specimens from each sampled context (see also Fig. 4). The trigonometric method of  
193 calculating wood radius provides a minimum estimate of the radial distance from the notional  
194 pith (i.e. from the centre) to the outermost preserved growth ring on a given specimen. In the  
195 present paper this method of estimation was used following the guidelines set out by Paradis  
196 et al. (2013) and a minimum diameter estimation was achieved by multiplying the radius  
197 calculation (i.e. distance from pith) by 2. While it is acknowledged that such a calculation  
198 assumes perfectly symmetric growth, the method nevertheless provides a satisfactory  
199 summary assessment of the range of wood diameters preserved in a given anthracological  
200 assemblage.

201 The application of the trigonometric tool requires the detection and demarcation of two rays  
202 in the transverse section, preferably across a width of >4mm in order to ensure reliability of  
203 results (Paradis et al. 2013). In the present study the purpose of the diameter calculations was  
204 first to test the reliability of qualitative diameter estimations and secondly to provide a more

205 precise method of assessing wood diameter in order to evaluate growth ring-width  
206 measurements (e.g., for discriminating between fast-growing shoots and saplings, vs. slow-  
207 growing trunk wood). Four of the most ubiquitous taxa (i.e. taxa present in a majority of  
208 samples per phase) across the assemblage (*Quercus*, *Celtis*, *Ulmus* and *Fraxinus*) were  
209 selected for quantitative diameter estimation and recording sequentially measured growth  
210 ring-width. These taxa were selected because of the requirement to have diameter estimations  
211 covering all or most phases of occupation. Another reason for selecting them was the ease of  
212 observations of their rays on the transverse section, and the size of the preserved fragments  
213 (normally >4mm). By contrast taxa such as Salicaceae and *Juniperus* have very narrow rays,  
214 that may be difficult to discern and photograph at the required resolution with a stereozoom  
215 microscope, especially in small specimens and/or characterised by high degree of degradation  
216 (e.g., collapsed vessels and fibres as was frequently the case with Salicaceae at Çatalhöyük;  
217 or wavy growth ring boundaries as was the case with *Juniperus* which was also characterised  
218 by very short rays, normally 2-4 cells high). For all these reasons Salicaceae and *Juniperus*  
219 were excluded from quantitative diameter estimation measurements. The transverse sections  
220 of *Quercus*, *Celtis*, *Ulmus* and *Fraxinus* specimens preserving at least 3 growth rings and 2  
221 clearly visible rays were photographed using a 5-megapixel digital microscope camera  
222 attached to a zoom stereomicroscope at magnifications x7-x45. From each charcoal sample,  
223 up to 10 fragments (>5mm) were selected for study.

224 Tyloses are overgrown parenchyma cells which spread through pitting on vessel walls filling  
225 in the vessel cavity (Wilson and White 1986: 207-211, Taylor et al. 2002). In certain taxa,  
226 these are normally absent or in low numbers in the sapwood (i.e., the outer part of the stem  
227 wood tissue situated closest to the bark). Thus recording their presence (across the majority  
228 of the woody tissue observed) can provide a measure of which part of the stem is most  
229 commonly present in the anthracological assemblage. In most taxa, the transition zone from  
230 sapwood to heartwood is reportedly brief, represented by 1-2 growth rings (Wilson and White  
231 1986: 208). However, if trees are felled during their active growth season then tyloses may  
232 develop in the sapwood as well, or as a result of physical injury (trauma) (Murmanis 1975,  
233 Schweingruber 2007). To overcome issues with the presence of traumatic tyloses formation  
234 and/or to avoid recording of the heartwood-sapwood transitional zone, tyloses in the present  
235 study were recorded as “present” only when they were observed across the majority of the  
236 specimen TS surface (across all vessels; i.e., 90-100% of vessels in all growth rings observed;  
237 see also Figure 5). Tyloses, presence/absence of pith and bark were routinely recorded for all  
238 identified specimens as an additional means of evaluating specimen calibre (i.e., as stem,  
239 heartwood or sapwood, twig or branch wood).

240

### 241 3.2.2 Condition of wood

242 Wood is subject to decay as a result of fungal, bacterial and insect attacks leading to the  
243 decomposition of woody tissue, which leaves behind signs of degradation (Blanchette 2000,  
244 Schweingruber 2007). Fungal hyphae and mycelium can be identified during microscopic  
245 observation of the specimens (Marguerie and Hunot 2007, Moskal-del Hoyo et al. 2010). In  
246 addition, insect boreholes and some types of bacterial degradation can also be observed.

247 Recent ethnoarchaeological work by Henry and Théry-Parisot (2014) suggests that in  
 248 addition to the presence of fungal mycelia and insect boreholes, wood that has been subject to  
 249 severe degradation (e.g., rotting) may also display collapsed vessels (hardwoods) and  
 250 tracheids (gymnosperms). Radial cracks may result from seasoning/drying of fuel wood and  
 251 can become further pronounced as a result of burning (Théry-Parisot and Henry 2012). Prior  
 252 and Alvyn (1983) have also observed that the incidence of radial cracks is higher in taxa with  
 253 very wide rays (e.g., oak). In this study, the presence of radial cracks were recorded when  
 254 these were present across all growth rings under observation. Heavy mineral deposits on  
 255 wood charcoal fragments and/or permineralisation may more strictly relate to post-  
 256 depositional processes resulting from prolonged burial of charcoal fragments in acidic soils  
 257 (Rebollo et al. 2008). The presence of deadwood, collapsed anatomical features, and radial  
 258 cracks were regularly recorded for all identified anthracological specimens.

259

### 260 3.2.3 Ecophysiological tree-ring attributes

261 Compression wood (conifers) or tension wood (hardwoods) is formed under severe  
 262 mechanical stress (e.g., wind exposure) prevailing during the growth season (Timell 1986,  
 263 Schweingruber 2007: 127-137). The resulting eccentricity of growth rings and the formation  
 264 of reaction wood are specifically related to mechanical stress. Eccentric growth was recorded  
 265 with observations on the transverse section. These observations in coniferous wood were  
 266 verified by observations of helices on cells (40°-45° angles) observed the radial longitudinal  
 267 sections (as reported in Marguerie and Hunot 2007). Open wounds (e.g., from bark stripping)  
 268 will cause increased cell formation and cell wall thickening, as well as a change in fibre  
 269 direction, all of which result in the accumulation of scar tissue. Callus tissue formation and  
 270 radial overgrowth are commonly observed during the re-growth and recovery of the tree  
 271 following events such as bark scarring caused by cutting, lightning, fire, bark stripping, frost  
 272 and hail damage, twigs and/or needle shedding etc. (Schweingruber 2007: 139-178; 188).  
 273 Similarly, traumatic resin canals in conifers (gymnosperms) and traumatic gum ducts in  
 274 angiosperms (hardwoods/broadleaves; e.g., members of the Rosaceae and Anacardiaceae  
 275 families such as *Amygdalus* and *Pistacia*) can also be formed in response to ecological factors  
 276 including spring frost and other extreme weather conditions, and defoliation by insects  
 277 (Schweingruber 2007: 85, 182, 187). *Juniperus*, the only coniferous taxon identified in the  
 278 Çatalhöyük assemblage, does not normally form resin canals; therefore their presence is  
 279 considered to be an indication of environmental and/or biological disturbance-related stress.

280

### 281 3.3 Data analysis and statistical methods

282 Dendroanthracological features recorded as categorical variables were analysed using  
 283 Multiple Correspondence Analysis (MCA) and Multiple Factor Analysis (MFA) (R, version  
 284 3.1.1, package 'FactoMineR'). MCA as an ordination technique is particularly suited to the  
 285 analysis of multiple categorical variables, and results in a reduction of dimensions in a  
 286 complex dataset (Greenacre and Pardo 2006). The dendroanthracological dataset was

287 analysed by treating individual charcoal specimens as data points (with a unique identifier) in  
288 order to examine the co-occurrence of individual dendroanthracological features and taxa. In  
289 addition to examining the distribution of individuals, it is also possible to evaluate the  
290 relationships between categories and supplementary variables (e.g. phase, context type) in the  
291 resulting biplots of the MCA. These are interpreted similarly to the results of CA, by taking  
292 into account the 2-dimensional representation of individuals plus variables, eigenvalues,  
293 contribution to dimensions by categories, and  $\cos^2$  values (Husson et al. 2011: 127-169).

294 Multiple Factor Analysis (MFA) was applied to per-sample charcoal taxon counts, and per-  
295 sample counts of the presence of each dendroanthracological feature, thus comprising a data  
296 matrix of taxon composition and dendroanthracological features. The aim was to explore the  
297 main components of the samples with regard to the co-occurrence of taxon abundance and the  
298 qualitative attributes of specimens (i.e., presence of fungal hyphae, tyloses, etc.) MFA relies  
299 on principles similar to Principal Components Analysis (PCA) in ordination, but it allows for  
300 distinct groups of variables to be evaluated separately (Bécue-Bertaut and Pagès 2008,  
301 Escofier and Pagès 2008). This permits the simultaneous evaluation of inertia in a dataset  
302 where a number of different observations have been made on the same individuals (i.e.,  
303 samples/units). Thus the results remain unaffected by differences in the quantification of  
304 distinct groups of variables (Escofier and Pagès 2008: 149-205). The results are evaluated  
305 similarly to PCA, whereby a map of variables (factors) represented in 2-dimensional space,  
306 reflects the nature of the relationship between different sets of variables. The plot of variables  
307 (and groups of variables) signifies a perfect correlation between variables if the arrows  
308 representing them overlap. A perfectly inverse relationship between variables is inferred  
309 when the arrows of two variables are at a  $180^\circ$  angle (i.e., they form a straight line). No  
310 significant relationship is deduced when the angle between the two variables is at  $90^\circ$ . These  
311 geometric representations are interpreted by taking into account the correlation between the  
312 estimate and the original dataset, and the contribution of individual variables to dimensions.

313

#### 314 **4. Results**

315 A range of 21 different taxa were identified in the Çatalhöyük East and West mound  
316 assemblages, adding to the growing body of anthracological analysis from other late-  
317 Pleistocene and Holocene archaeological sites in south-central Anatolia (Asouti 2005, 2013).  
318 As this paper focuses primarily on the assessment of dendroanthracological methods and the  
319 reconstruction of prehistoric woodland management practices, a detailed discussion of the  
320 taxon composition of the anthracological assemblages will be presented elsewhere. Here it is  
321 sufficient to note that the earliest occupation levels at Çatalhöyük comprise predominantly  
322 Ulmaceae remains, with a later switch to deciduous *Quercus*. In the mid to late-Neolithic  
323 levels *Juniperus* becomes the more commonly used fuelwood, with a renewed surge of  
324 Ulmaceae during the later TP and West mound sequences. In turn, these broad shifts in the  
325 fuel economy likely reflect not only changes in woodland vegetation, but also spatial and  
326 temporal changes in subsistence-related economic activities in the landscape (Kabukcu 2015,  
327 Asouti and Kabukcu 2014).



#### 328 4.1 Wood calibre and diameter estimations

329 Qualitative dendroanthracological analyses at Çatalhöyük yielded a large dataset of a broad  
330 array of dendroanthracological features (see Table 1 for a summary). The results of CD  
331 growth ring classification indicate that across all contexts the majority of the fragments are  
332 characterised by moderately curved rings (CD2). The distributions of CD classes were similar  
333 across all sampled phases. The highest frequencies of CD1 fragments (weakly curved, likely  
334 indicating largest diameter ranges) amongst all taxa are observed for *Quercus*, it should be  
335 noted however CD1 fragments were observed in very low numbers (Table 1). Furthermore, a  
336 majority of the fragments from *Quercus*, along with *Juniperus* and *Ulmus*, belong to CD2  
337 (moderately curved). This distribution of CD classes suggests the presence of medium/large  
338 calibre wood from these taxa. By contrast fruit/nut bearing taxa such as *Amygdalus*, *Pistacia*,  
339 Maloideae and *Celtis* consist predominantly of CD3 specimens, suggesting their use mostly  
340 in the form of smaller sized branches and twigs. These observations are in agreement with  
341 previous qualitative observations on the same taxa from Çatalhöyük (see Asouti 2005, 2013).  
342 In addition *Juniperus*, Ulmaceae, Salicaceae and *Fraxinus* include numerous fragments that  
343 were not assigned a CD class due to their small size and/or poor preservation, or the specific  
344 qualities of their wood anatomy. The latter was often the case with *Juniperus* that does not  
345 have clearly visible rays in the transverse section and contains mostly narrow growth rings,  
346 sometimes including false rings, or naturally wavy ring boundaries. Salicaceae growth ring  
347 boundaries were often indistinct, particularly in dead/decayed wood; thus estimating CD for  
348 Salicaceae fragments (even large ones) was often not feasible. Interestingly, some primary  
349 fuel waste debris contexts (fire spots) from South P (mid-Neolithic) contained proportionally  
350 higher numbers of twigs preserving pith and/or bark, which suggests that the preservation  
351 conditions in some of these contexts were particularly favourable. One such outdoor burning  
352 context (17082) contained a large number of Ulmaceae and Salicaceae twigs alongside  
353 Leguminosae and *Artemisia* fragments with pith and bark partially preserved.

354 Across all categories of qualitative features recorded, the most frequently observed feature  
355 was the presence of tyloses in both dispersed and primary fuel waste deposits (1802 and 620  
356 observations respectively) (see Table 1). Alongside the prominent presence of CD2  
357 specimens, the high frequency of tyloses in the assemblage suggests the preservation of  
358 heartwood in higher quantities.

359 Quantitative diameter estimation techniques were applied to a sub-sample of the specimens  
360 which were recorded through qualitative dendroanthracological analyses (CD classes) (see  
361 Figure 6). These included 150 specimens belonging to *Quercus*, *Fraxinus*, *Ulmus* and *Celtis*  
362 from midden contexts covering all phases of the Çatalhöyük East mound sequence and the  
363 West mound assemblage, plus 32 specimens of the same taxa from primary fuel waste  
364 contexts from South P, Q and R. Interestingly, in midden contexts *Fraxinus*, *Ulmus* and  
365 *Celtis* are represented with a wider range of diameter sizes compared to their representation  
366 among primary fire features. While *Quercus* fragments are also represented with a wide  
367 diameter range in midden contexts, some fire features provided very large diameter size  
368 estimations for this taxon (>400mm). However, generally, for all taxa to which quantitative  
369 dendroanthracological analyses were applied, large diameter sizes (>200mm) were rare; these

370 rare measurements most likely represent the limit of validity for trigonometric tool diameter  
371 estimations (Paradis et al. 2013).

372 Lastly, a direct comparison of the results of qualitative (CD classes) and quantitative  
373 (trigonometric tool) diameter estimation methods facilitates the evaluation of the potential of  
374 the former for approximating the size and calibre of the wood preserved as charcoal in the  
375 archaeological deposits. Figure 6 shows that, despite the presence of outliers, there is a clear  
376 separation in the ranges of values represented by different CD classes for *Fraxinus* and  
377 *Celtis*. For all taxa, CD3 (strongly curved) covers approximately a minimum diameter range  
378 of 3.5 to 40mm (excluding outliers at 107mm and 184mm). There seems to be a wider range  
379 of measurements and more overlap between CD2 and CD1. CD2 represents specimens  
380 ranging from 8mm to 189mm (excluding outliers at 281mm, 219mm and 4mm) while CD1  
381 covers a range from 14mm to 425mm (with a theoretical upper-end of 425mm, assuming that  
382 ranges >250mm are not reliable as suggested by Paradis et al. 2013). One of the possible  
383 explanations for this overlap in diameter sizes could have to do with the extremely narrow  
384 growth rings observed on some specimens, which could alter the growth ring morphology  
385 (and therefore the curvature of the growth ring) regardless of diameter. In addition to this, it  
386 is possible to observe a discrepancy between CD1 classifications for *Ulmus* and *Quercus* and  
387 their corresponding trigonometric tool diameter estimations: in *Ulmus*, and to a lesser extent  
388 in *Quercus* CD1 classifications appear to underestimate diameter compared to the  
389 trigonometric tool (see Figure 6). A possible explanation for this may lie in the wood  
390 anatomical characteristics of growth suppression, resulting in narrower and flatter growth  
391 ring boundaries (e.g., Figure 7.4). In turn, this situation might arise more frequently in taxa  
392 that were subjected to browsing and/or wood cutting pressures over a number of years.

393

#### 394 **4.2 Condition of wood**

395 Evidence for fungal decay of wood prior to charring is abundant in the assemblage, with  
396 observations of fungal hyphae very common in both discarded fuel waste and in situ burning  
397 deposits (see Table 1). On the other hand, potential indicators of more severe fungal  
398 degradation such as collapsed vessels/tracheids and insect bore holes were less frequently  
399 observed. This combination of features suggests that if deadwood was collected, these logs  
400 were either monitored in order to ensure controlled drying (e.g., seasoning of cut wood)  
401 and/or if naturally occurring deadwood was collected, then the period of decay was limited to  
402 a shorter duration (1-2 years). In addition, radial cracks and mineral deposits were also rarely  
403 observed. The low occurrence of mineral deposits in charcoal agrees with the overall state of  
404 charcoal fragments at the site, suggesting that weathering of charcoal fragments were not  
405 severely detrimental to preservation.

406

#### 407 **4.3 Woodland growth conditions indicators**

408 Evidence for ecological stress and/or trauma to woody tissue was fairly common in the  
409 assemblage (see Table 1). Resin canals/gum ducts, narrow growth rings, false/discontinuous

410 growth rings were found in similar proportions in dispersed and primary fuel waste contexts.  
 411 Through time resin canals, narrow and discontinuous rings were more commonly observed in  
 412 the later phases at Çatalhöyük, predominantly due to the fact that these features were  
 413 observed generally in *Juniperus* specimens (which are more abundant in the later phases).  
 414 Other growth anomalies such as tension/reaction wood, knot wood, and scar/callus tissue  
 415 were recorded at much lower frequencies across the assemblage.

416 In order to assess the variability of growth-ring width present in the assemblage, average,  
 417 median, maximum, minimum and delta (i.e., delta=minimum ring width subtracted from  
 418 maximum ring width) ring width measurements for each specimen are plotted against  
 419 diameter measurements (see Figure 8). They demonstrate that there is a great degree of  
 420 variability in average, minimum, maximum and median growth ring width, which do not  
 421 display a strictly unilinear relationship to diameter sizes. A majority of the specimens exhibit  
 422 average and median ring width <1mm, while a second group (comprising fewer individuals)  
 423 contains median and average ring width of 1-2mm. Ring-width values are slightly lower in  
 424 larger diameter specimens. This is commonly observed in aging large trunks whereby  
 425 growth-ring width is slightly reduced (e.g., by a magnitude of 0.5 mm), however basal area  
 426 increment remains high. At the same time, the greatest range of variability and delta values in  
 427 ring width is observed in the <100mm diameter sizes. This distribution of ring width values  
 428 in smaller diameter specimens suggests that a range of different ecological conditions are  
 429 represented for specimens of this calibre. Particularly, some specimens with very high ring  
 430 width values and delta values point to abrupt fluctuations in growth that take place within a  
 431 short period. Some examples of such specimens, such as those in Figure 7, show the vigorous  
 432 growth in the first 2-5 years of growth, followed by a sudden and lasting plateau in growth.  
 433 Alongside such specimens are other specimens with more evenly distributed ring width  
 434 values and minor fluctuations. Other specimens display average growth rates followed by a  
 435 sudden abrupt increase in ring width, suggesting response to thinning in the canopy.

436

#### 437 **4.4 Results of multivariate analyses**

438 The Çatalhöyük charcoal taxon and dendroanthracological datasets collected by the present  
 439 study were investigated using Multiple Correspondence Analysis (MCA). All charcoal  
 440 fragments on which dendroanthracological observations were made were included in the  
 441 analysis as individual data points, while the presence/absence of dendroanthracological  
 442 features were treated as categorical variables. The first two dimensions account for 24% of  
 443 the variation observed in the dataset (see Supplementary Table 1a-b). The main factors are  
 444 curvature degree, pith, bark, tyloses, trauma canals, fungal hyphae and false rings. The factor  
 445 map (Figure 9) reveals associations between the occurrence of some dendroanthracological  
 446 features and taxon representation. Traumatic resin canals, false rings and reaction wood are  
 447 closely associated with *Juniperus*. On the other hand, in the lower right hand-side of the  
 448 biplot CD3 (strongly curved, smaller diameter), pith and bark are more closely associated  
 449 with *Tamarix*, *Capparis*, Leguminosae, *Rhamnus*, Chenopodiaceae, *Artemisia*, Maloideae,  
 450 Anacardiaceae, *Pistacia*, and *Amygdalus*, and some Salicaceae and Ulmaceae. CD1, although  
 451 recorded in very low numbers across the assemblage, is more closely associated with taxa

452 which more frequently display tyloses, fungal hyphae, collapsed vessels, mineral deposits and  
453 radial cracks. Although there is a high degree of clustering in the centre of the biplot  
454 *Quercus*, *Ulmus* and *Celtis* appear to be more closely associated with tyloses, fungal hyphae  
455 and collapsed vessels. The MCA biplot confirms some of the descriptive results of the  
456 dendroanthracological analysis: there seems to be no significant difference in the range of  
457 dendroanthracological features observed in specimens derived from dispersed contexts and  
458 fire features. The second dimension of the MCA plot displays predominantly the temporal  
459 patterning in the assemblage, with the early-middle phases concentrated in the lower part of  
460 axis 2, and the later phases in its upper part. This temporal patterning appears to be due to the  
461 co-variation in botanical identifications and the presence/absence of dendroanthracological  
462 features. For instance, the presence of tyloses are more restricted to angiosperms such as  
463 *Quercus* and *Ulmus*; whereas false growth rings, bore holes and trauma canals are more  
464 commonly found in *Juniperus*.

465 The plot of individuals resulting from this MCA is presented in Figure 10a. Individual  
466 specimens were coded according to phase and context type in order to evaluate the presence  
467 of temporal and/or context-related (spatial) patterning. Specimens are characterised by  
468 similar dendroanthracological qualities regardless of context type, while phases are also more  
469 or less evenly represented in both axes. Figure 10b is a biplot of individuals from select taxa:  
470 although there is some overlap most *Juniperus* specimens are confined to the right-hand side  
471 of axis 1, while most *Quercus* fragments are spread on the left-hand side of axis 1. In order to  
472 investigate the dendroanthracological composition of each sample, per-sample counts of  
473 dendroanthracological features were converted into a data matrix comprising the sums of the  
474 observations recorded for each feature. The resulting 57 samples (with sufficient number of  
475 specimens per sample) from midden and fire feature contexts were investigated using  
476 Multiple Factor Analysis (MFA). This technique allowed for the treatment of the two datasets  
477 (charcoal taxon counts and dendroanthracological features counts) as separate groups; thus  
478 inertia within groups could be calculated independently. The first two dimensions account for  
479 65% of the variation observed in the dataset (Figure 11, see Supplementary Table 2a-d). The  
480 charcoal dataset and the dendroanthracological dataset contribute equal weights in dimension  
481 1. The main components of the dataset in dimension 1 are tyloses, fungal hyphae, CD3,  
482 *Juniperus* and *Quercus* and in dimension 2 Ulmaceae, *Quercus*, CD3 and pith. Confirming  
483 the results of MCA, variations in taxon abundance appear to be closely related to variations in  
484 the frequency of dendroanthracological features on a sample-by-sample basis. Dimension 1  
485 of the dendroanthracological dataset and dimension 1 of the charcoal taxon count dataset  
486 reflect inertia in the same direction, with a relatively narrow angle, thus suggesting a close  
487 relationship between the two datasets. Dimension 2 for both datasets is also closely  
488 correlated. The main variation in taxon composition is reflected in the nearly perfect inverse  
489 relationship between *Juniperus* and *Quercus*, predominantly along dimension 1. The main  
490 significant components of dimensions 1 and 2 (Figure 11) demonstrate that *Quercus* is more  
491 closely linked to CD1 and tyloses, while Salicaceae and *Ulmus* are associated with collapsed  
492 vessels, fungal hyphae and radial cracks. Ulmaceae and *Artemisia* appear to be more  
493 significantly related to pith and CD3.

494  
495

## 496 5. Discussion

497

498 Wood calibre estimation (both qualitative and quantitative), in combination with the  
499 recording of various dendroanthracological features and ring width measurements suggests  
500 the presence of twigs, shoots, saplings and developed branch and trunk wood in the fuel  
501 assemblage. The variability observed in ring-width values alongside observations of short-  
502 ring series in some specimens support the presence of growth suppression in some  
503 saplings/shoots (see Figure 7). As reported elsewhere, coppice shoots (or other shoots in  
504 response to cutting) tend to result in vigorous growth in the early years of the shoot  
505 development (above average for seedling growth) followed by a sudden reduction in growth  
506 rate due to competition in the canopy (Deforce and Haneca 2015, Copini et al. 2010, Bleicher  
507 2014). On the other hand, following thinning, remaining saplings and larger trees in managed  
508 woodlands may display increased growth rates as a result of reduced competition of nutrients  
509 and moisture. There are some specimens in the Çatalhöyük assemblage which likely display  
510 such patterns. However, more observations, systematic ring width measurements and a more  
511 detailed quantitative wood anatomy study are necessary in order to evaluate these patterns  
512 fully. Alternatively, these ring width signatures might indicate the response of individual  
513 trees to episodes of thinning of the understorey vegetation in denser woodland stands.  
514 Selective thinning of the understorey and the protection of individual trees might also have  
515 allowed the development of larger diameter trunks that could have been managed for use as  
516 timber. As both *Ulmus* (shade-tolerant, riparian) and *Quercus* (shade-intolerant, semi-arid)  
517 specimens display similar variability in growth increment in small to medium diameter  
518 categories, it is likely that its underlying causes relate to anthropogenic impacts rather than  
519 solely episodes of natural disturbance.

520 Growth ring width measurements available for *Celtis* indicate that this taxon might have been  
521 impacted in similar ways, although a larger dataset is necessary for confirming this pattern.  
522 Ecologically, *Celtis* could have grown in both semi-arid woodlands (including Rosaceae-  
523 dominated and *Quercus/Juniperus*-dominated stands) as well as riparian and/or wetland edge  
524 habitats (see Çetik 1985: 254, Asouti and Kabukcu 2014). At Çatalhöyük this is a distinct  
525 possibility, considering also the overall wider growth ring width ranges observed for *Celtis*  
526 compared to deciduous oaks. The *Celtis* ring width ranges are also more similar to those  
527 observed for *Ulmus* and *Fraxinus*. Overall the pattern of ring width measurements observed  
528 for *Quercus*, *Ulmus* and possibly *Celtis* too, is more suggestive of woodland management  
529 impacts resulting in alternating periods of reduced and enhanced woodland productivity,  
530 rather than environmental (e.g., seasonal moisture deficiency) impacts. Observations of  
531 scar/callus tissue and radial overgrowth on specimens from the same taxa provide additional  
532 confirmation for the existence of impacts on wood anatomy resulting from intentional  
533 cutting, pruning and/or debarking. Additional impacts associated with severe defoliation (i.e.  
534 successive very narrow and discontinuous (false) growth rings) suggest that both dryland and  
535 riparian woodlands were potentially affected by herbivore browsing, although not on a  
536 routine basis as their presence was not common in the studied assemblage.

537 The frequent occurrence of narrow and discontinuous growth rings and traumatic canals in  
538 *Juniperus* at Çatalhöyük and also throughout the sampled Konya plain anthracological  
539 sequence (including late-Pleistocene Pınarbaşı and early-Holocene Boncuklu; Kabukcu 2015,  
540 Asouti and Kabukcu 2014) suggests that, on the whole, *Juniperus* stands grew under  
541 considerable environmental stress well into the Holocene. As already mentioned, due to the  
542 inapplicability of diameter measurements to this taxon, growth ring width was not  
543 systematically measured for *Juniperus* specimens. However, *Juniperus* ring width has been  
544 observed to be consistently narrow across all sampled early to mid-Holocene phases. Average  
545 growth ring width data available from dendroanthracological samples at Çatalhöyük  
546 previously analysed by Newton (1996) and the limited measurements undertaken by Asouti  
547 (2013) have indicated very low average ring width values throughout the sampled phases  
548 (ranging between 0.25-0.77mm). Newton also noted that the Çatalhöyük juniper specimens  
549 she examined, derived exclusively from carbonised timbers with ages ranging between 160-  
550 500 years, were generally slow growing (21cm maximum recorded diameter). Newton  
551 observed that this growth rate is significantly slower than the rates observed in  
552 dendroanthracological specimens obtained from Chalcolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age sites  
553 in Anatolia, while it is also slower when compared to modern juniper populations from  
554 southern Anatolia (Newton 1996: 24-25).

555 In the ecological literature it is reported that the main driver of continuously narrow growth  
556 rings (indicating slow growth rates) in *Juniperus* are dry and hot climate conditions during  
557 the spring and early summer (Lipschitz et al. 1979, Sass-Klaassen et al. 2008, Liang et al.  
558 2011, Esper et al. 2014). This is due to the fact that the majority of the radial growth in  
559 junipers consists of early wood tracheids, which are formed predominantly in spring and  
560 early summer. Thus, consistently dry and hot growth seasons will result in very slow growth  
561 rates, in addition to a higher frequency of false rings, somewhat independently of average  
562 annual precipitation levels. Compared to junipers, the dendroanthracological features of the  
563 examined *Quercus* specimens do not indicate equally slow growth rates. This situation likely  
564 reflects the ability of deciduous oaks to regulate fluctuations in annual water balance more  
565 effectively. Various case studies indicate that the deeper root system of oaks enables them to  
566 use more effectively winter precipitation of the previous year, hence allowing relatively  
567 uninterrupted early wood formation (Villar-Salvador et al. 1997, Manetti 2002, Cherubini et  
568 al. 2003, Corcuera et al. 2004). Junipers on the other hand do not respond in a similar way to  
569 increased winter rainfall. Together these anthracological observations on the  
570 dendroanthracological properties of *Juniperus* and *Quercus* charcoals provide direct evidence  
571 of the pronounced seasonality of early Holocene climate in central Anatolia, which was likely  
572 characterised by distinctly dry and hot late spring/summer seasons and winter-focused  
573 precipitation. This interpretation is in overall agreement with the central Anatolian (Dean  
574 2014) and other regional palaeoclimatic records (cf. Djamali et al. 2010, Orland et al. 2012).

575 As presented in the results, the majority of charcoal fragments were classified as CD2 and  
576 CD3 (moderately and strongly curved rings respectively) while few fragments were classified  
577 as CD1 (low curvature). This distribution of growth ring morphology also agrees with  
578 diameter estimation measurements made using the trigonometric tool. Furthermore, the  
579 abundance of tyloses in frequently used fuel taxa such as *Quercus* and Ulmaceae, is

580 indicative of the ubiquity of heartwood remains in the anthracological assemblage. More  
581 rarely, the transition from heartwood to sapwood and/or sapwood *per se* were also preserved.  
582 As indicated by the MCA of the per-specimen observations of dendroanthracological  
583 features, and MFA on per-sample composition of taxon abundance and number of  
584 observations of dendroanthracological features, a close association exists between CD1, the  
585 presence of tyloses and *Quercus*. The descriptive results of curvature degree classification on  
586 the other hand show that most of the *Quercus* fragments were classified as CD2 and CD3.  
587 Thus, the association of CD1 with *Quercus* demonstrates that when low ring curvature is  
588 observed, this is more likely to occur in *Quercus* fragments. The same applies to the presence  
589 of tyloses, which further supports the possibility that a majority of the *Quercus* fragments  
590 preserved at Çatalhöyük represent heartwood remains. The possible indication following  
591 from these observations is that as a result of the fuel use practices at Çatalhöyük (including  
592 log-splitting, use of logs in fires and burning efficiency) the great majority of sapwood and  
593 the larger diameter portions of the logs originally put into fire are consistently under-  
594 represented in the anthracological assemblage. Conversely, smaller diameter portions of fuel  
595 wood are consistently over-represented, most likely due to the near-complete combustion of  
596 sapwood during burning, in addition to the supplementary use of small-calibre wood (twigs,  
597 branches, shoots, etc.) For this reason, the diameter size-classes represented in the  
598 anthracological assemblage are skewed towards the preservation of the smaller diameter  
599 portions of fuel wood. In the case of Çatalhöyük, it is uncertain whether calibre estimation  
600 techniques alone are capable of representing an accurate estimation of the original calibre of  
601 the logs harvested and used as fuel wood. These results and interpretations will be further  
602 tested by future experimental work in order to evaluate more precisely the preservation  
603 potential of different diameter size-classes in anthracological assemblages derived by various  
604 hearth types and burning environments.

605 Lastly, the high frequency of observations of fungal decay in wood prior to charring in the  
606 assemblage suggests a distinctive preference for the collection of dry deadwood and/or  
607 seasoned wood as fuel. As the results of MFA suggests, samples with a more prominent  
608 riparian woodland component (e.g. Salicaceae, *Ulmus*) also tend to contain more evidence for  
609 the presence of fungal hyphae and collapsed vessels, both features relating to moderate fungal  
610 decay. This inertia in the assemblage could point to the higher deadwood productivity of  
611 riparian woodlands used by the prehistoric inhabitants of Çatalhöyük.

612

## 613 **6. Conclusions**

614 As highlighted by research into the wood anatomical characteristics of trees in managed  
615 woodlands, qualitative and quantitative wood anatomy offers the most suitable tools for the  
616 detection and characterisation of woodland management practices. Their applications in  
617 anthracology, as briefly reviewed, have so far been limited, particularly on assemblages  
618 deriving from predominantly domestic fuel waste. As presented, the results of minimum  
619 diameter estimations and ring width measurements demonstrate the possible wood anatomical  
620 signatures of management activities and/or controlled cutting cycles in both semi-arid  
621 (*Quercus*) and riparian (*Ulmus*) woodlands during the occupation of Çatalhöyük. These

622 inferences concerning woodland management at Çatalhöyük will be tested formally through a  
623 future study of growth-ring width patterns in situ carbonised timber specimens from this site.  
624 In addition, future work would greatly benefit from measurements of early wood  
625 vessel/tracheid size and vessel density, in order to address additional questions regarding the  
626 modelling of levels of ground moisture availability and growth season aridity. Moreover,  
627 multivariate analyses of the dendroanthracological datasets highlighted the potential  
628 taphonomic filters and differential preservation rates of wood calibre classes at Çatalhöyük.  
629 Thus, the utility of wood calibre measurements for reconstructing preferred fuel wood  
630 diameter and volume and woodland management strategies is questioned.

631 Further insights into the ecological conditions of woodlands include observations on  
632 *Juniperus* remains, demonstrating that this taxon, across all phases of occupation, generally  
633 contained more abundant signs of ecological stress, as indicated by the frequent presence of  
634 narrow/false rings, traumatic canals and deformed tracheids. With the exception of some taxa  
635 that are naturally resistant to fungal infestation (e.g., *Juniperus*) a great majority of the  
636 specimens from Çatalhöyük displayed signs of pre-burning decay including fungal hyphae,  
637 collapsed vessels and boreholes, suggesting that they were either collected as deadwood  
638 and/or stored (on and/or off-site) for a period of time for seasoning prior to burning.

639 In the context of anthracological research in Southwest Asia, the present study represents the  
640 first instance of the systematic, large-scale application of dendroanthracological analyses on  
641 wood fuel remains. For arid and semi-arid environments in particular, the utility of well-dated  
642 archaeological charcoal sequences for reconstructing woodland composition and the spatial  
643 distribution of prehistoric woodland catchments is further emphasised by the preservation  
644 limitations of off-site pollen sequences. However, the full interpretative potential of  
645 anthracological assemblages as the material residues of people-environment interaction lies in  
646 the fact that carbonised wood fuel remains embody the ecological signatures (i.e., the growth  
647 conditions and life histories) of the individual trees and shrubs collected as fuel, and of the  
648 woodland ecologies they have derived from. Thus, not only taxon presence and frequencies  
649 but also the form, function and environmental attributes of woodland growth conditions, and  
650 the ways in which they were impacted by human activities, can also be recorded through the  
651 analysis of qualitative or quantitative dendroanthracological features. Anthracology provides  
652 a unique set of analytical tools with which to disentangle the varied phases of the complex  
653 feedback cycles between vegetation, climate conditions and prehistoric woodland  
654 management and landscape use practices. In this sense archaeological wood fuel remains  
655 represent a category of archaeobotanical data that are exceptionally well-suited for  
656 reconstructing the origin and long-term histories of intentionally modified, anthropogenic  
657 landscapes.

658

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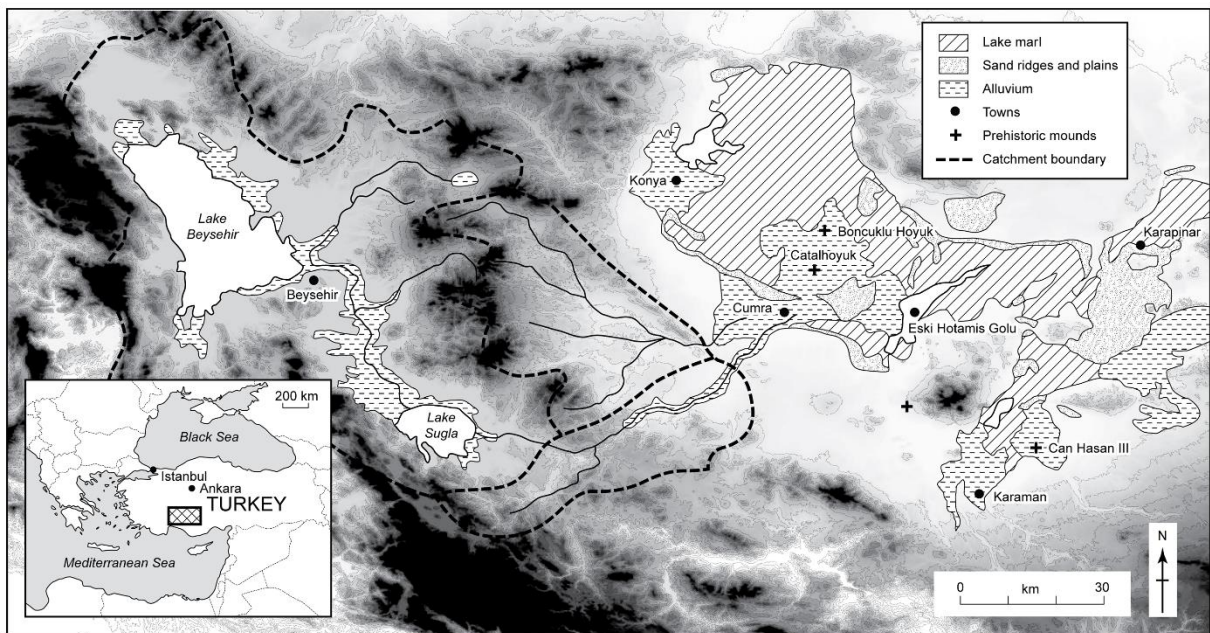
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Dendrological features		Dispersed contexts		Fire features	
		Count	%	Count	%
	1	137	8.0%	13	2.3%
	2	850	49.4%	319	57.2%
	3	733	42.6%	225	40.4%
	N/A	1048	N/A	437	N/A
Pith		195	7.0%	125	12.6%
Bark		41	1.5%	59	5.9%
Tyloses		1802	65.1%	620	62.4%
Traumatic resin canals/gum ducts		599	21.6%	144	14.5%
Fungal hyphae		1335	48.2%	610	61.4%
Narrow growth rings		424	15.3%	177	17.8%
Radial cracks		145	5.2%	22	2.2%
Collapsed vessels		180	6.5%	37	3.7%
Boreholes		44	1.6%	2	0.2%
Scar/callus tissue		30	1.1%	1	0.1%
Mineral deposits		166	6.0%	75	7.5%
Reaction wood		44	1.6%	9	0.9%
False rings		45	1.6%	10	1.0%
Knots		193	7.0%	60	6.0%
<b>Total number of analysed wood charcoal fragments</b>		<b>2768</b>		<b>994</b>	

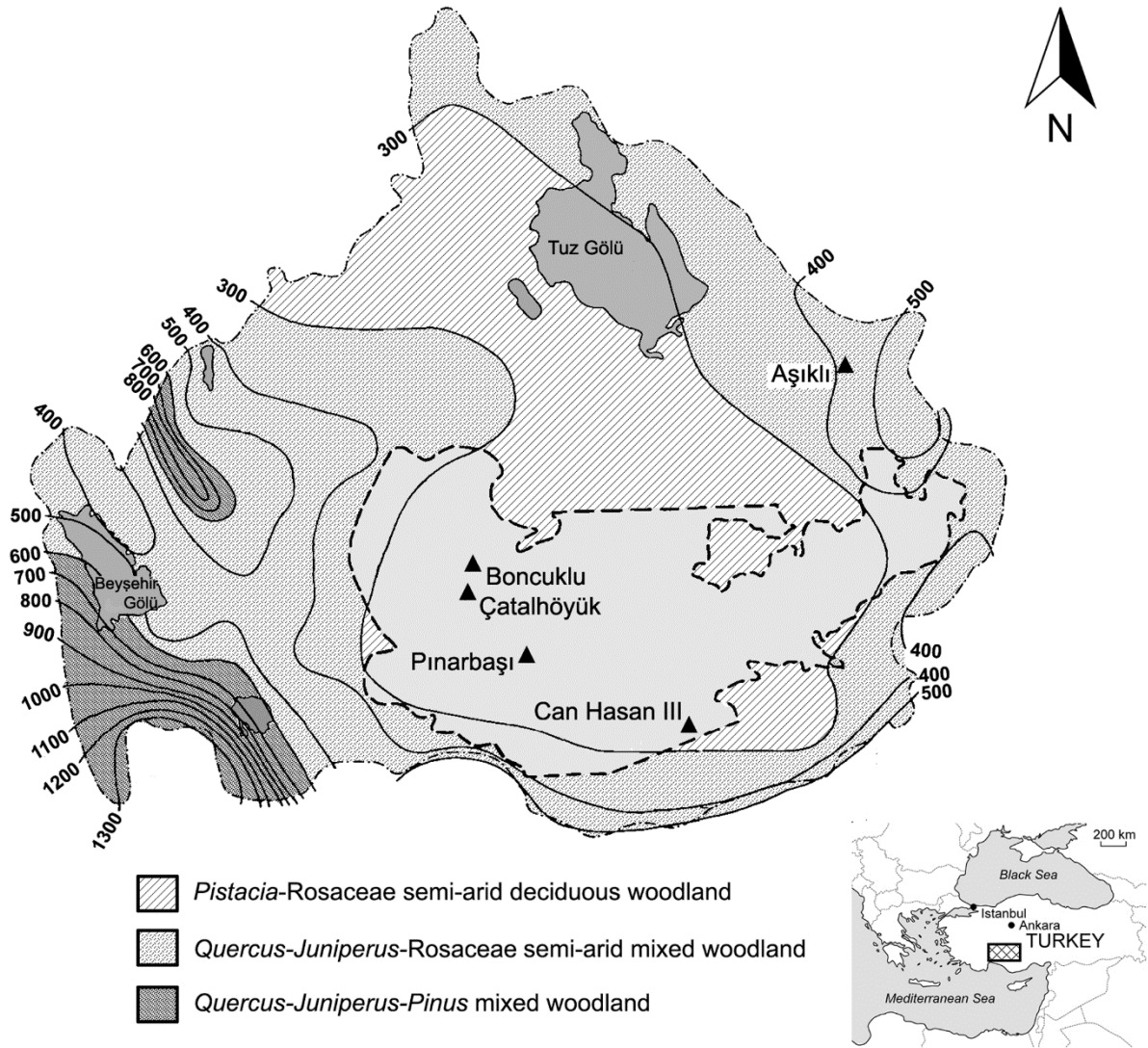
**Table 1:** Summary of dendroanthracological observations (numbers of fragments exhibiting individual features, i.e., presence of feature) obtained from wood charcoal fragments from dispersed contexts and fire features at Çatalhöyük East and West mounds.

## Figures



**Figure 1** Map of the Konya plain and the Çarşamba river catchment area showing the locations of prehistoric mounds and main landscape units.



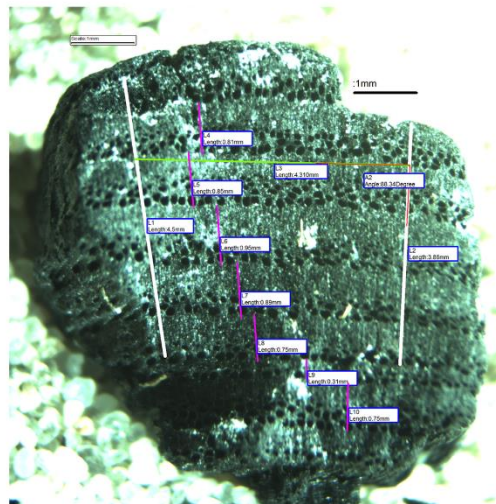
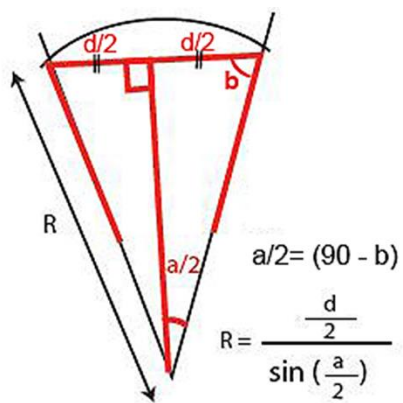


**Figure 2** Schematic map of major rainfall gradients and associated vegetation zones in the Konya plain (after Asouti and Kabukcu 2014, Fig. 8).

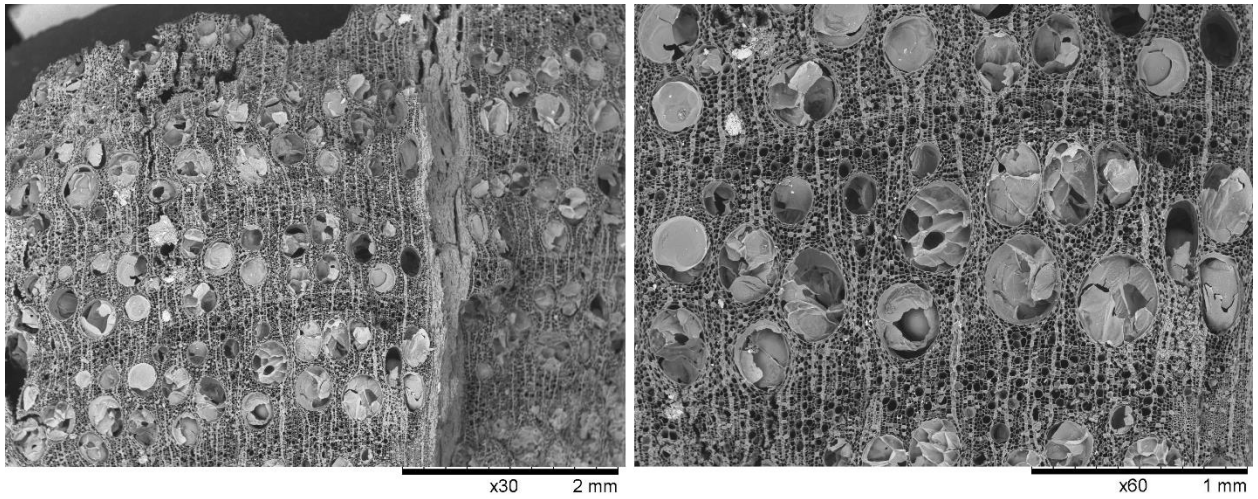


**Figure 3** Map of the Çatalhöyük East and West mounds, showing the location of all excavated areas.

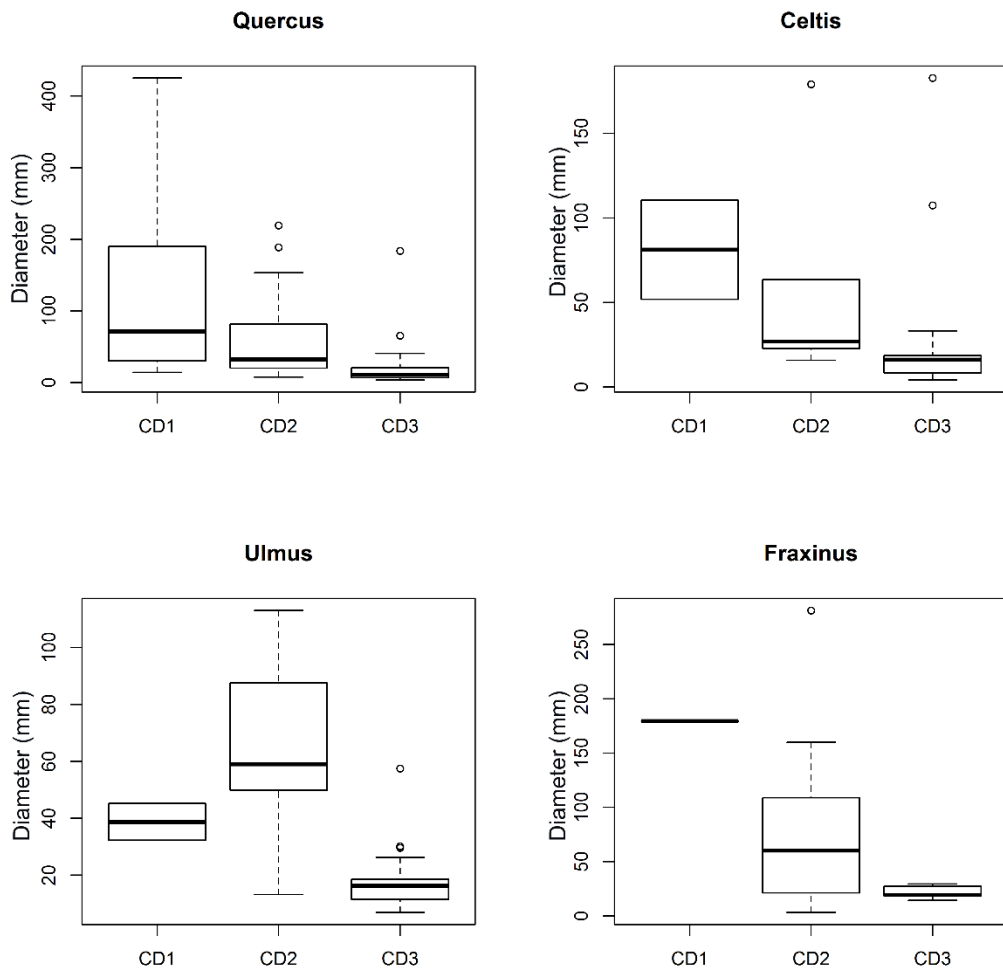
Trigonometry in an isosceles triangle



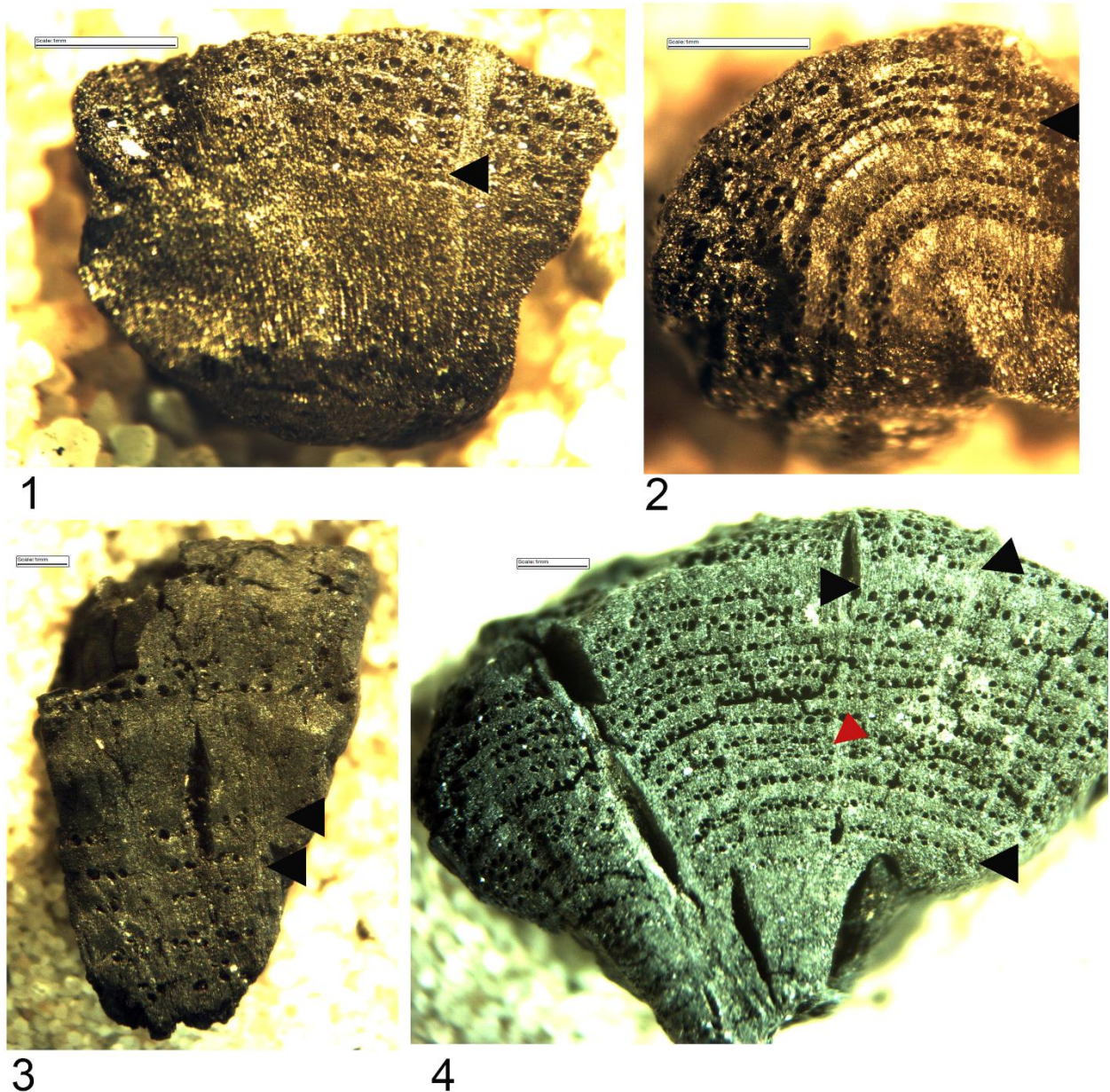
**Figure 4:** Method of calculation of estimated radius of curvature (R); minimum estimated diameter = 2xR.



**Figure 5** *Quercus* specimen showing tyloses.

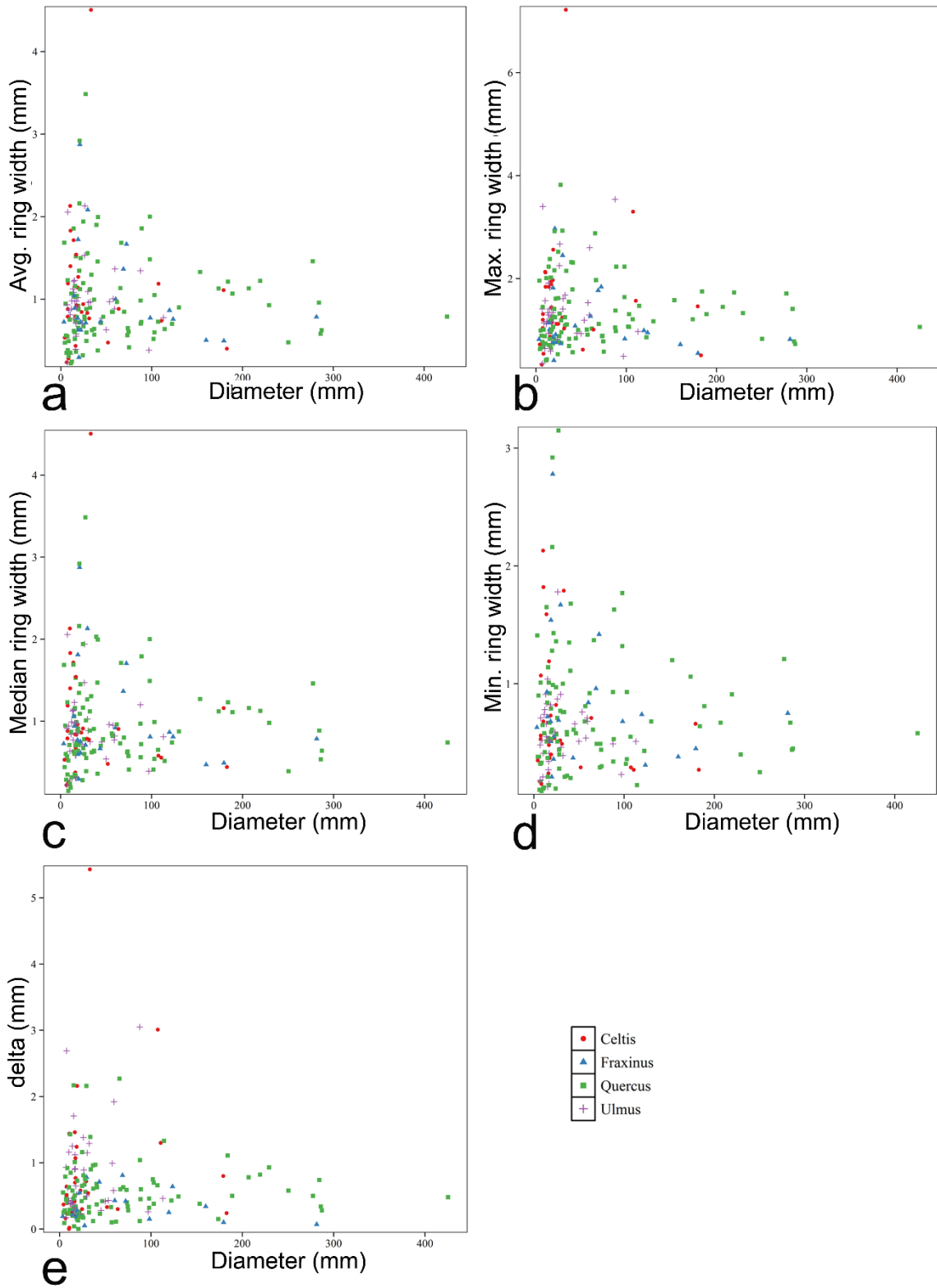


**Figure 6:** Boxplots showing range of diameter measurements for *Quercus*, *Ulmus*, *Celtis* and *Fraxinus*, calculated with the trigonometric tool (y axis) for specimens classified in Marguerie and Hunot (2007) Curvature Degrees (CDs) classes 1-3 (1: weakly curved, 2: moderately curved, 3: strongly curved) (x axis).



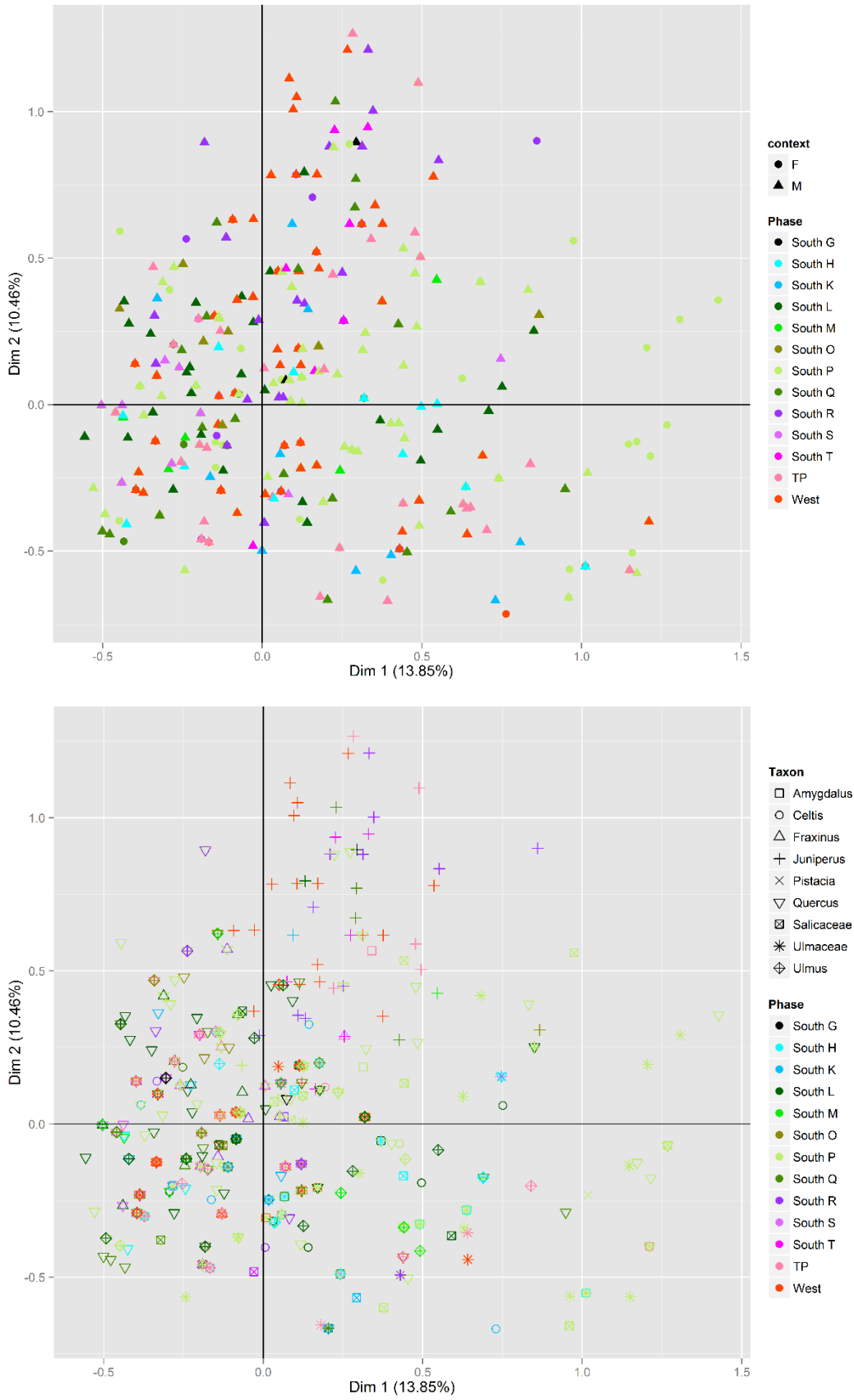
**Figure 7:** Growth ring width variability observed in specimens from Çatalhöyük (zoom stereomicroscope digital images; scale 1mm).

1. *Quercus*, fragment of heartwood, arrow indicates sudden growth reduction.
2. *Quercus*, short shoot, growth reduction indicated by arrow.
3. *Quercus*, adult stem wood, lower arrow denotes the beginning of early wood in year with limited radial growth; upper arrow denotes the beginning of abrupt growth improvement.
4. *Quercus*, shoot or dwarfed stem wood; lower black arrow indicates beginning of growth reduction. Red arrow indicates discontinuous ring, upper arrow marks one year of improved growth; note also vigorous growth in the early years.

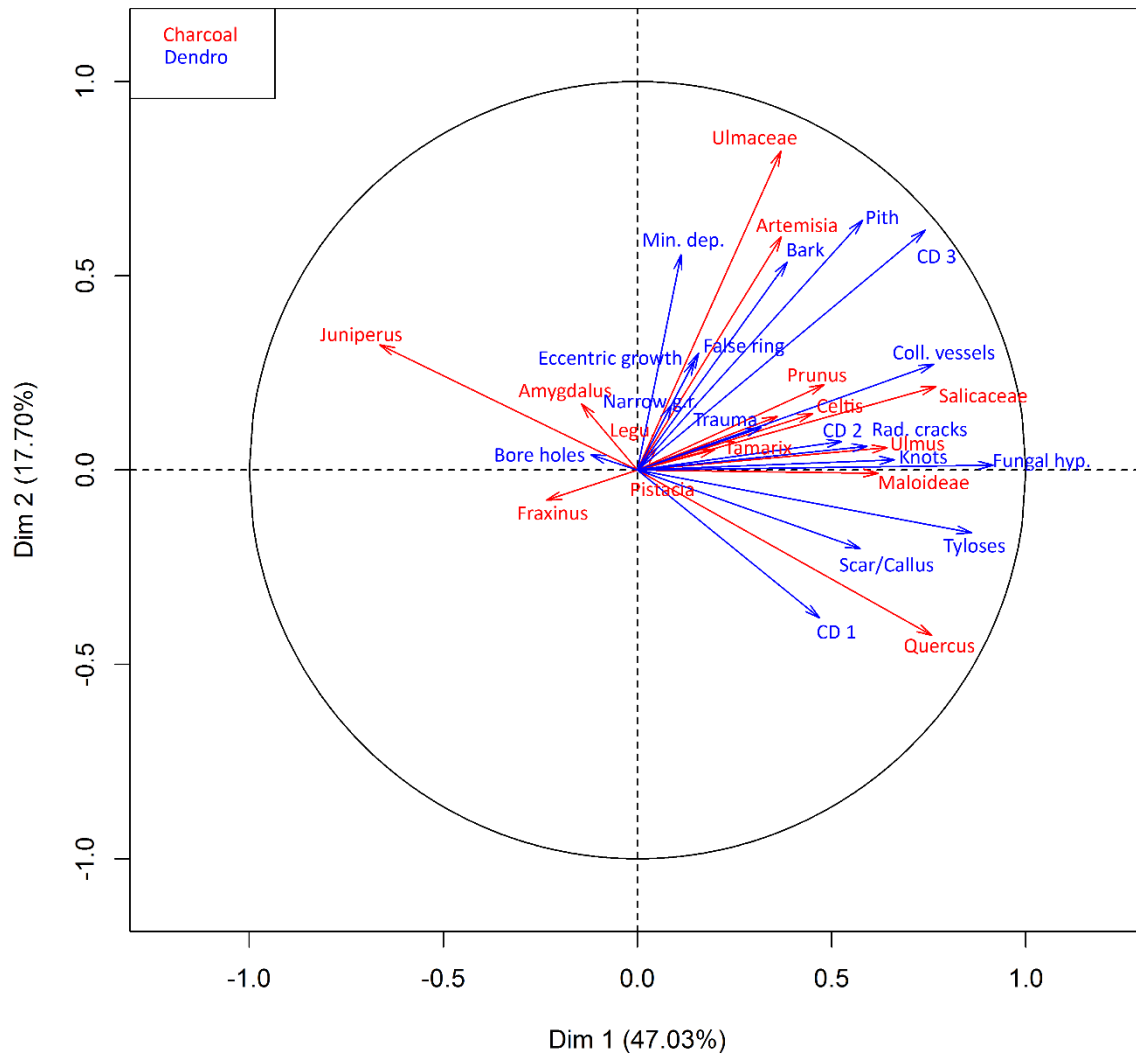


**Figure 8:** Scatter plot of average (a), maximum (b), median (c), minimum (d) and delta (e) ring width and diameter measurements for each specimen from Çatalhöyük.





**Figure 10:** Plot of individuals, MCA



**Figure 11:** Plot of variables (Dimensions 1 and 2), MFA run on per sample wood charcoal taxon and dendroanthracological feature presence counts from Çatalhöyük (dispersed and primary fuel waste deposits)



	eigenvalue	% of variance	cumulative % of variance
<b>Dim 1</b>	0.15	13.85	13.85
<b>Dim 2</b>	0.11	10.46	24.31
<b>Dim 3</b>	0.08	7.41	31.72
<b>Dim 4</b>	0.08	7.24	38.96
<b>Dim 5</b>	0.07	6.81	45.77
<b>Dim 6</b>	0.07	6.53	52.30
<b>Dim 7</b>	0.07	6.35	58.65
<b>Dim 8</b>	0.06	6.08	64.72
<b>Dim 9</b>	0.06	5.81	70.54
<b>Dim 10</b>	0.06	5.44	75.98
<b>Dim 11</b>	0.06	5.18	81.16
<b>Dim 12</b>	0.05	4.78	85.94
<b>Dim 13</b>	0.05	4.27	90.21
<b>Dim 14</b>	0.04	3.99	94.20
<b>Dim 15</b>	0.03	3.13	97.33
<b>Dim 16</b>	0.03	2.67	100.00

**Supplementary Table 1a:** Results of MCA run on dendroanthracological features recorded for Çatalhöyük wood charcoal specimens: eigenvalues and percentage of variance.

	Contribution to dimensions					cos <sup>2</sup>				
	Dim 1	Dim 2	Dim 3	Dim 4	Dim 5	Dim 1	Dim 2	Dim 3	Dim 4	Dim 5
CD1	3.37	0.38	2.50	<b>11.66</b>	<b>17.51</b>	0.0799	0.0068	0.0318	0.1445	0.2042
CD2	4.84	4.95	1.09	0.13	2.15	0.2208	0.1708	0.0267	0.0031	0.0483
CD3	<b>10.00</b>	4.93	0.28	0.91	0.00	0.3819	0.1422	0.0057	0.0182	0.0000
Pith_0	3.39	0.95	0.01	0.32	0.04	0.5454	0.1158	0.0007	0.0270	0.0032
Pith_1	<b>21.21</b>	<b>5.96</b>	0.05	2.01	0.25	0.5454	0.1158	0.0007	0.0270	0.0032
Bark_0	0.75	0.14	0.01	0.25	0.02	0.3788	0.0534	0.0039	0.0650	0.0061
Bark_1	<b>16.34</b>	3.05	0.32	<b>5.37</b>	0.54	0.3788	0.0534	0.0039	0.0650	0.0061
Tyloses_0	<b>13.72</b>	<b>5.88</b>	0.07	0.60	0.84	0.4718	0.1527	0.0014	0.0108	0.0142
Tyloses_1	<b>7.57</b>	3.24	0.04	0.33	0.46	0.4718	0.1527	0.0014	0.0108	0.0142
Knots_0	0.01	0.02	0.07	1.74	0.03	0.0037	0.0065	0.0183	0.4445	0.0078
Knots_1	0.16	0.37	1.47	<b>36.67</b>	0.69	0.0037	0.0065	0.0183	0.4445	0.0078
Trauma canal_0	0.16	<b>5.47</b>	1.91	0.00	0.03	0.0175	0.4452	0.1105	0.0002	0.0017
Trauma canal_1	0.63	<b>21.14</b>	7.40	0.01	0.12	0.0175	0.4452	0.1105	0.0002	0.0017
Scar tissue_0	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.0003	0.0089	0.1099	0.0875	0.0889
Scar tissue_1	0.01	0.53	<b>9.20</b>	<b>7.50</b>	<b>8.10</b>	0.0003	0.0089	0.1099	0.0875	0.0889
Narrow gr. ring_0	0.19	3.32	2.03	1.36	0.57	0.0215	0.2792	0.1205	0.0790	0.0312
Narrow gr. ring_1	0.78	<b>13.36</b>	<b>8.14</b>	<b>5.47</b>	2.29	0.0215	0.2792	0.1205	0.0790	0.0312
Reaction wood_0	0.01	0.07	0.04	0.08	0.03	0.0144	0.0806	0.0343	0.0669	0.0248
Reaction wood_1	0.64	4.75	2.85	<b>5.69</b>	2.24	0.0144	0.0806	0.0343	0.0669	0.0248
False rings_0	0.02	0.11	0.00	0.12	0.03	0.0169	0.0901	0.0000	0.0684	0.0162
False rings_1	0.75	<b>5.27</b>	0.00	<b>5.79</b>	1.45	0.0169	0.0901	0.0000	0.0684	0.0162
Boreholes_0	0.00	0.02	0.26	0.04	0.17	0.0000	0.0236	0.2247	0.0322	0.1383
Boreholes_1	0.00	1.39	<b>18.69</b>	2.75	<b>12.52</b>	0.0000	0.0236	0.2247	0.0322	0.1383
Radial cracks_0	0.01	0.16	0.66	0.01	0.83	0.0027	0.0449	0.1282	0.0027	0.1489
Radial cracks_1	0.11	2.52	<b>10.15</b>	0.22	<b>12.83</b>	0.0027	0.0449	0.1282	0.0027	0.1489
Mineral deposits_0	0.02	0.14	0.65	0.03	0.98	0.0071	0.0396	0.1264	0.0049	0.1742
Mineral deposits_1	0.30	2.22	<b>10.01</b>	0.40	<b>15.02</b>	0.0071	0.0396	0.1264	0.0049	0.1742
Collapsed vessels_0	0.01	0.05	1.14	0.36	1.08	0.0048	0.0148	0.2455	0.0757	0.2151
Collapsed vessels_1	0.20	0.84	<b>19.57</b>	<b>6.18</b>	<b>18.66</b>	0.0048	0.0148	0.2455	0.0757	0.2151
Fungal hyphae_0	<b>7.73</b>	4.57	0.67	2.06	0.22	0.3281	0.1464	0.0153	0.0457	0.0045
Fungal hyphae_1	<b>7.07</b>	4.18	0.62	1.88	0.20	0.3281	0.1464	0.0153	0.0457	0.0045

**Supplementary Table 1b:** Results of MCA run on dendroanthracological features recorded for Çatalhöyük wood charcoal specimens: contribution of variables to dimensions, and cos<sup>2</sup> values.

	eigenvalue	% of variance	cumulative % of variance
comp 1	1.724	47.03	47.03
comp 2	0.649	17.70	64.72
comp 3	0.430	11.74	76.46
comp 4	0.287	7.82	84.28
comp 5	0.134	3.65	87.93
comp 6	0.096	2.61	90.54
comp 7	0.076	2.07	92.61
comp 8	0.058	1.58	94.19
comp 9	0.040	1.08	95.26
comp 10	0.036	0.98	96.24
comp 11	0.028	0.77	97.01
comp 12	0.020	0.54	97.55
comp 13	0.018	0.50	98.05
comp 14	0.016	0.44	98.50
comp 15	0.013	0.36	98.85
comp 16	0.010	0.28	99.14
comp 17	0.007	0.20	99.34
comp 18	0.006	0.16	99.49
comp 19	0.004	0.12	99.61
comp 20	0.003	0.08	99.70
comp 21	0.002	0.07	99.76
comp 22	0.002	0.06	99.82
comp 23	0.002	0.04	99.87
comp 24	0.001	0.04	99.90
comp 25	0.001	0.03	99.94
comp 26	0.001	0.03	99.96
comp 27	0.000	0.01	99.98
comp 28	0.000	0.01	99.99
comp 29	0.000	0.01	99.99
comp 30	0.000	0.00	100.00

**Supplementary Table 2a:** Results of MFA run on Çatalhöyük per sample (dispersed and primary fuel waste contexts) wood charcoal taxon and dendroanthracological counts: eigenvalues and percentage of variance.

	Contribution to dimensions				
	Dim.1	Dim.2	Dim.3	Dim.4	Dim.5
Dendro	50.83	38.97	30.85	31.44	31.52
Taxa	49.17	61.03	69.15	68.56	68.48

**Supplementary Table 2b:** Results of MFA run on Çatalhöyük per sample (dispersed and primary fuel waste contexts) wood charcoal taxon and dendroanthracological counts: contribution of groups to dimensions.

	<b>Contribution to dimensions</b>				
	<b>Dim.1</b>	<b>Dim.2</b>	<b>Dim.3</b>	<b>Dim.4</b>	<b>Dim.5</b>
Pith	3.48	<b>11.40</b>	0.84	5.02	<b>10.23</b>
Bark	0.31	1.60	0.45	1.62	2.30
Tyloses	<b>19.28</b>	1.79	8.18	<b>20.77</b>	0.46
Traumatic canals	0.47	0.15	9.58	0.34	1.85
Fungal hyphae	<b>12.35</b>	0.01	1.99	0.53	0.03
Narrow gr. rings	0.01	0.14	1.04	0.04	9.11
Radial cracks	0.45	0.00	0.14	0.73	0.10
Collapsed vessels	0.52	0.18	0.00	0.02	0.00
Boreholes	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.02	0.07
Scar callus tissue	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00
Mineral deposits	0.01	0.92	0.04	0.00	0.98
Reaction wood	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
False rings	0.00	0.04	0.06	0.02	0.36
Knots	0.21	0.01	0.04	0.90	0.14
CD1	0.61	1.06	1.94	1.34	3.07
CD2	1.42	0.08	6.49	0.08	0.08
CD3	<b>11.68</b>	<b>21.58</b>	0.00	0.02	2.73
<i>Juniperus</i>	<b>15.16</b>	9.52	<b>60.34</b>	2.09	0.98
<i>Quercus</i>	<b>20.61</b>	<b>17.26</b>	4.75	<b>45.16</b>	0.00
<i>Amygdalus</i>	0.02	0.07	0.29	0.06	0.03
<i>Pistacia</i>	0.00	0.01	0.25	0.18	0.88
<i>Prunus</i>	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Maloideae	0.08	0.00	0.01	0.07	0.27
Salicaceae	7.19	1.49	0.03	0.26	<b>27.64</b>
Ulmaceae	2.36	<b>31.02</b>	1.83	3.46	2.09
<i>Ulmus</i>	2.38	0.05	0.43	4.41	0.17
<i>Celtis</i>	0.80	0.22	0.16	<b>10.49</b>	2.29
<i>Fraxinus</i>	0.31	0.09	0.91	2.11	<b>33.95</b>
<i>Tamarix</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Artemisia</i>	0.18	1.25	0.13	0.00	0.16
Leguminosae	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.26	0.01

**Supplementary Table 2c:** Results of MFA run on Çatalhöyük per sample (dispersed and primary fuel waste contexts) wood charcoal taxon and dendroanthracological counts: contribution of variables to dimensions.

Dim.1 main components			Dim.2 main components		
	correlation	p value		correlation	p value
Fungal hyphae	0.9162	0	Ulmaceae	0.8208	0
Tyloses	0.8606	0	Pith	0.6433	0
Salicaceae	0.7691	0	CD3	0.6179	0
Collapsed vessels	0.7632	0	<i>Artemisia</i>	0.6012	0
<i>Quercus</i>	0.7576	0	Mineral deposits	0.554	0
CD3	0.7412	0	Bark	0.5361	0
Radial cracks	0.6616	0	<i>Juniperus</i>	0.3228	0.0143
<i>Ulmus</i>	0.6426	0	False rings	0.3008	0.023
Maloideae	0.6199	0	Reaction wood	0.2822	0.0335
Knots	0.5908	0	Collapsed vessels	0.273	0.0399
Pith	0.5796	0	CD1	-0.3803	0.0035
Scar tissue	0.5736	0	<i>Quercus</i>	-0.4253	0.001
CD2	0.5256	0			
<i>Prunus</i>	0.4809	2.00E-04			
CD1	0.4688	2.00E-04			
<i>Celtis</i>	0.4513	4.00E-04			
Bark	0.3854	0.0031			
<i>Artemisia</i>	0.3706	0.0045			
Ulmaceae	0.3693	0.0047			
Leguminosae	0.36	0.0059			
Traumatic canals	0.3178	0.016			
<i>Juniperus</i>	-0.664	0			

**Supplementary Table 2d:** Results of MFA run on Çatalhöyük per sample (dispersed and primary fuel waste contexts) wood charcoal taxon and dendroanthracological counts: significant components of the first two dimensions.