

Radiocarbon dates for the spread of farming and ceramics in tropical South America

This dataset contains 2762 radiocarbon dates from 1023 archaeological sites in lowland South America. In principle, only archaeological cultures related to the spread of polyculture agroforestry (tropical forest farming) and ceramics are represented. The dataset has been compiled and is continuously updated as part of the project ExPaND: Examining Pan-Neotropical funded by the European Commission H2020.

Variables are the following:

- **Site:** Site name and code (if available).
- **C14Age:** The radiocarbon date(s) for the site.
- **C14SD:** Standard error of the radiocarbon determination.
- **LabCode:** Laboratory code, if available.
- **Material:** The material dated, i.e. wood charcoal, marine shell, human bone etc.
- **Culture:** Cultural affiliation of the site or dated level. See below for a summary of archaeological cultures.
- **Description:** Brief description of the archaeological site, if available.
- **Comments:** Mainly comments about problems with the context or radiocarbon measurement, if there are any.
- **Reference:** Reference for the date in author-year format.
- **FullReference** Full bibliographic reference.
- **Exclude:** A boolean deciding whether the date should be excluded from analyses based on the best judgement of the original publisher or general consensus of the archaeological community in the present.
- **Class:** A simple and broad classification of the various archaeological cultures.

In the attribute *Class*, an experimental classification is provided according to a broad taxonomic scheme devised to simplify the myriad of archaeological cultures in late Holocene tropical South America. The following codes are employed:

- **BB:** Bacabal phase, associated with early shell mounds in southwestern Amazon, and similar ceramics in the same region, such as Pimenteira and Jasiaquiri, which are associated with ditched enclosures (Miller 1983; Zimpel and Pugliese 2012; Prümers and Jaimes Betancourt 2014).
- **CC:** Cumancaya and other corrugated ceramic phases of western Amazon, such as Huapula, which is associated with large platform mound complexes in Ecuador (Raymond et al. 1975; Rostain 1999).

- **GM:** Goya-Malabrigo (aka Ribereños Plásticos) mound sites in the Paraná wetlands (Loponte and Acosta 2016).
- **HZ:** Zone-Hachured ceramics and other early complexes with similar decoration, such as Mina, mostly associated with shell mounds in eastern Amazon (Bandeira 2012; Roosevelt et al. 1991; Simões 1981).
- **IP:** Ceramic phases attributed to the Incised-Punctate tradition, such as Santarém and Konduri, which appear in terra preta sites in the lower Amazon, together with Arauquinoid ceramics from the Orinoco and Guyanas, where they are associated with mounds and raised fields (Gomes 2001; Guapindaia 2008; Rostain 2008). Koriabo ceramics are provisionally included in this group, but recent criticism of that affiliation may lead to its exclusion (Boomert 2004).
- **NI:** Unclassified.
- **PC:** Pedra do Caboclo and other early, simple ceramics from the Brazilian northeast, including unclassified ceramics from many rockshelters (Laroche 1970; Vergne 2004; Arnaldo 2012), together with the Aratu tradition of the cerrado ring villages, included here due to its similarities with the former (Calderón 1969; Dias Jr. 1975). This affiliation may be reviewed in the future.
- **PL:** Phases belonging to the Amazon Polychrome tradition - Guarita, Jatuarana, Napo and others (Almeida and Neves 2014; Belletti 2015). Phases influenced by the Polychrome tradition but independent from it are also included, such as late Aristé (Rostain 2008). The Marajoara phase, despite being earlier, is provisionally included here due to its similarities with the Polychrome tradition (Schaan 2004).
- **SB:** Ceramics of the Saladoid and Barrancoid series of the Orinoco, together with the similar phases that mark the onset of permanent occupation in much of central/eastern Amazon, grouped in the Pocó-Açutuba/Incised-Rim tradition (Rouse and Cruxent 1963; Neves et al. 2014). Later manifestations of this horizon include terra preta sites, mounds and ditches, as in the Paredão, Ipavu and Axinim phases, which are included here (Heckenberger 2005; Moraes and Neves 2010).
- **TP:** Tupiguarani tradition (Almeida 2008; Corrêa 2014; Bonomo et al. 2015).
- **TT:** Ceramics of the Tutishcainyo tradition and related Shakimu and Nazaratequi phases, as well as other similar early ceramics of western Amazon, including those associated with geometric enclosures (Quinari and Tumichucua traditions) (Lathrap 1970; Eriksen 2011; Saunaluoma and Schaan 2012).
- **UN:** Una tradition of the cerrado and coast, together with its close relative, the Taquara/Itararé tradition of the southern Brazilian highlands, where it appears associated with pit houses and mounds (Robrahn-González 1996; Araujo 2007; Noelli and Souza 2017).

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