

**museu  
d'arqueologia  
de catalunya**

**Third seminar  
on experimental  
archaeology**

# The use of plant fibres in prehistory and protohistory

**6, 7 and 8 April 2022  
10 - 19 h**



# The use of plant fibres in prehistory and protohistory

Our knowledge of the use of plant fibres to make different kinds of utensils, such as baskets and cordage, in prehistory and protohistory is uneven, conditioned greatly by the conservation of those types of materials. In the Iberian Peninsula, which can be described as dry Europe, the preservation of this kind of archaeological evidence is rare, which has traditionally limited progress in research on those raw materials.

However, improvements in palaeobotanic and technological analytical techniques, together with an experimental approach, have empowered considerable advances in the characterisation of the technical skills of human groups in prehistory and protohistory.

This seminar aims to answer and above all pose questions about the origin and development of these products and the techniques used to make cords and baskets, as well as about the analytical methodologies that can be employed.

At the same time, the seminar possesses an essentially practical in-person aspect, as the participants will work with the best specialists in basketry and cordage, making it a unique specialised training opportunity.

## Programme

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<b>6 April</b>	17.15	<b>Plant Fiber-based Technologies: A View from the Ancient Americas (in English).</b> <i>Dr. Edward A. Jolie, (Arizona State Museum, The University of Arizona).</i>
10.00		<b>Presentation.</b> <i>Jusèp Boya, Director del Museu d'Arqueologia de Catalunya.</i>
10.15	18.00	<b>Presentation of the organisation of the seminar.</b> <i>Anna M. Garrido, Curator at Museu d'Arqueologia de Catalunya, MAC.</i>
10.30	18.40	<b>Prehistoric basketry and cordage.</b> <i>Dra. Susagna Romero (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, UAB).</i>
11.20		Break.
12.00	10.00 19.00	<b>Fibres and textile work in the Bronze Age in the south-east of the Iberian Peninsula.</b> <i>Ricardo E. Basso (predoc INAPH), Dr. Francisco Javier Jover (Universitat d'Alacant) and Dr Juan A. López (Museu Arqueològic d'Alacant).</i>
12.45		<b>Palaeolithic cordage.</b> <i>Dr. J. Emili Aura (Universitat de València).</i>
13.30		Lunch
15.00		<b>Raw material analytical techniques. Proposed methodologies.</b> <i>Maria Herrero, (predoc UAB).</i>
15.45	10.00 19.00	<b>Protohistoric cordage.</b> <i>Josep Pou and Georgina Castells (Ajuntament de Calafell).</i>
16.30		<b>Basketry in the Iron Age. Archaeological evidence and methodological proposal for its study.</b> <i>Dra. Maria Martín-Seijo (Universidad de Cantabria).</i>
		<b>7 April</b>
		<b>Experimental and practical session to demonstrate several processes using raw materials and techniques documented in prehistory and protohistory. Raw materials, cordage and basketry with esparto grass.</b> <i>Anna Homs and Carlos Fontales, Teachers of basketry and cordage</i>
		<b>8 April</b>
		<b>Experimental and practical session to demonstrate several processes using raw materials and techniques documented in prehistory and protohistory. Raw materials, cordage and basketry with straw.</b> <i>Anna Homs and Berta Bucam, Teachers of basketry and cordage.</i>

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**To whom it is addressed:** professionals in archaeology and museums, and students of archaeology and heritage management.

**Format and inscriptions:** 6 April, on-line, free of charge, inscription on the zoom channel.

7 and 8 April, in person for a small group of 20 people. Attendance at the two experimental sessions, 15 €.

Reservations must be made beforehand at <http://www.macbarcelona.cat/Agenda/L-us-de-les-fibres-vegetals-a-la-prehistoria-i-la-protohistoria>

**Languages:** Spanish, Catalan and English.

**Publication:** the proceedings of the seminar will be published in the second issue of the digital journal *Arqueo-debats*.

**Organisation:** Museu d'Arqueologia de Catalunya.

**Collaboration:** Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. Consell Superior d'Investigacions Científiques-Institució Milà i Fontanals

**Scientific organisers:** Antoni Palomo (MAC), Raquel Piqué (UAB) and Xavier Terradas (CSIC-INF).

**Technical coordination:** Anna M. Garrido (MAC).

**Communication:** Joan Muñoz (MAC) and Laia Codina (elGiroscopi).

**Cultural action coordination:** Sònia López (MAC).

A certificate of attendance will be supplied on request.