

prospects of contamination by modern or more recent pollen, I believe those matters have been laid to rest.

This is not the time or place to address the question of whether some Middle Archaic populations should be identified as horticulturalists. The issue here is the antiquity of the evidence of crop production behavior in the Eastern Woodlands area. The evidence that can be considered most ancient happens to be palynological, and this form of evidence is one that few archaeologists are accustomed to evaluate or to obtain firsthand. It is apparent that it is a lack of familiarity with palynological evidence, not its potential inadequacy or the controversies it might generate, that leads to a tendency to ignore or discount it.

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REPLY TO SCHOENWETTER

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A reply to Schoenwetter's comments.

Schoenwetter contends that "lack of familiarity with palynological evidence . . . leads to a tendency to ignore or discount it" (emphasis added). In the context of his comment on our article (Chomko and Crawford 1978), it is not lack of familiarity but lack of availability. That none of the reviewers of the article and none of those present at the 1977 Society for American Archaeology annual meeting, where our paper was originally presented (Chomko and Crawford 1977), commented on the evidence for maize in Horizon 6 at the Koster site suggests that the data either were not generally known or were not generally accepted.

At the time that our article was submitted to *American Antiquity* (May 1977), no published account of the Koster pollen data was available, and this is still the case. Schoenwetter's palynological evidence for maize in an Archaic context at Koster (his SAA paper, 1974a, and an

unpublished manuscript, 1974b) has been met with some reservations. In a recent summary of the evidence for cultigens in the east, Yarnell (1976:271) states that the "earliest convincingly dated maize in the East was recovered from the Jasper-Newman Hopewellian site in southcentral Illinois" associated with dates of $2,030 \pm 140$ radiocarbon years (80 B.C.) and $2,000 \pm 140$ radiocarbon years (50 B.C.). When Snook and Swartz (1975:88) commented on Struever and Vickery's (1973) article on the beginnings of cultivation in the Midwest-riverine area, they stated that corn was a later addition to a squash-gourd-native cultigen complex. Both these articles were written after the "presentation" of Schoenwetter's evidence. Struever's position with respect to the data is not clear (cf. 1973:75 with 1973:63, 64). Butzer (1977:53-54) concludes, "according to Schoenwetter (n. d. [1974b as referenced here]), hints of the first maize cultivation appear toward the end" of the Middle Archaic. Neither Cook (1976) nor Rackerby (1974) nor Butzer (1978) makes reference to the maize pollen.

Critical examination of the palynological evidence for maize in Horizon 6 at the Koster site must await its publication. To extend Schoenwetter's metaphor, let's get the data off the back burners and serve them up for evaluation.

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