



Bare hands experimental gathering of *Sorghum halepense*. Copyright: Giulio Lucarini.
Box image: Starch granules from Farafra grinding tool. Copyright: Anita Radini.

GIULIO LUCARINI
VEGGIE FOOD
UNDER THE
MICROSCOPE
THE EXPLOITATION OF
NORTH AFRICAN WILD
PLANTS THROUGH AN
INTEGRATED FUNCTIONAL
ANALYSIS ON STONE TOOLS

JANUARY 21TH, 2016
18–20 h

North African archaeological contexts yielded strong evidence of an intensive exploitation of wild plants during the Holocene. Results of an integrated approach of use-wear and residue analysis on stone tools from the Haua Fteah cave (Cyrenaica, Libya), and Farafra Oasis (Egyptian Western Desert) confirmed that a variety of wild grasses were gathered and processed, bringing out clearly how North African wild plants represented, for thousands of years, a primary source of food for the Holocene communities living in the Saharan regions and along the Southern Mediterranean littoral.

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