The variety of wood species used in the "Schneeberg Region", lower Austria

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In pre-industrial times an understanding of how to use every single wood species was self evident. Whenever possible, wood has been used according its specific properties. This almost lost knowledge can be rediscovered through determining the wood species of the inventory of museums.

The "Waldbauernmuseum" in Gutenstein demonstrates the economic and the social history of the region around the mountain "Schneeberg".

Identifying wood species in the "Waldbauernmuseum", the systematic use of different wood species became apparent. In total, 1400 wooden parts were analysed. Thereby 32 different wood species could be distinguished, nine of those could be addressed as shrubs (Fig.1).



Listing the specific gravity of all identified wood species, those of shrubs (coloured in orange) are ranked at the very top (Fig. 2). Two examples of shrubs in use are shown in Fig. 3 and 4.







Reck teeth made of Berberis vulgaris Fig.4: Driving shaft made of Comus mas

Fig. 2: Density of all identified wood species (S.Niklasová, 2009).

One third of all inventory parts were made out of beech wood. But, these were usually not specialised parts. For specific requirements other wood species have been used (Fig.5).



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