

# New open air museum in Moravia – anatomical identification of wood

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## INTRODUCTION

The ethnographic region Malá Haná is located in Moravia, Czech Republic, near town Boskovice. Settlement started in the 11th century and finished in the 14th century, the surrounding woody hills were settled in the 16th century. The area is in between two natural forest areas – the Drahaný Highlands in the east and the Českomoravské mezíhoří (a flat area between highlands) in the west. Currently, there is a new open air museum being prepared. It is at the stage of collecting samples from the region and close vicinity and looking for suitable lands.

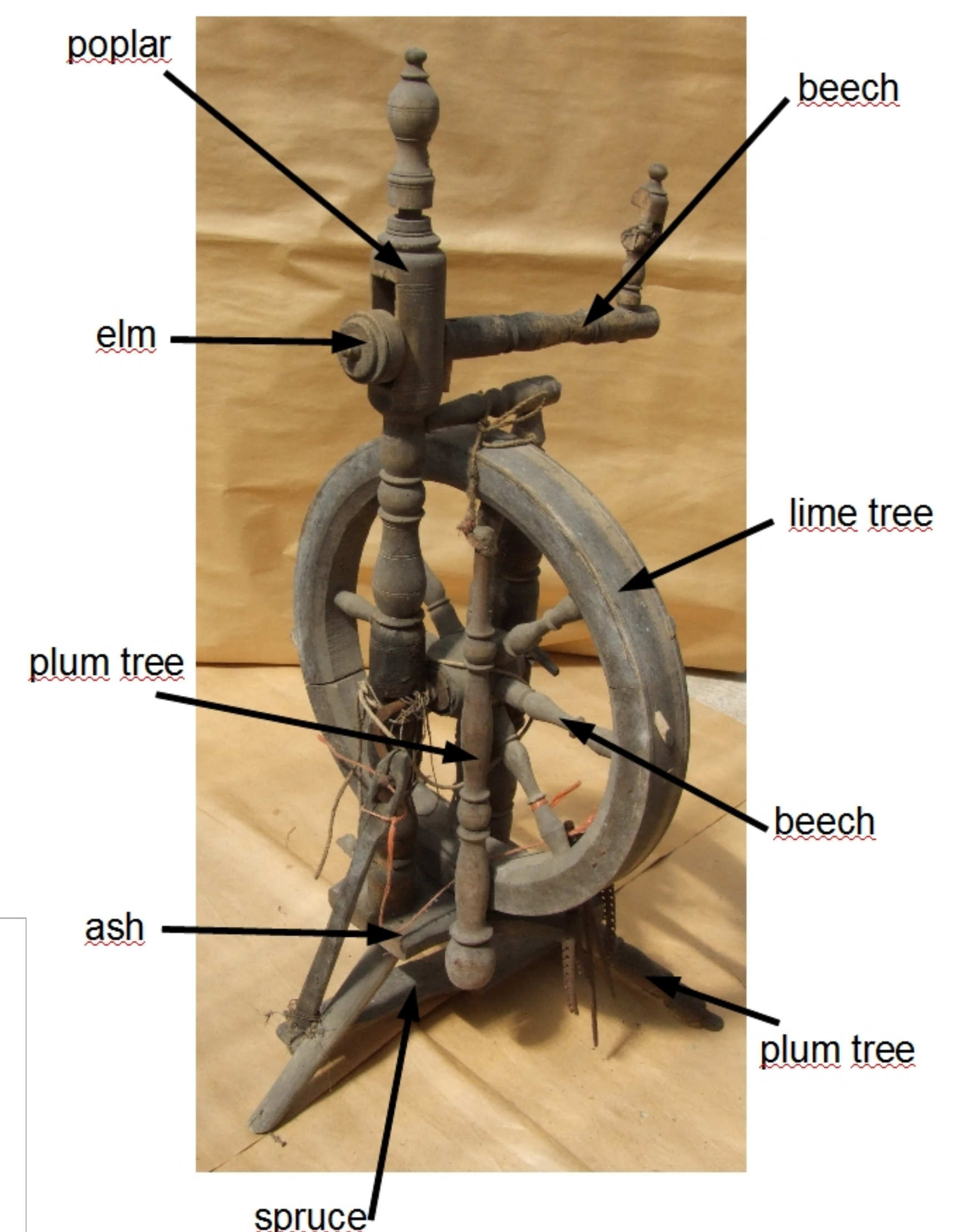
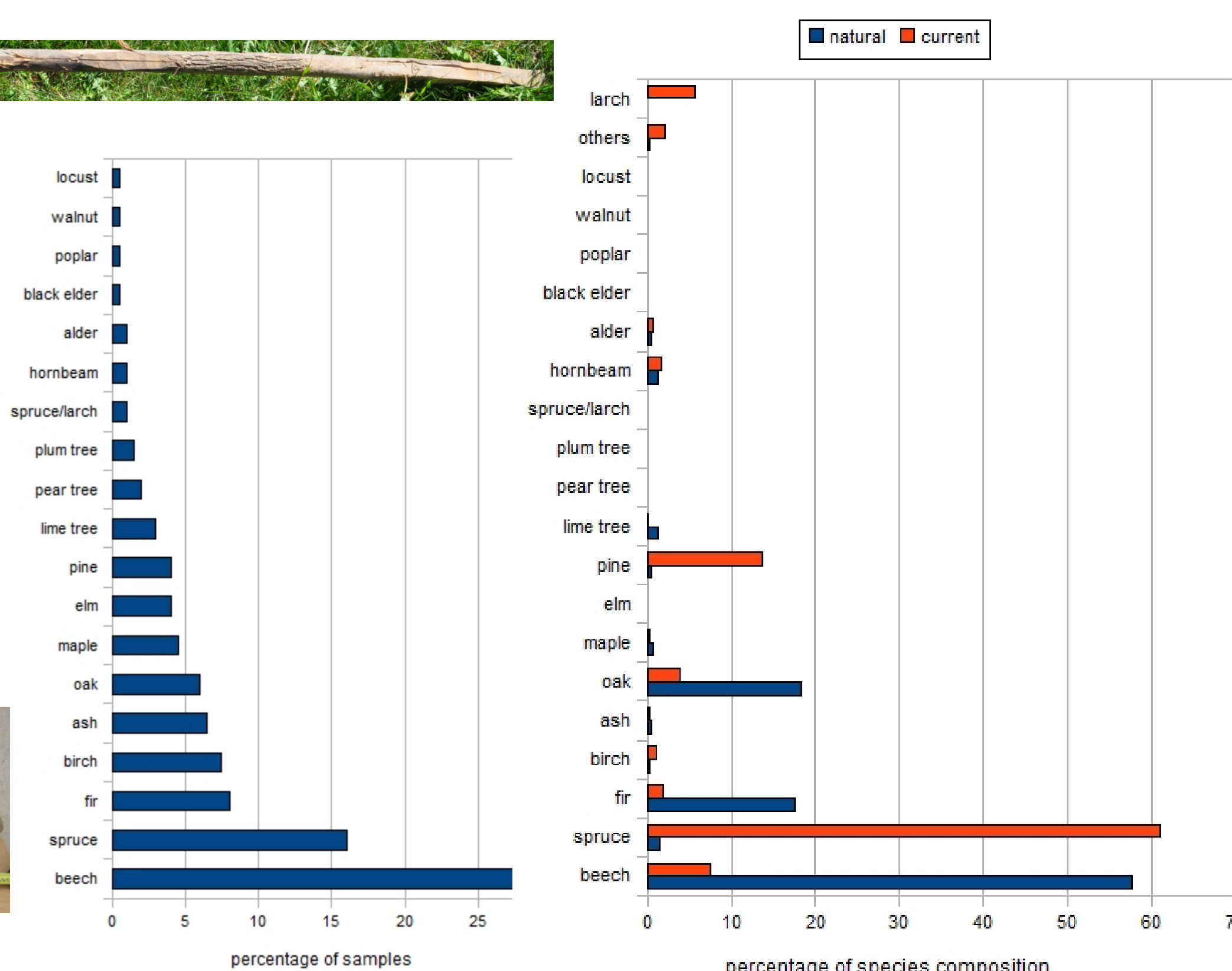
## MATERIAL AND METHODS

200 samples from the museum were identified during 2012. Our study so far has concentrated on smaller collected things – craftsmanship tools as well as products, things of everyday use. Some of them were identified macroscopically on the spot, the others were identified using microscope in the laboratory.



## RESULTS

In the processing of results we focused on the most frequently appearing types of objects. These were distaffs, sieves, spinning wheels, ploughs, and stakes. Some of them were made of variety of wood species (spinning wheels, distaffs, ploughs) while others were made nearly exclusively from one species (sieves from spruce or exceptionally fir, stakes from birch). For example, one spinning wheel was made from 7 different species, the other one from 5 species, distaffs were made from 2–3 different species. The resulting species composition corresponds to the natural forest species composition, with some deviations, e.g. trees growing in orchards – mainly pear and plum wood. Pear was obviously used for applications where hardness is needed (planes and graters), plums where design was a priority (parts of spinning wheels). In total, we have found 18 different species.



## CONCLUSIONS

The species used for the manufacture of the sampled artifacts correspond to the natural species composition of the surrounding forests at the time plus wood probably obtained in the people's gardens – *Prunus domestica*, *Pyrrus* sp., *Sambucus nigra*, L. The variety of used species is huge, obviously more varied than the variety used today. The research in the open air museum is going to continue in the next months.

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