

Identification of Charcoal Samples  
from The Forks  
Manitoba

by

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Provenience No's: as follows  
Lab No's: 89-1530 to 89-1559

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The identification of wood species from charcoal samples requires more preparation and time than from regular wood samples. The charcoal samples first have to be embedded in epoxy resin under vacuum. The embedded samples *are* then cut, glued to a petrographic slide and ground to a proper thickness using a diamond cup wheel. A final grinding is then done using silicone carbide papers followed by polishing using alumina paste. The identification of the species can then be made using a transmitted light microscope. Microscopic identification of charcoal is usually more difficult than regular wood samples. In some cases, some features might not be present. In others, the sample might not be large enough to allow for more than one sectioning or, some of the anatomical features might be hard to see once the wood has been burnt.

The results of the analysis *are* shown in Table 1. Samples 21K22H4-2601 and 21K26G6-12015 *are* vegetable matters, possibly root or bark. Samples 21K24H7-840 and 21K39D27-10826 were not large enough to analyse. Sample 21K24H7-840 had two different samples, one being a juvenile wood or a root.

TABLE 1

<u>Provenience No</u>	<u>Lab no</u>	<u>Cotton name</u>	<u>Scientific name</u>	<u>Slide</u>
21K9B3-10990	89-1530	lost probably poplar	Populus spp.	10026
21K16619-5X-1332		89-1531	Poplar	
		Populus spp.	10029	
21K17E15-1003	89-1532	Ash	Fraxinus spp.	10032
21K17F24-1171	89-1533	Ash	Fraxinus spp.	10035
21K17G17-1397	89-1534	Poplar	Populus spp.	10038
21K22E12-11422	89-1535	Ash	Fraxinus spp.	10041
21K22E13-11421	89-1536	Ash	Fraxinus spp.	100.44
21K2268-9575	89-1537	Ash	Fraxinus spp.	10047
21K2269-3396	89-1538	Ash	Fraxinus spp.	10050
21K2ZH4-2601	89-1539	root or bark	—	10053
21K24D25-3X-2016		89-1540	Elm	Ulnus
spp.	10056			
21K24E20-11X-4956		89-1541	possibly elm	Ulnus
spp.	10058			
21K24H7-840	89-1542	not enough sample	—	10060
"	89-15428	diffuse porous hardwood; branch or root		10063
21K25D18-9699	89-1543	Elm	Ulnus spp	10066
21K25E22-U76	89-1544	Ash	Fraxinus spp.	10069
21K2564-12192	89-1545	Ash	Fraxinus spp.	10071
21K25G22-1413	89-1546	Elm	Ulnus spp.	10074
211(2666-12015	89-1547	root or bark	—	10077
21K2667-12018	89-1548	diffuse porous hardwood	—	10080

<b>21K27D3-1225</b>	<b>89-1549</b>	<b>Elm</b>	<b>Ulmus spp.</b>	<b>10083</b>
<b>21K27H17-1418</b>	<b>89-1550</b>	<b>most probably poplar</b>	<b>Populus spp.</b>	<b>10086</b>
<b>21K8E1-1425</b>	<b>89-1551</b>	<b>Poplar</b>	<b>Populus spp.</b>	<b>10089</b>

TABLE 1 (Con't)

<u>Provenience No</u>	<u>Lab no</u>	<u>Common name</u>	<u>Scientific name</u>	<u>Slide</u>
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21K28F2-783	89-1552	probably ash	Fraxinus spp.	10092
21K3163-5060	89-1553	possibly white oak	Quercus spp.	10095
21K33616-10284	89-1554	fish	Fraxinus spp.	10098
21K34F12-10378	89-1555	Ash	Fraxinus spp.	10101
21K35D15-1398	89-1556	Ash	Fraxinus spp.	10104
21K36E6-10514	89-1557	possibly elm	Ulmus spp.	10107
21K41611-10985	89-1559	Ash	Fraxinus spp.	10110