

# **Analysis of organic residues preserved in archaeological ceramic vessels and their importance in revealing cultural aspects of ancient people**

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## **Abstract**

Almost organic residues preserved in the matrix of archaeological ceramics, are hiding a great true picture and understanding of the ancient societies especially in the archaeological sites where the evidences of their cultural, agricultural or economic activities are absent or unclear. Analysis of organic residues preserved in archaeological ceramics can reveal valuable information on cultural aspects of ancient human. It is able to reveal hidden information concerning the function and use of ceramic vessels, diet, lighting, medicines, perfumes such as frankincense; adhesives, technology of the use of ceramics, therefore the natural resources (i.e. faunal and floral species) exploited in the past. This can be achieved via extraction of residues using organic solvents and analysing these residues using the combined technique of gas chromatography - mass spectrometry (GC-MS).

**Keywords: Archaeological ceramics, organic residues, GC-MS**