

## APPENDIX C – ETHNOBOTANICAL REPORT

### Plant Remains

A one-gallon flotation sample was collected from each zone of each feature excavated at the site. After processing, selected samples were analyzed by Kristen Gremillion, Ph.D., of The Ohio State University. These samples were obtained from features containing diagnostic artifacts as well as zones of highly organic fill. Samples selected for analysis were screened through a series of U.S. Standard geological sieves with mesh ranging from 6.2 to 0.5 mm in size. Fragments of plant material remaining in the 2.0-mm and larger sieves were sorted into botanical constituents. Identifications were made with reference to the comparative collection of seeds in the Paleoethnobotany Laboratory, The Ohio State University. Plant materials were then counted and weighed, while wood and unidentifiable materials were simply weighed. Material between 2.0 and 0.5 mm in diameter was scanned only for seeds, other remains not represented in the larger screens, and items that are likely to be underrepresented in the larger size category (such as acorn shell and cucurbit rind). Material passing through the 0.5-mm screen is composed largely of soil particles and minute fragments of charcoal and was not systematically examined. Uncharred plant material is considered to be of recent origin and not included in counts and weights of ethnobotanical remains. Wood identifications were pursued non-systematically by examining several fragments from each sample.

The ethnobotanical samples retrieved from 31SK15 were insufficient for quantifying the relative dietary importance of the various plant foods identified (Table 1). However, the assemblage does provide clues that the inhabitants of this site were dependent on the same plant foods relied upon by many Woodland populations. Acorn and hickory nuts were both important food resources throughout eastern North America prehistorically, while cucurbit rind and fragments of corn cupules and kernels are commonly found at sites occupied by horticultural populations.

**Table 1: Plant Remains from 31SK15**

Accession Number	Flotation Sample	Plant Material	Wt. (g)	Count
97136-20	light fraction	Wood (white oak, pine present)	0.20	
97136-20	light fraction	Nutmeat?	0.04	2
97136-20	heavy fraction	Wood (mostly pine)	0.08	
97136-20	heavy fraction	Hickory shell	0.01	1
97136-28	light fraction	wood (mostly hardwood, ring-porous)	0.76	
97136-28	heavy fraction	wood (oak and pine present)	0.12	
97136-28	heavy fraction	hickory shell ( <i>Carya</i> sp.)	0.06	5
97136-31		unid. Seed	<0.005	1
97136-31		corn kernel	0.01	1
97136-31		acorn shell	0.01	
97136-31		hickory shell	0.12	11
97136-31		wood (mostly ring-porous hardwood)	0.76	
97136-38	light fraction	wood (red oak, pine present)	1.13	
97136-38	light fraction	unid. Seed	< 0.005	1
97136-38	light fraction	squash rind ( <i>Cucurbita pepo</i> )	< 0.005	1
97136-38	light fraction	Corn kernel	0.01	1
97136-38	heavy fraction	Hickory shell	0.03	7

97136-38	heavy fraction	Corn cupule	0.03	3
97136-38	heavy fraction	Corn kernel	<0.005	1
97136-48	light fraction	Corn cupule? ( <i>Zea mays</i> spp. <i>mays</i> )	0.01	2
97136-48	light fraction	Wood (mostly oak and pine)	1.22	
97136-48	light fraction	Hickory shell	0.03	3
97136-48	heavy fraction	Corn cupule	0.01	1
97136-48	heavy fraction	Acorn shell	0.01	1
97136-48	heavy fraction	Corn kernel	0.01	1
97136-48	heavy fraction	Hickory shell	0.25	25
97136-48	heavy fraction	wood (pine and hardwood present)	0.38	
97136-62		wood (possibly some hickory, no pine noted)		
97136-67		wood (mostly ring-porous hardwood)	0.53	
97136-69	light fraction	wood (hickory, <i>Carya</i> sp., present)	0.29	
97136-69	heavy fraction	wood (hickory present)	1.65	