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1 Title

- 2 First insights into the wood management for the production of lime given by the
- anthracological study of a 19th century lime kiln from Martinique, Lesser Antilles

4 Authors

- 5 Stéphanie C. Bodin^{*1,2}, Christophe Vaschalde³ and David Ollivier⁴
- ⁶ ¹ISEM, Université Montpellier, CNRS, EPHE, IRD, UMR 5554, C/C 065, Place Eugène
- 7 Bataillon, 34095 Montpellier Cedex 05, France <u>s.bodin90@gmail.com</u>
- 8 ²Arkaeos, 59, Boulevard Camille Flammarion 13001 Marseille, France
- ⁹ ³Mosaïques Archéologie, ZA de la Barthe, 34660 Cournonterral, France
- 10 <u>christophe_vaschalde@yahoo.fr</u>
- ⁴CNRS, Université d'Aix-Marseille, LA3M, UMR 7298, 5, Rue du château de l'Horloge, BP
- 12 647, 13094 Aix-en-Provence, France dollivier@mmsh.univ-aix.fr
- 13 *corresponding author <u>s.bodin90@gmail.com</u>
- 14 Institut des Sciences de l'Évolution (ISEM)
- 15 UMR 5554 | Université de Montpellier | CNRS | IRD | EPHE
- 16 Place Eugène Bataillon | Cc 065
- 17 34095 Montpellier cedex 05 | France

18 Abstract

The colonial economy of Martinique, French West Indies, has long been based on sugar cane 19 exploitation, which started in the 17th century and decreased during the 19th century. Sugar 20 21 economy led to woodland exploitation for the production of fuel. In particular, this fuelwood 22 was needed for lime production, which was used for the purification of cane juice. As lime kilns 23 are numerous in Martinique, their functioning implied an intense wood exploitation. To date, no archaeobotanical studies were conducted to assess how lime kiln workers used and 24 25 managed wood for the production of fuel. In this study, we analyzed 207 wood charcoals fragments from a 19th century lime kiln at the Sucrerie plantation, Les Anses-d'Arlet, 26 Martinique. This led to the identification of 50 taxa, showing that wood collection was mainly 27 28 diffuse and unfocused. But the occurrence of taxa known as being used for fuelwood or charcoal production suggests that lime kiln workers were looking for wood with good fuel 29 30 properties. Our results also show that the collection of wood was made locally, as revealed by the presence of a xero- to mesophilic vegetation in the anthracological record, which is in 31 32 accordance with botanical and ethnological data. The presence of pioneer and heliophilic taxa also suggest that the vegetation was already impacted by wood exploitation i.e., local forest 33 associations were largely disturbed by this time and secondary regrowth was conspicuous. 34 Nevertheless, the high proportion of small-gauge wood charcoals fragments (36%) and the 35 presence of edible taxa in the anthracological record suggest that saplings and pruning waste 36 may have been preferred to preserve useful and mature trees. This study allows for the first 37 38 time to assess which fuelwood was used by Antillean lime kiln workers during the colonial Period which makes it possible to better understand one of the most widespread handicrafts 39 during the sugar exploitation in the Caribbean. 40

41 Keywords

- 42 Tropical Anthracology Caribbean Archaeology Colonial Landscape Wood Charcoal –
- 43 Lime kiln Fuelwood Sugar Economy

44 **1. Introduction**

For several decades, the development of archaeology for the colonial period has led to an interest in the plantation dwellings of the West Indies (Moussette and Waselkov 2013; Kelly and Bérard 2014). In Martinique, the inventory of sugar refineries and distilleries (Mousnier and Caille 1990) allowed several research themes to emerge: the habitat of slaves (Kelly 2004; 2013) the production of ceramics (England 1994; 1997; Amouric et al. 2007; Amouric 2010; 2011; 2012; 2013; 2015; Thiriot et al. 2012; Cloarec-Quillon et al. 2015) and that of lime (Vidal et al. 2000; Verrand and Vidal 2004; Vaschalde et al. 2016; 2017; 2019b).

Currently, archaeobotany is developing thanks to Cultural Resources Management 52 archaeology archaeology, but no detailed study of wood charcoal from the colonial period has 53 ever been carried out in the Lesser Antilles. Yet, the economy of large plantations has impacted 54 55 the Caribbean forested landscape. As early as 1635, new settlers had to clear the land in order to benefit from advantageous settlement conditions granted by the royal power (Blérald 1986, 56 p25). An export economy developed rapidly, first based on tobacco cultivation, then on sugar 57 cane (Doumenge and Monnier 1989). In 1670, large land estates appeared and enabled the 58 59 French West Indies to export sugar to Europe on a massive scale. The sugar plantation was 60 the basis of the colonial economy. It concentrates both the cultivation of cane, which implies the acquisition of land, and the means to transform it into sugar (mill, lime kiln...). For nearly 61 two centuries, no innovation allowed production techniques to progress. The growth of the 62 sugar economy was based solely on the increase in the slave population, the multiplication of 63 plantations and the extension of cultivated lands (Blérald 1986, p27). 64

In the 18th century, sugarcane cultivation often occupied less than half of the surface area of 65 sugar estates (Blérald 1986, p27; Bégot 2008, p51; Bonnet 2008, p167), and a large part of 66 the estates were covered with woods and savannahs, which were essential for livestock and 67 firewood (Bégot 2008, p50). However, the lack of management of forest resources led to a 68 69 shortage of timber, which was then imported (Bégot 2008, p50). In the 19th century, profound changes affected the sugar economy: the modernization of the means of production (adoption 70 71 of steam mills, shareholding), the abolition of slavery in 1848, and the competition from 72 European beet sugar. However, the areas cultivated with cane continued to increase thanks to the development of the rum industry. Between 1855 and 1895, these areas increased by 73 28%, and Martinique became the first world exporter of rum (Blérald 1986, p60 and 74-79). 74 75 During World War I, the number of distilleries doubled, as the production of sugar and alcohol was stopped in France because of the conflict. From the middle of the 20th century onwards, 76 77 many factories closed down, and the cultivated areas decreased.

Thus, between the end of the 17th and the 20th century, the slave sugar economy, then the 78 79 capitalist one, led to the clearing of large areas of land. Moreover, the supply of fuel was indispensable to the West Indian economy. Before the arrival of industrial techniques and of 80 coal at the end of the 19th century, wood and bagasse were the only fuels available. Fire was 81 82 used to heat sugar boilers (Vidal 1994), potters' kilns that produced sugarloaves and molasses pots (England 1994; 1997; Thiriot et al. 2012), as well as lime kilns. Many kilns provided the 83 lime necessary for the purification of cane juice. At the end of the 18th century, Martinique had 84 nearly 80 lime kilns (Verrand and Vidal 2004, p41). An archaeological inventory has allowed 85 86 to identify more than 130 of them on the island (Vaschalde et al. 2019b). The impact of this 87 activity on the vegetation has thus been significant, and may have required the development of techniques for woodland management. 88

The colonial archives do not provide any clues on this woodland management, and only anthracology is able to enlighten us. In 2014, an archaeological excavation was carried out on a 19th lime kiln at the Sucrerie plantation, Les Anses-d'Arlet, and allowed the extraction of wood

charcoal. Anthracology in the tropics is challenging because of the scarcity of the studies 92 compared with those from temperate or Mediterranean environments; this makes comparisons 93 difficult. In the Neotropics, anthracological studies are most common in South America (e.g., 94 Tardy et al. 2000; Scheel-Ybert 2001; Beauclair et al. 2009; Bianchini and Scheel-Ybert 2011; 95 Fernandes Caromano et al. 2013; Scheel-Ybert et al. 2014; Bachelet and Scheel-Ybert 2017; 96 Bodin et al. 2020) but are still rare in the Antilles (Newsom and Molengraaff 1999). To our 97 knowledge, the only anthracological study conducted in Martinique is that by Christophe Tardy 98 99 on the pre-Columbian site of Vivé (Tardy 2001). In this paper, we assess how lime kiln burners managed woodland to produce charcoal for the functioning of a 19th century lime kiln, in the 100 context of the sugar cane exploitation in Martinique. Specifically, we ask these questions to 101 102 better understand the fuel economy:

- 103 1. Did craftspeople favor some kind of vegetation?
- 104 2. Did they collect wood locally?

To answer these questions, we identified wood charcoals found in the remains of the lime kiln.
 This study, combining anthracology with an ethnoarchaeological approach, is the first one for
 a Caribbean colonial site.

108 2. Material and methods

109 2.1 Regional setting

The study was undertaken in Les Anses-d'Arlet (14°29'26", 61°04'50"), in Martinique, a French 110 overseas department located in the Lesser Antilles (Fig. 1). The climate is tropical humid (Peel 111 112 et al. 2007) with a mean annual rainfall of 1300 mm and a mean annual temperature of 27°C recorded in Les Anses-d'Arlet between 1951 and 1970 (Portécop 1979). The dry season 113 extends from January to April and the rainy season occurs between June and November. In 114 the South, the geological substratum is older and the topography lower than in the North-115 Western part of the island where the Montagne Pelée stands. The climate is also drier in the 116 South (Portécop 1979). Martinique belongs to the Caribbean hotspot of biodiversity, which 117 hosts more than 11,000 species of native seed plants with a species endemism rate of about 118 72% (Myers et al. 2000; Conservation International 2020). The most recent update of the 119 120 floristic checklist counts about 3200 angiosperm species in Guadeloupe-Martinique (Fournet and Sastre 2002). In 1994, Fiard reports 396 tree species of which 20% are endemic to the 121 Lesser Antilles. According to Portécop (1979), the flora of Martinique has a strong affinity with 122 123 that of Puerto Rico and, in a lesser extent, with that of the North of South America. In Les Anses-d'Arlet area, the vegetation is xerophytic, with a Tabebuia-Bursera forest, a Ceiba-Ficus 124 125 sandy-clay facies and a Lonchocarpus-Inga riparian forest (Portécop 1979).

126 2.2 Historical context

During the second half of the 18th century, the Sucrerie plantation was one of the most 127 important sugar plantation in southwest Martinique. Around 1770, the map of Moreau du 128 Temple indicates that the domain was called "Lebrun" (Bégot et al. 1998). In 1783, the Delpech 129 family built a sugar factory, and in 1788, the plantation was bought by Jean-François Hayot 130 (1733-1788) (Bruneau-Latouche et al. 2002, p569; Elisabeth 2005, p1). During the 19th 131 132 century, the Hayot family established itself throughout southern Martinique and diversified its economic activity (sugar, rum, pottery, building materials, etc.). It increased the extent of the 133 Sucrerie plantation, which reached 116 ha in 1788, 177 ha in 1820, and 284 ha in 1828 134 (Bruneau-Latouche et al. 2002, pp569-573; Ollivier and Vaschalde 2015). Starting in the 1840s 135 136 in Martinique, the creation of modern factories equipped with steam boilers disrupted the operation of the Sucrerie plantation. Around 1845, Michel Hayot (1786-1852) put an end to the 137 138 pressing of sugar on the domain, and sent the cane to the new sugar factory at Pointe-Simon

(Fort-de-France). This factory was founded by Joseph Quennesson (1819-1890), which
bought the plantation in 1878 (Ollivier and Vaschalde 2015). After the closure of the factory,
Simon Hayot bought the Sucrerie plantation in 1899. Taking advantage of the development of
the rum industry, he set up a distillery in 1918 (Louis-Alexandre 1985). In 1926, the map of the *Compagnie française aérienne* indicates that sugar cane plantations occupy large areas in the
plain around the house, and that the hills are forested. The distillery closed definitively in 1950
(Mousnier and Caille 1990; Flohic et al. 1998, p29).

146 2.3 Remains associated to the Sucrerie plantation

147 The plantation is organized around a hill overlooking the Ravine des Œillets and the village of Les Anses-d'Arlet. The Sucrerie plantation is composed of a master's mansion probably 148 dating from 1760-1770 AD (Charlery 2004) installed on the hilltop, and of various buildings 149 related to its past economic activity. The only vestiges that can be linked to the sugar activity 150 151 of the plantation in the 18th-19th centuries are those of the sugar mill that has been identified south of the ruins. The 20th century distillery, built on the sugar factory, stretches from east 152 to west on the northern piedmont of the hill. It consists of a large building, restored in 2011 153 and containing several vats or vat supports, a steam boiler and the mechanical installation 154 still in place, also restored. Other ruins are located to the north and west. In 2014, the 155 archaeological excavation uncovered walls of basalt rubble bound with lime mortar and 156 partially plastered (Fig. 2; MR 1002 and MR 1025). Dating from the second half of the 18th 157 century, their function remains unknown. 158

159

160 2.4 Lime kiln structure and functioning

161 The lime kiln is built to the North-East of the distillery. It is a circular building measuring 162 approximately 5 m in diameter for a preserved height of 2.20 m (Fig. 2). The external facing is 163 built in irregular apparatus of large basalt rubble bound with a lime mortar, the whole being 164 covered with a smooth lime plaster, like the walls previously described.

165 To the West is the mouth of the kiln, facing a ruined building that may have served as a "lime hut". The mouth is composed of a basalt sill and refractory stone pedestals. The lintel topping 166 the whole has disappeared. The mouth is preceded by a large splay, which sheltered the 167 working area, partially filled by alternating layers of lime, containing fragments of charred coral 168 and wood mixed with ash, which testify to the activity of the kiln (US 1015). Inside the kiln, the 169 firing chamber has a diameter of 1.50 m at the base. It has the shape of an inverted truncated 170 171 cone. The floor consists of a paving laid on a bed of lime mortar and the walls are built with cut 172 refractory stones.

To the north of the kiln, a masonry ramp allowing access to the top in order to feed it with corals has been identified despite the poor state of conservation.

The architecture of the structure indicates that it is a short-flame kiln (Vaschalde 2018, pp91-97), a process that is very widespread in Martinique (Vidal et al. 2000; Verrand and Vidal 2004; Vaschalde et al. 2016; 2017; 2019b). The raw material, composed of coral and shell fragments, is charged by forming beds alternating with fuel (wood charcoals). At the end of each firing, the lime is discharged through the mouth at the bottom of the kiln, and part of the charcoal is spread on the floor of the work area.

181 2.5 Dating of the lime kiln

The dating of the lime kiln is based on stratigraphy, textual sources and artifacts found during
 the excavation. After the walls MR 1002 and MR 1025 were levelled, the ground was backfilled

and the kiln's foundations were then dug. An inventory drawn up in 1820 does not mention the 184 lime kiln, indicating that it was built after that date. In 1878, the lime kiln appears in the deed 185 of sale of the estate to Joseph Quennesson (Ollivier and Vaschalde 2015). It can be assumed 186 that it was in good condition at this time. Thereafter, it is probable that Joseph Quennesson 187 did not have lime produced at the plantation anymore, since the canes were brought to the 188 factory of Pointe-Simon. Finally, the excavation of the work area uncovered two fragments of 189 glass bottle bottoms, dated to the mid-19th century. The lime kiln was therefore in operation in 190 191 the mid-19th century, and seems to have been abandoned after a few decades of use.

192 2.6 Charcoal sampling and identification

Sampling was done in a deposit of mixed charcoal, coral and stone fragments in front of the opening of the kiln from a single layer, the stratigraphic unit 1015 (Fig. 2), which probably corresponds to the last firing. The 2-liters deposit was collected in clods with a trowel to avoid charcoal breaking. It was then water-sieved in 4 and 2 mm meshes to retrieve charcoal fragments. Charcoal fragments were then dried away from the direct sunlight to prevent them from bursting.

Only fragments > 4 mm were considered for anthracological analysis (Chabal et al. 1999; 199 Scheel-Ybert 2001). Below this size, the identification is harder because fewer anatomical 200 features are visible. This is especially true for the tropical material where there is a strong 201 anatomical homogeneity. Charcoals were observed under a reflected light microscope with 202 dark and bright field, at x100, x200, x500 and x1000 magnifications. In the absence of a 203 reference collection of charred wood from the Lesser Antilles at the Institut des Sciences de 204 l'Evolution de Montpellier, identification was performed with the help of the charcoal reference 205 206 collection from French Guiana (Scheel-Ybert 2016), as many taxa are common between the two regions. Specific literature (Détienne and Jacquet 1983; Cirad 1990; Rollet et al. 2010) 207 and identification tools (InsideWood 2004-onwards; Bodin et al. 2019) were also used to 208 209 complement the comparisons with the reference collection. Many tropical woods are characterized by a homogeneous anatomy, making them difficult to distinguish, especially 210 211 within the same family. Identification at the genus level is possible in the case of a monogeneric 212 family or when genera present distinguishable anatomical features. Similarly, identification at the species level is only possible in the case of a monospecific genus or when species are 213 anatomically heterogeneous. Poor preservation of charcoal masking diagnostic features or the 214 215 presence of features common to several taxa led to the designation of morphological types (e.g., type Lonchocarpus or Leguminosae type Lonchocarpus). A quasi-secured identification 216 217 is preceded by "cf." for confer (e.g., cf. Spondias or Spondias cf. mombin). When a taxon has an anatomical affinity with another taxon but differs from it in major aspects, it is preceded by 218 the mention "aff." for affinis. Finally, when two species may match with the observed features, 219 they are both mentioned (e.g., Spondias dulcis/mombin). The nomenclature used follows that 220 221 of the Angiosperm Phylogeny Group (2016) and that of the Legume Phylogeny Working Group 222 (2017) for the Legume family.

223 **3. Results**

The anthracological analysis resulted in the identification of 183 charcoal fragments out of 207, distributed in 50 taxa including 16 morphological types and 7 indeterminate (Fig. 3). Among the 207 charcoal pieces, 24 were indeterminable due to a very poor preservation (*e.g.*, vitrification) or because of a distorted anatomical structure (knots). The anthracological assemblage contains an important proportion of Leguminosae (45%) distributed in 19 types of which 6 are assigned to genera or species which have a close anatomy. Among the 207 analyzed charcoal fragments, 29% come from twigs and 6% come from knots.

231 **4. Discussion**

4.1 Palaeological significance: a firewood collected locally

233 The high number of types in our anthracological spectrum reflects the need of a specific reference collection for study areas with peculiar vegetation composition: even if the reference 234 collection of charred woods from French Guiana helped through the identification process, 235 many taxa are endemic to the Lesser Antilles or simply do not occur in French Guiana. 236 However, building a reference collection is a long process which is not compatible with short 237 238 projects. This is an issue that was previously underlined during a pioneering research in New Caledonia, another tropical region where anthracological studies are still scarce (Dotte-Sarout 239 240 2011). Hence, due to the high number of morphological types, the following interpretation relies on a reduced list of taxa that may shed light on the collect of wood used as fuel for the lime 241 kiln. This short list already makes it possible to formulate hypotheses. 242

- First, some taxa found in the anthracological assemblage may indicate that wood collection 243 244 was made in a xerophilic forest. These are Spondias mombin, cf. Zygia latifolia, an Apocynaceae resembling Plumeria sp. and the types Acacia macracantha and Senna 245 bicapsularis. To this list can be added the types Psidium guajava and Citharexylum which have 246 247 xero-mesophilic affinities and Coccoloba/Sapindaceae which may also correspond to a xerophilic facies (Rollet et al. 2010). It is noteworthy that the porknut Acacia macracantha, 248 which was the most abundant taxon in the charcoal assemblage, and the golden apple 249 250 Spondias dulcis, an introduced species from Oceania, are used as firewood and for the 251 production of charcoal (Rollet et al. 2010). Some species of the genera Citharexylum, Coccoloba and Plumeria are also used as firewood and to produce charcoal in the French 252 253 West Indies, such as the fiddlewood Citharexylum spinosum, the seagrape Coccoloba uvifera and the frangipani Plumeria alba (Rollet et al. 2010; ONF 2015). 254
- There are also taxa corresponding to a mesophilic vegetation, which suggest that wood collection was not restricted to the xerophilic forest. These are the breadfruit *Artocarpus altilis*, the amarillon *Lonchocarpus* cf. *heptaphyllus*, which is used as firewood in the Lesser Antilles (Rollet et al. 2010; ONF 2015) and Melastomatoideae. To these taxa can be added the type *Cassipourea guianensis* and two *Inga* morphotypes.
- Second, other taxa may indicate a pioneer and/or heliophilic vegetation such as Spondias 260 dulcis/mombin, Melastomatoideae, Salicaceae, cf. Zygia latifolia, Coccoloba/Sapindaceae and 261 the type Acacia macracantha. This suggests that the fuelwood was collected in a secondary 262 forest or in disturbed areas. Three morphological types found in the anthracological 263 assemblage might support the hypothesis of a collection from a secondary forest association. 264 265 These are the types Citharexylum, Cordia and Psidium guajava. The species of the genus Citharexylum are heliophilic, the common guava P. guajava is a pioneer and some Cordia 266 species are short-lived pioneers, such as C. alliodora (Rollet et al. 2010). Interestingly, some 267 Cordia species are also used as firewood in the French Antilles, such as the white manjack C. 268 269 sulcata (Rollet et al. 2010; ONF 2015). The presence of pioneer and heliophilic taxa may be the result of an intense landscape exploitation. 270
- Third, the presence of possible riparian taxa, such as the amarillon *Lonchocarpus* cf. *heptaphyllus*, cf. *Zygia latifolia, Spondias mombin* and the type *Senna bicapsularis*, may also suggest that some woods were collected near water courses (Guppy 1917; Portécop 1979; Rollet et al. 2010; ONF 2015).
- Obviously, the uncertainty of some identifications (*e.g.*, morphological types) requires caution in interpreting their presence. Nevertheless, the presence of xero- to mesophilic, secondary forest and riparian taxa in the anthracological record is coherent with the present-day flora

found near the Sucrerie plantation. This suggests that the craftspeople collected the firewood in the vicinity of the plantation, and, given the high number of taxa represented in the anthracological record (50 potential taxa) without any preferential collection of certain species for fuel use. However, it is possible that the craftspeople favored woods with good fuel properties, as suggested by the presence of several taxa known to be used as firewood or for charcoal production.

The fact that the wood was collected in the near environment of the lime kiln is consistent with 284 ethnological data from another lime kiln site in Martinique. In Le Lamentin, near Fort-de-285 France, a retired craftsman told that he used the wood of different mangrove tree species 286 (Vaschalde et al. 2019b). In the bay of Fort-de-France, the mangrove vegetation is abundant, 287 especially near Le Lamentin, which reinforces the idea of local supply. According to the 288 craftsmen of Le Lamentin, mangrove wood was appreciated by the lime kiln workers. In 289 Guadeloupe, this use is attested since the 19th century (Archives de Médecine Navale 1869). 290 291 In Les Anses-d'Arlet, the mangrove is absent, and no mangrove charcoal was found in the lime kiln. As in Le Lamentin, artisans have harvested wood around the site, and have adapted their 292 293 practices to local taxa.

4.2 On the most abundant taxa: a reflect of the palaeoenvironment or a differentialpreservation?

The most abundant taxa of the anthracological record are the type Acacia macracantha, 296 Lonchocarpus cf. heptaphyllus and the type Psidium guajava which count respectively for 14%, 297 298 10% and 8.2% of the total number of charcoal fragments, representing together 32.2% of the anthracological record. As there is a large amount of other taxa represented, reaching a total 299 300 of 50, it is unlikely that these three taxa were preferred as fuelwood and specifically selected by the craftspeople. The dominance of these taxa in the anthracological record may simply 301 reflect their abundance in the environment rather than a wood preference. Similar observations 302 303 have been made in Europe for potters and lime kiln workers from the historical period (Chabal 1997; Vaschalde 2018). Another explanation for their dominance could be a differential 304 preservation leading to an over-fragmentation of charcoals. Several studies have shown that 305 306 post-depositional processes affect charcoal preservation and can induce a bias in the proportions between taxa (Lancelotti et al. 2010; Théry-Parisot et al. 2010; Chrzazvez et al. 307 2014; Dussol et al. 2017; Henry et al. 2020). To assess the likelihood of the hypothesis of a 308 309 differential preservation, we would need this kind of data for each of our taxa, which would require time-consuming experiments. Furthermore, this would be applicable only for those 310 which have been securely identified, not for the morphological types. Testing this hypothesis 311 is therefore very difficult. 312

4.3 Collection of cultivated and/or edible species as fuelwood

As pointed above, the large amount of potential taxa (*i.e.* including the morphological types) 314 315 found in charcoals suggest that there was no selection of a specific taxon for fuel use. Even edible species were collected: the breadfruit Artocarpus altilis, a species introduced in the late 316 317 18th century (Leakey 1977), and the hog plum or the golden apple (Spondias mombin or S. dulcis), also both introduced - probably much earlier concerning the hog plum, by natural seed 318 dispersion (Guppy 1917). To these taxa might be added the common guava *Psidium guajava*. 319 The use of edible species as fuel for lime kilns in Martinique has already been reported by 320 Father Labat in the late 17th – early 18th century with the orange tree *Citrus* sp., introduced in 321 the 16th century (Labat 1724; Le Bellec and Le Bellec 2004), and more recently by Vidal et al. 322 (2000) with the mango tree Mangifera indica, introduced in the 18th century (Le Bellec and Le 323 Bellec 2004). Therefore, it is not surprising to find edible species in the wood used for the 324 325 functioning of lime kilns. The charcoal from the lime kilns can thus testify to the taxa exploited

and/or cultivated within an exploitation specialized in sugar production. In Europe, the presence of exploited/cultivated taxa in anthracological assemblages results from the pruning of fruit trees, as it is the case with vine for example (Ros and Vaschalde, in press). At the Sucrerie plantation, pruning waste from *Spondias dulcis/mombin*, *Artocarpus altilis* and *Psidium guajava* could thus have been harvested for fuel use.

4.4 On the presence of charcoals of twigs in the fuel

About 30% of the charcoal fragments came from twigs, as revealed by the non-parallel 332 arrangement of the rays in the transverse section. If we consider that the knots also come from 333 334 twigs or branches, this percentage reaches 36%. It is therefore likely that small-gauge wood was favored by the craftspeople. Several reasons could explain this. First, the abundance of 335 small-gauge wood in the environment, such as in a semi-open forest with small trees and 336 shrubs as suggested by the presence of pioneer and heliophilic taxa (see above). This type of 337 vegetation would be in agreement with the intensive land exploitation by the sugar economy 338 339 of the 19th century. This has been observed with Mediterranean lime kilns fueled by wood from the garrigue or the maquis (Vaschalde et al. 2008; 2019a; Vaschalde 2018). Second, this could 340 be due to wood management practices. The managers of the plantation could have wanted to 341 342 preserve the useful parts of the trees (trunks, main branches) by forbidding them to be cut down. Artisans would have used only small branches, dead wood, or brushwood. This type of 343 practice is attested in the south of France during the modern period (Vaschalde 2018), and 344 would be in agreement with the recovery of supposed pruning waste from fruit trees found in 345 the lime kiln of the Sucrerie plantation. 346

5. Conclusion

The study of wood charcoals from the lime kiln of the Sucrerie plantation is one of the firsts 348 349 from the colonial period in the West Indies. It shows that the lime burners used wood harvested from local vegetation composed of a great diversity of species. This vegetation was open to 350 semi-open, and appears to have been highly impacted by the exploitation of resources. 351 352 However, tree management practices may have been applied, explaining the important use of small-gauge wood. This management would notably concern cultivated and/or exploited trees 353 354 and food crops in the plantation. Anthracology makes it thus possible to address issues that cannot be dealt with on the basis of a study of the archives. Thanks to this archaeobotanical 355 approach, we get a better understanding on how lime burners managed woody vegetation 356 357 during the colonial period. Further research is however needed on this kind of activity in the Antilles, and it is necessary to study a greater number and diversity of archaeological sites 358 359 from the colonial period to able comparisons between practices used in other islands of the 360 archipelago. Finally, it is also necessary to carry out floristic surveys of the current vegetation around the sites in order to highlight the impact of the colonial sugar economy on the present-361 day environment. 362

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SB, CV and DO wrote the manuscript. CV did fieldwork (charcoal extraction and sieving), DO
 led the archaeological excavation and SB did charcoal identification.

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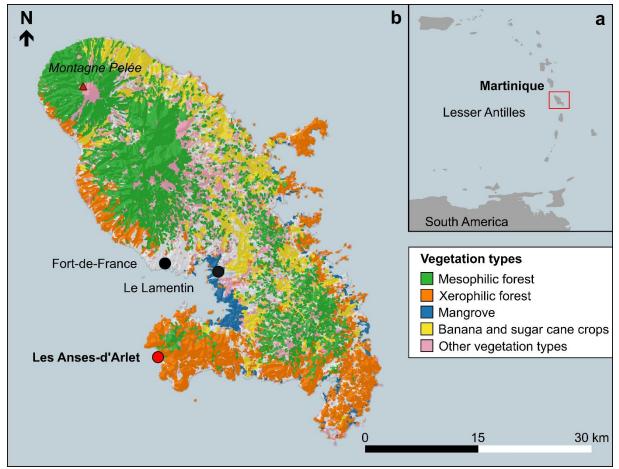
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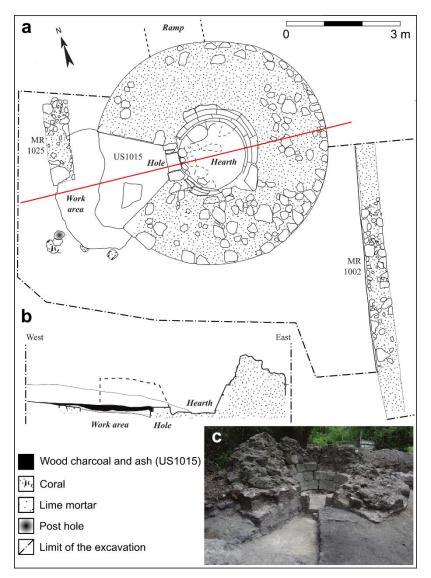
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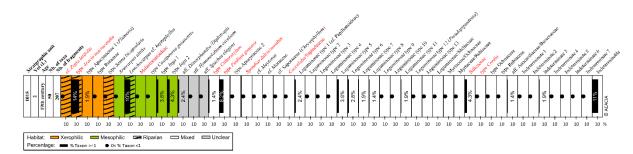
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558 Caption Figure 1: a. Location of Martinique in the Lesser Antilles. b. Location of Les Anses-559 d'Arlet in Martinique, where the Sucrerie homestead and its lime kiln are situated, and main 560 vegetation types of the island. Origin of the data: IGN OCS GE 2017, ESRI World Light Gray 561 Base, DEM SRTM 1 and viewfinderpanoramas.org.



562

563 Caption Fig.2: Configuration of the lime kiln. **a** Top view. The wood charcoals were recovered 564 from the stratigraphic unit US 1015. MR 1025 and MR 1002 correspond to walls built before 565 the kiln; their function is unknown. **b** Lateral section of the kiln, following the red line in 'a' **c** 566 photograph of the lime kiln, facing East.



567

568 Caption Fig.3: Anthracological diagram showing the taxa and morphotypes identified in the lime kiln as 569 well as the habitats attributed to each of them, when possible. The prefix 'cf.' refers to an almost secured 570 identification (e.g. a diagnostic feature is missing on the fragment) whilst 'aff.' refers to a taxon which 571 anatomy is close but which cannot match the unknown specimen due to its geographic distribution. 572 Types are specimen resembling the assigned taxon. Due to the uncertainty of their identification, the 573 'aff. –' specimens are not assigned to a habitat. The taxa in red are pioneer and/or heliophilic.