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Selected trace elements in pottery of Guarani ethnic group

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Artifacts of pottery belonging to the Guarani ethnic group were investigated by XRF techniques. The Tupi-Guarani, is one of the three main ethnics groups representative of the Neolithic culture in the amazonian scope. Such an ethnic group dispersed towards the South; in the Paraguayan area between Paraguay and Parana Rivers several Guarani ethnic movements by both rivers and their tributaries are perceived. The lithologies and ceramics typology have contributed to support that perception. The archaeological findings help to clarify prehistoric cultural aspects and dispersal areas.

In that context, the knowledge of the chemical composition of the found ceramic devices, in particular of the REE and other refractory ones provide to information on this dispersion and its expansion.

Selected trace elements analysed in samples from eleven devices were Rb, Ba, Nb, La, Ce, Sr, Nd, Sm, Zr and Y using an Am source. Their spidergrams have allowed to identify four different sets of specimens according their areas of provenance.

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