

DETERMINACIJA LESA PREDMETOV KULTURNE DEDIŠČINE

WOOD IDENTIFICATION IN OBJECTS OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

Izvleček

Predstavljen je pomen in potek determinacije lesa za potrebe restavratorstva. Opisan je postopek odvzema materiala, izdelave anatomskega materiala, determinacije lesa in prikazan je pregled rezultatov analiz na Katedri za tehnologijo lesa Oddelka za lesarstvo Biotehniške fakultete.

Ključne besede: determinacija lesa, leseni umetniški in zgodovinski predmeti

Uvod

Uveljavljjanje tujih in pogosta raba manj znanih domačih lesnih vrst, vse večja skrb za predmete kulturne dediščine in restavratorstvo, zlasti pa slabo poznavanje lesa so vzroki za veliko zanimanje za natančne določitve oz. determinacijo lesa.

Za determinacijo lesa se v splošnem uporabljo makroskopske in mikroskopske metode. Makroskopske temeljijo na znakih, ki jih vidimo s prostim očesom ali lupo. Pri tem sta pomembni barva lesa, ki je pri zgodovinskem lesu močno spremenjena, in pogosto vonj, ki s staranjem navadno izgine. Za opazovanje les zgladimo z ostrim rezilom, zato metoda ni popolnoma neškodljiva. Kadarkje les zaradi starosti spremenjen, površinsko obdelan, ali pa ga je za determinacijo na razpolago zelo malo, makroskopska določitev praviloma ni mogoča. V takih primerih uporabimo mikroskopsko metodo. Ta je v splošnem zanesljiva, zanjo pa potrebujemo dovolj velik vzorec lesa, iz katerega je mogoče izdelati mikroskopske preprate za tri osnovne ksilotomske ravnine. Če je le mogoče pri delu uporabljam t.i. dihotomne ključe za makroskopsko in mikroskopsko determinacijo (prim. Torelli, 1991). Ti so priraveni za ožji izbor lesnih vrst iz določene regije.

Redko uporabljam tudi posebne metode, ki temeljijo na razvlaknjevanju lesa in na njegovi kemični preiskavi. Te so praviloma zelo zahtevne in jih uporabljam v primerih, ko ni dovolj lesa za običajno determinacijo.

V običajni praksi navadno preiskujemo les debel odraslih dreves. Determinacija lesa vej, korenin ali celo skorje zahteva posebno obravnavo.

Abstract

We present the importance of exact wood identification for the purposes of conservation and restoration. We describe the procedures used such as sampling of wood, preparation of microscopic slides, and wood identification. The results of investigations of historic woods at the wood anatomy laboratory of the Department of Wood Science and Technology, Biotechnical Faculty are presented.

Key words: wood identification, wood objects of art and history

Introduction

The increasing use of imported wood species and lesser known domestic ones, the need to improve conservation restoration techniques and to better care for objects of cultural heritage, as well as the poor knowledge on wood species have given rise to an interest in exact wood identification.

Wood can be identified with macroscopic or microscopic methods. The macroscopic ones are based on features which can be observed with the naked eye or a simple magnification lens. In such case colour and odour are important but they change considerably or even disappear with ageing. The method is not completely non-destructive because the superficial part must be "cleaned", for example by using a razor blade. In case of aged or painted wood and when only very small amounts are available, the use of the microscopic method is recommended. For this an oriented piece of wood must be taken from the object to cut thin sections in cross-, radial- and tangential- planes. Usually dichotomous keys to identify softwoods and hardwoods from a certain geographical region are used (c.f. Torelli 1991).

We list the methods of sampling, sectioning, and preparation of microscopic slides which are used in our laboratory and report on results of identification of historic and archaeological woods.

Methods of identification

Wood can be identified for different purposes. Massive wood, wooden chips, veneer, and

V prispevku so opisane metode za determinacijo lesnih vrst, odvzem materiala in izdelavo anatomskeih preparatov. Podajamo pregled najbolj pogostih drevesnih vrst vzorcev, prinešenih v določitev na Katedro za tehnologijo lesa Oddelka za lesarstvo Biotehniške fakultete.

Metode za determinacijo lesa

Na Katedri za tehnologijo lesa opravljamo determinacijo lesa za različne namene. V zadnjih letih vse pogosteje sodelujemo tudi z Restavratorskim centrom republike Slovenije, zavodi za varstvo naravne in kulturne dediščine, muzeji in galerijami.

Preiskovali smo bodisi masiven les, iveri, ostružke, furnir, žaganje, izvrtke iz dreves in objektov ter oglje. V sodelovanju z arheologi poteka determinacija mokrega lesa subfosilnih debel in tistega iz eneolitskih količ na Ljubljanskem barju. Vzorcev iz količ je največ, saj smo jih v zadnjih dveh letih preiskali več kot 2200.

Les večinoma determiniramo mikroskopsko. Vsaka od naštetih vrst vzorcev zahteva poseben način odvzema in priprave lesa za preiskavo. Če imamo na razpolago večji dobro ohranjen vzorec lesa, iz njega izžagamo orientiran kvader velikosti $1 \times 1 \times 1,5$ cm. Kadar je lesa za preiskavo malo ali kadar preiskujemo bolj dragocen predmet, že na terenu s skalpelom odvzamemo pravilno orientiran manjši vzoreček. Pravilna orientacija lesa je zelo pomembna za nadaljnjo preiskavo, zato moramo odvzem lesa nujno opraviti v skladu z lesno anatomsko praks.

Orientacija lesa je pomembna zato, ker ima les v različnih smereh različen izgled. Po dogovoru ga opazujemo v treh anatomskih ravninah: prečni, radialni in tangencialni. To nam omogoči, da iz dvodimenzionalnih slik tankih preparatov rekonstruiramo prostorsko sliko lesa.

Po odvzemu les fiksiramo v ustrezнем fiksirnem sredstvu, ki omogoči, da ohranimo strukturne posebnosti in prepričimo okužbo. Če je les star in suh, ga za pripravo preparatov zmehčamo, kadar je razkrojen pa ga učvrstimo. To pogosto opravimo tako, da ga prepojimo z voskom ali polietilenglikolom. Posebej obravnavamo moker les iz količ, ki je v tisočletjih pod vodo oz. v zemlji izgubil do 75% lesne substance. Tak les mora v laboratorij prispeti napojen in ga po odvzemu na terenu nikakor ne smemo osušiti.

V našem laboratoriju mikroskopske preparate treh anatomskih ravnin debelin 20 do 25 mikrometrov odrežemo na drsnem mikrotomu ali ročno s skalpelom. Navadno



Rezanje tankih mikroskopskih preparatov s pomočjo drsnega mikrotoma.

Cutting thin sections of wood by a slide microtome.

cores from trees and objects have been investigated in recent years for the needs of the Restoration Centre of the Republic Slovenia, and Institutes for Conservation of Natural and Cultural Heritage, museums, and galleries. Archaeologists provided subfossil wood, charcoal and water logged wood from the Eneolithic pile dwellings from the Ljubljana Moor. The majority came from the pile dwellings. In the last two years over 2200 samples have been identified.

The most frequently used method was the microscopic one. The most suitable method of preparation was developed for each type of sample.

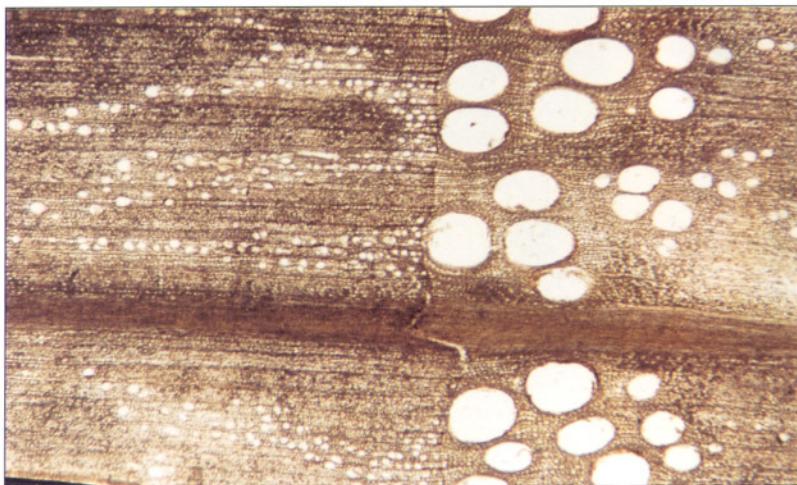
When larger, well preserved samples are available, oriented, approximately $1 \times 1 \times 1.5$ cm blocks are made. When only a small amount of wood is available or when an extremely valuable object is investigated, we sample an oriented $5 \times 5 \times 5$ mm particle. This makes it possible to prepare three anatomical sections, cross-, radial- and tangential one, to reconstruct the three-dimensional structure.

After sampling, the wood undergoes fixation and embedding. A proper method is selected depending on the type of sample. Wood from the pile dwellings which has lost a considerable amount of cell wall substance and is soaked with water may not be dried after the sampling.

In our laboratory the wood is sectioned with a microtome or a razor blade. The optimal thickness is usually between 20 and 25 micrometers. Stains are selected by the quality and type of sections. Water solution of astra blue and safranin or alcohol solution of safranin and fast-green, are the most frequently used combinations.

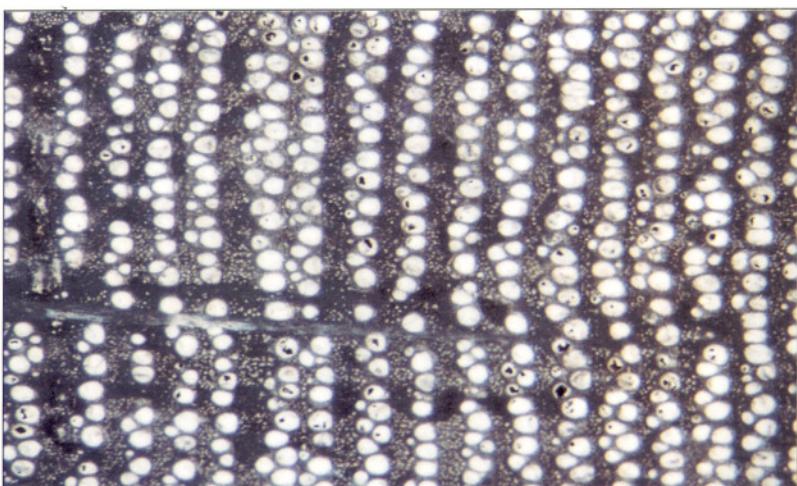
Permanent slides are prepared with Euparal or Canada balsam, and semi-permeable slides with glycerine and water.

Extremely small wooden chips cannot be sectioned. In such cases the sample is macerated and the tissue disintegrates to cells but the possibility to identify wood in



Tanka neobarvana rezina arheološke hrastovine pod svetlobnim mikroskopom.

Thin section of an archaeological oak as observed under a light microscope.



Izgled arheološke hrastovine pod stereo mikroskopom.
Les je črn, v lumne celič smo vtrli kredo.

*Archaeological oak-wood as observed under a stereo microscope.
The wood is black, the cell lumina are filled with chalk.*

jih obarvamo, zato da poudarimo strukturne posebnosti lesa. Barvila izberemo glede na vrsto preparata in namena proučevanja. Najpogosteje uporabimo barvila: vodno raztopino astra modro in safranin ali alkoholno raztopino safranin in fastgreen. Po potrebi pripravimo trajne ali poltrajne mikroskopske preparate na objektnem steklu, prekrite s krovnim stekлом. Trajni so zaliti s kanadskim balzamom ali evparalom, ki se po nekaj dneh popolnoma strdi, poltrajni pa so vklapljeni v glicerin in vodo.

Iz zelo majhnih vzorcev (iveri, žaganja) ne moremo narediti običajnih preparatov za svetlobno mikroskopijo. V takem primeru lahko les razvlaknimo (maceriramo), tako da razpade na celice, iz katerih je sestavljen. Vsi anatomske znaki na maceratu niso vidni v celoti. Obstajajo tudi dihotomi ključi za določitev drevesnih vrst evropskih iglavcev za razvlaknjen les, vendar je možnost

exclusively macerates is very limited. This increases when a selection of wood species which represent the correct identification is narrowed as much as possible.

The results

The investigated historic woods mostly belonged to our domestic wood species; exotic species like tropical ones were not found. The list of possibly used tree species contains approx. 10 conifer and 30 hardwood European species.

The results prove that microscopic identification with the help of dichotomous keys is reliable for European species. It is recommended that the samples are at least 5x5 mm in each plane. For degraded wood, it is necessary to cut a series of parallel sections for each of the anatomic views. This enables reconstructing the structure despite damages by insects etc. In problematic cases, maceration may be made in addition to sectioning. Wood structure is usually well preserved even in samples from the pile dwellings aged 4500 years or more and in such samples identification seems to be as accurate as in fresh wood.

In some cases it is possible to identify the exact species, such as European beech (*Fagus sylvatica* L.). In genera, containing several species with a similar wood structure, as in oaks, we can often identify only the genus *Quercus* sp. The frequently used oaks in Slovenia, the pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur* L.) and the sessile oak (*Quercus petraea* Liebl.) cannot be differentiated by the classical anatomical analysis.

Identification keys are adapted to normal adult wood. Special attention is needed when branch or root-woods are to be identified, or with wood containing different anomalies. After the identification is made, the permanent microscopic slides and the final report are archived in the laboratory of wood anatomy. Preparation of permanent slides is usually not possible for wood from pile dwellings. In such cases, or when many samples are to be identified within a short time, sectioning is made by a razor blade and semi-permanent slides are prepared. In the best case they can be preserved for some years.

The results of our identifications can be summarised as follows:

Statues and carved parts of objects were primarily made of lime-wood (*Tilia* sp.). This was true for more than half of the investigated objects. Other wood species used were poplar (*Populus* sp.), silver fir (*Abies alba* Mill.), Norway

razlikovanja vrst na ta način zelo omejena. Ta je praviloma mogoča le takrat, kadar je izbor možnih pravilnih rešitev zelo zožen.

Rezultati dosedanjega dela

Dosedanje raziskave za naročnike kažejo, da les umetniških in zgodovinskih predmetov praviloma pripada domačim lesnim vrstam in da so les v preteklosti le redko uvažali iz eksotičnih, npr. tropskih krajev. Tako je izbor uporabljenih lesnih vrst zožen na nekaj več kot 10 iglavcev in približno 30 vrst listavcev iz Evrope.

Ugotovitve potrjujejo, da je najbolj zanesljiv klasičen način mikroskopske determinacije s pomočjo dihotomnih ključev za evropske iglavce in listavce. Preparati treh ravnin naj bi bili veliki vsaj 5×5 mm. Kadar je les poškodovan ali razkrojen, potrebujemo za posamezno ravnino serijo zaporednih rezin, da lahko najdemo vse znake, potrebne za determinacijo. Včasih je koristno, če dodatno pripravimo še macerat lesa. Naspoln opažamo, da je struktura lesa tudi pri zelo starih vzorčkih, npr. tistih iz količarskih naselij, starih 4500 - 5500 let, dokaj dobro ohranjena. Mikroskopska determinacija se zdi zato prav tako zanesljiva kot pri svežem lesu.

Pri determinaciji včasih lahko določimo vrsto lesa, npr. bukev (*Fagus sylvatica* L.). Kadar je v nekem rodu več vrst s podobno strukturo, npr. hrasta dob (*Quercus robur* L.) in graden (*Quercus petraea* Liebl.), z analizo lesa lahko zanesljivo ugotovimo le rod (hrast, *Quercus* sp.).

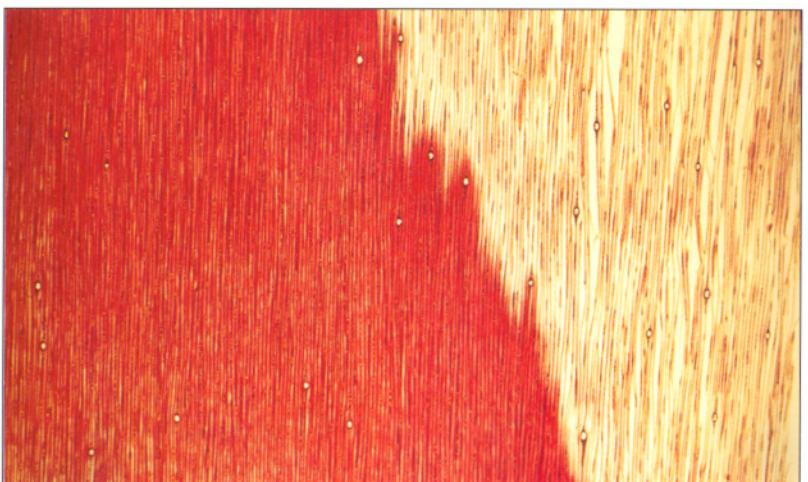
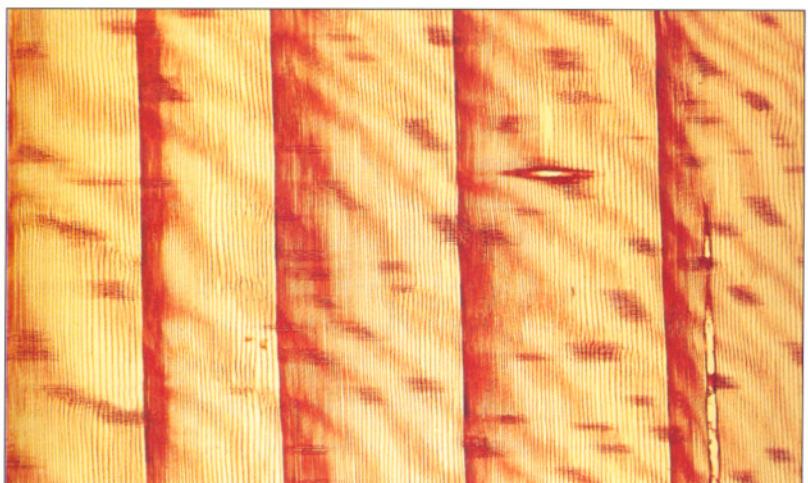
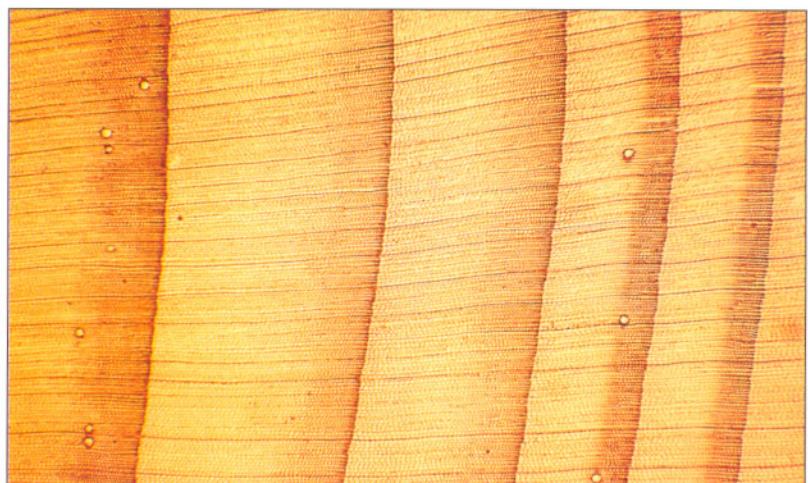
Determinacijski ključi so prirejeni za normalen les odraslih dreves. Posebno pozornost zahteva determinacija lesa vej in korenin ter les, ki vsebuje razne rastne anomalije.

Praviloma ob determinaciji naredimo trajne preparate lesa, ki jih arhiviramo skupaj s kopijo poročila o determinaciji. Priprava trajnih preparatov praviloma ni mogoča za les iz količ. V primeru lesa iz količ in kadar moramo na hitro determinirati veliko vzorcev, rezine lesa odrežemo s skalpelom in jih vklopimo v glicerin in vodo. Dobljene poltrajne preparate lahko ohranimo največ nekaj let.

Pri dosedanjem delu smo determinirali les iz najrazličnejših objektov

Proti pričakovanjem je bilo le nekaj več kot polovica proučenih kipov in rezljanih okrasnih delov izdelanih iz lipovine, ostali pa so bili iz lesa topola, jelke, smreke, cemprina, jelše in hrasta.

Stropi, vključno s poslikanimi kasetiranimi stropi, so bili v slabih polovicih primerov iz lesa



spruce (*Picea abies* Karst.), Alpine stone pine (*Pinus cembra* L.), alder (*Alnus glutinosa* Gaertn.), and oak (*Quercus* sp.).

The ceilings, including the painted and carved ones, were mainly made of Norway spruce and silver fir. Pines (*Pinus* sp.), lime, and oak were also found.

Book covers were mainly beech. Only 10 % belonged to the silver fir or other species.

A Roman ship was made of Norway spruce, ash (*Fraxinus* sp.), and oak.

Ash and oak predominated in the pile

Mikroskopska slika lesa smreke v prečnem (zgoraj), radialnem (sredina) in tangencialnem (spodaj) prerezu.

Photomicrograph of Norway spruce. Cross-(up), radial- (middle), and tangential- (down) section.

smreke in v tretjini primerov jelovi, sicer pa tudi iz lesa bora, lipe in hrasta.

Platnice knjig so večinoma iz lesa bukve, v dobrini desetini primerov iz lesa jelke, ter le izjemoma iz drugih lesnih vrst.

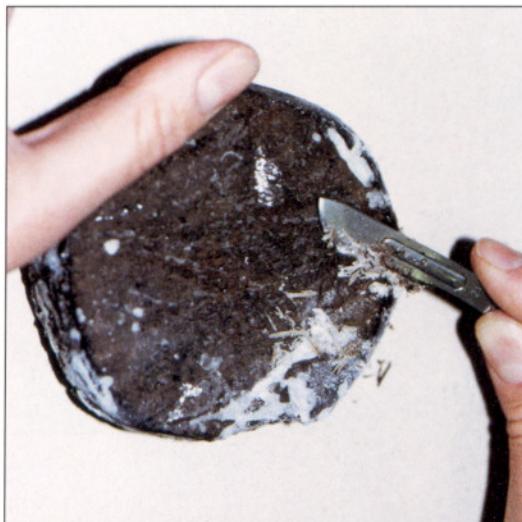
Rimska ladja je bila izdelana iz lesa smreke, jesena in hrasta.

Na najdiščih količarskih naselij med lesnimi vrstami prevladujeta jesen in hrast. Obema skupaj ponavadi pripadajo do tri četrtine kolov. V večjih količinah se pojavljajo še les jelše, javorja, bukve in jelke, vendar njihov delež med količči zelo variira. Redno ugotavljamo še posamezne primerke gabra, topola, vrbe, bresta in leske. Naši rezultati se v splošnem ujemajo z ugotovitvami Šerclja in Culibergove, ki sta v preteklih desetletjih opravila obsežne ksilotomske raziskave lesa iz količč.

Glajenje površine in rezanje preparatov arheološkega lesa na globoko zamrznjenih vzorcih.

Smoothing the surface and cutting thin sections from a frozen sample of archaeological wood.

dwellings. Alder, maple (*Acer* sp.), beech and silver-fir were on some dwellings also found in considerable amounts. We regularly determined also the hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus* L), poplar, willow (*Salix* sp.), elm (*Ulmus* sp.), and hazel (*Corylus avellana* L.). The selection of wood species and their proportions varied considerably from dwelling to dwelling.



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