

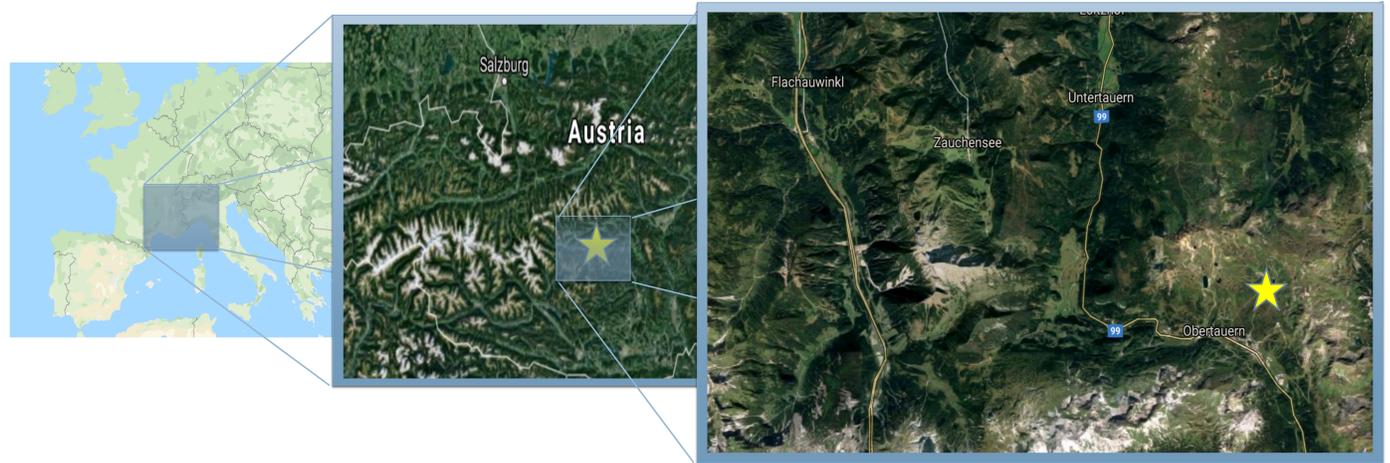


Holocene reconstruction of plant and mammal communities in the Austrian Alps

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Aims:

- Use ancient DNA taken from lake sediment to reconstruct past plant communities
- Identify impacts of past climate change and pastoral land use on plant community structure

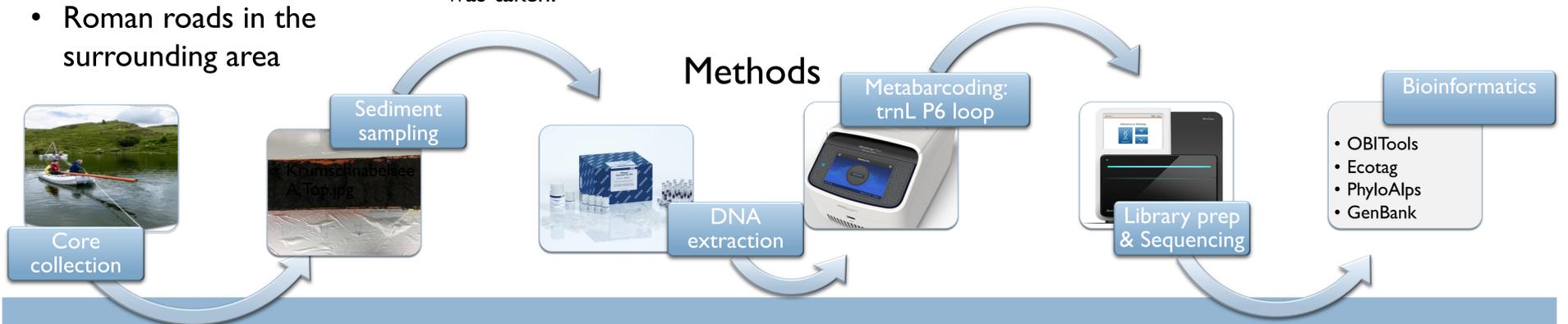


Krumschnabelsee:

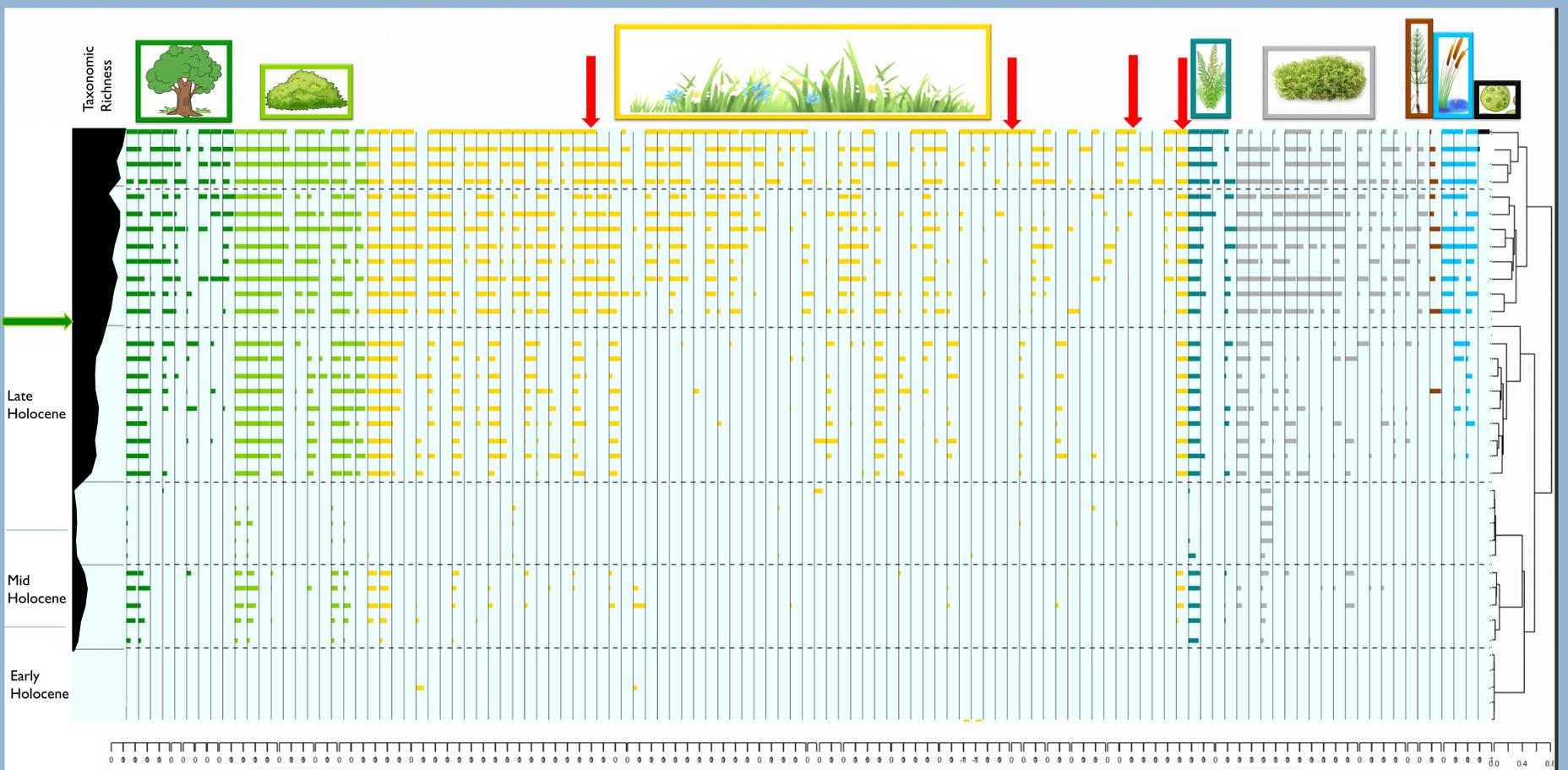
- ~ 2000m above sea level
- Roman roads in the surrounding area

A map of Austria, the star indicates the location of Krumschnabelsee, the lake from which the sediment was taken.

Methods



Results



Vegetation found through time at Krumschnabelsee. The areas of low taxonomic richness are likely due to methodological issues. Taxa marked with a red arrow are indicators of pastoral land use. The green arrow indicates the approximate date of nearby roman road use.

Discussion:

- Increase in herbaceous taxonomic richness during the late Holocene
- Shift in plant community composition, coincides with approximate date of nearby roman road use

Next steps

- Distinguish whether plant composition changes are in line with pastoral land use or climate change
- Use mammal primers to pinpoint the local introduction of grazing

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