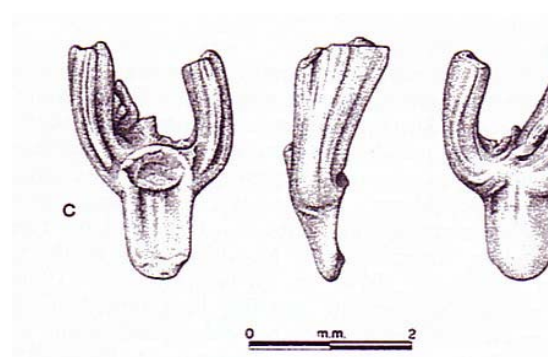


# Identification of cereal remains from archaeological sites

2nd edition  
2006



Spikelet fork of the “new glume wheat” (Jones et al. 2000)

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# CEREALS: CEREALIA

## Fam. Poaceae /Gramineae (Grasses)

### Systematics and Taxonomy

All cereal species belong botanically (taxonomically) to the large family of the Gramineae (Poaceae). This is one of the largest Angiosperm families with >10 000 different species. In the following the systematics for some of the most important taxa is shown:

class: Monocotyledoneae

order: Poales

family: Poaceae (= Gramineae) (Süßgräser)

subfamily: Pooideae

Tribus: Triticeae

Subtribus: Triticinae

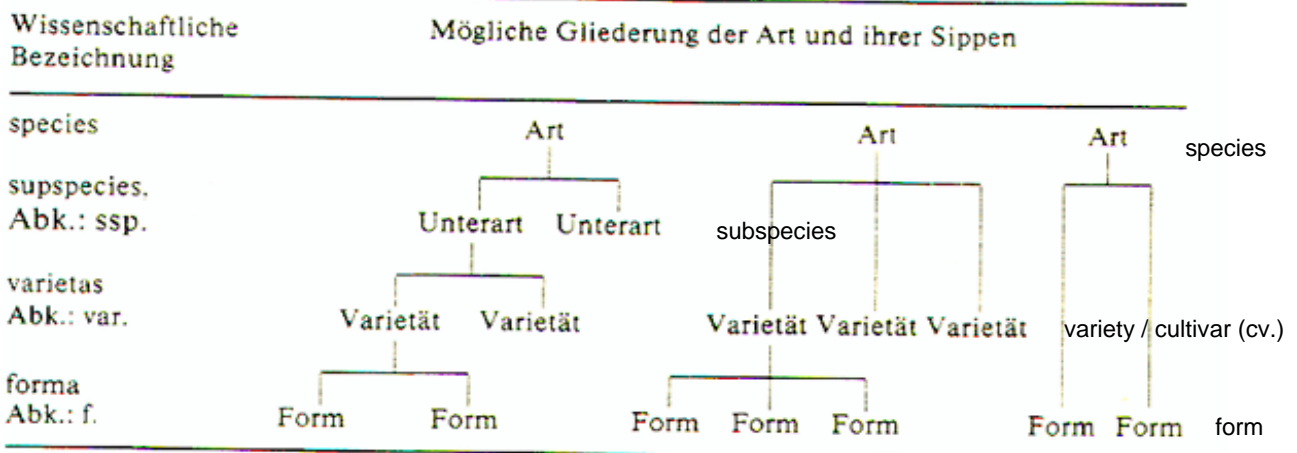
genera: **Triticum** (Weizen, wheat); **Aegilops**; **Hordeum** (Gerste; barley); Elymus; Hordelymus; Agropyron; **Secale** (Roggen, rye)

Note: Avena and the millets belong to other Tribus.

The identification of prehistoric cereal remains assumes understanding of different subject areas in botany. These are mainly morphology and anatomy, but also phylogeny and evolution (and today, also genetics). Since most of the cereal species are treated as domesticated plants, many different forms such as subspecies, varieties, and forms appear inside the genus and species (see table below). In domesticates the taxonomical category of variety is also called "sort" (lat. cultivar, abbreviated: cv.). This refers to a variety which evolved through breeding. Cultivar is the lowest taxonomic rank in the domesticated plants. Occasionally, cultivars are also called races: e.g. landraces evolved through genetic isolation, under local environmental conditions whereas „high-breed-races“ were bred by strong selection of humans. Anyhow: The morphological delimitation of cultivars is difficult, sometimes even impossible. It needs great experience and very detailed morphological knowledge.

### The species and its taxonomic subdivision

Schubert/Wagner 1988



# Introduction, conditions for identification

The starch- and protein-rich grains of the cereals represent the most important basic foodstuff from the time of the arrival of Neolithic culture. Cereals were cultivated from the earliest Neolithic in the Near East, and in Central Europe Cereal since around the 6th millenium BC. The study of their remains from archaeological excavations is therefore of very great importance. They play a great role in research into the origins of nutrition; additionally, they can offer useful information on the immigration routes but also social aspects of certain cultures (for the latter see e.g. Bogaard 2004).

The individual cereal species had a varying importance in the different epochs of the past. The oldest central European cereals are various wheat species (genus *Triticum*) and barley (genus *Hordeum*). (Mostly) after the Neolithic, millet species, oats and rye arrived in central Europe.

In the following we try to give an overview of the present state of knowledge concerning cereal identification, including also at least some aspects of papers published on the topic since the first edition of our "Cereal Identification manual" (Jacomet 1987). In addition to information from the current literature, we included many of our own results which have arisen in our long-term work with archaeological and recent remains of domesticated plants.

All existing plant-identification books (Floras) are hardly useable for archaeobotanical purposes, since plant parts which contain important diagnostic characters are either not or only fragmentarily preserved. One finds whole plants or at least whole inflorescences only in the rarest instances - in the case of the cereals mostly ears. In >95% of cases we encounter cereals in the form of single grains, parts of the rachis, glumes, awns and finally straw (culm) fragments (see figures on the following pages). The remains are present mostly in a charred state, so that it is difficult to compare their dimensions with those of modern material. Uncharred cereal remains, mostly remains of rachis and glume bases, have their original size, but are mostly very fragmentary, often badly corroded or pressed (and therefore deformed).

The identification of cereal remains always depends principally upon morphological criteria.

Measurement data can be used additionally to assist identification. This last is also useful for the comparison of different sites under investigation. Occasionally, one must fall back on anatomical characters for identification. It is also important to record precisely the state of preservation of plant remains. Also, when cereal remains can often be identified on the basis of their morphological and also anatomical characters, measurement is of use only when the state of preservation is good enough for them not to be deformed. Also, shape changes resulting from charring are often hard to estimate.

The nomenclature follows Van Zeist 1984 (tables on the following pages). For a comparison of modern and traditional taxonomical grouping see Zohary & Hopf 2000.

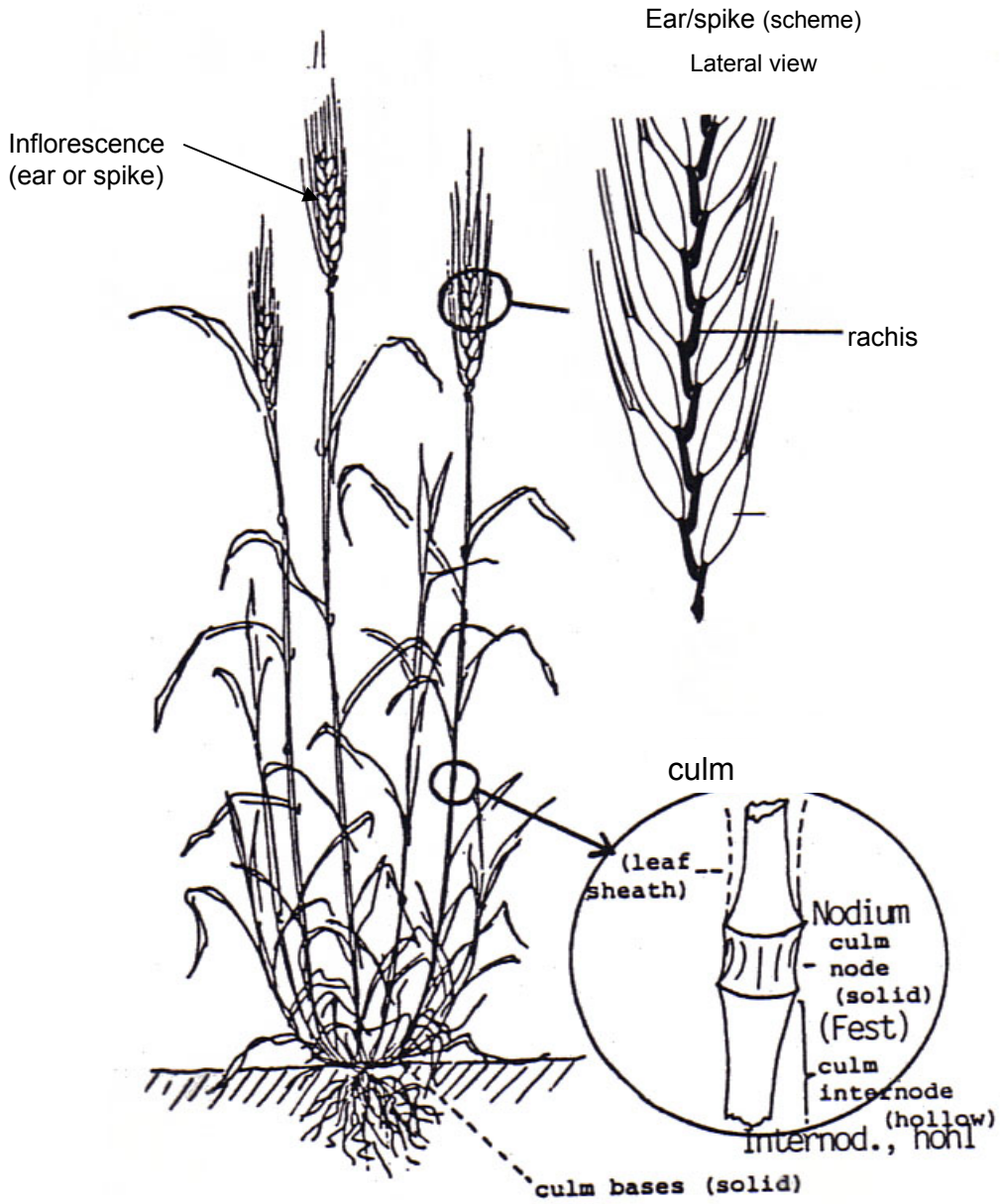
Table 1: Wild and cultivated species of *Triticum* (wheat)

	English	French	German	Distribution	Remarks
<b>diploid (N=14)            hulled wheats</b> <i>Triticum boeoticum</i> Boiss. emend. Schiem. <i>T. boeoticum</i> ssp. <i>aegilopoides</i> (Link.) Schiem. <i>T. boeoticum</i> ssp. <i>thaoudar</i> (Reuter) Schiem.  <i>Triticum monococcum</i> L.	wild einkorn wheat 1-grained wild einkorn 2-grained wild einkorn	engrain sauvage	wildes Einkorn	SE. Europe, W. Asia Transcaucasia	wild ancestor of <i>T. monococcum</i>
	einkorn wheat (small spelt)	engrain	Einkorn	locally grown	widely cultivated in ancient times
<b>tetraploid (N=28)            hulled wheats</b> <i>Triticum dicoccoides</i> Körn  <i>Triticum araraticum</i> Jakubz.  <i>Triticum dicoccum</i> Schübl.  <i>Triticum palaeocolchicum</i> Men. <i>Triticum timopheevii</i> Zhuk.	wild emmer wheat	amidonnier sauvage	wilder Emmer	Syro-Palestinian region	wild ancestor of most tetraploid wheats
	wild emmer wheat			Transcaucasia, N. Iran N. Iraq, E. Turkey	
	emmer wheat	amidonnier	Emmer	locally grown	widely cultivated in ancient times.
	Kolchic emmer wheat Timopheevi wheat			Georgia Georgia	
<b>naked wheats</b> <i>Triticum durum</i> Desf. <i>Triticum turgidum</i> L. <i>Triticum persicum</i> Vav. (= <i>T. carthlicum</i> Nevski)  <i>Triticum polonicum</i> L.  <i>Triticum turanicum</i> Jacobz. (= <i>T. orientale</i> Perc.)  <i>Triticum parvicoccum</i> Kislev	hard wheat (macaroni wheat) rivet wheat (poulard wheat) Persian wheat	blé dur blé poulard	Hartweizen Rauhweizen Persischer Weizen	Mediterranean Mediterranean Iran, Iraq, Caucasus	the species identification of archaeological naked wheat remains (4x and 6x) is still a serious problem
	Polish wheat		Polnischer Weizen	S. Europe, Near East, India	
	Khorassan wheat		Khorassan-Weizen	Iran, Iraq	restricted to irrigated fields
					extinct archaeobotanical species
<b>hexaploid (N=42)            hulled wheats</b> <i>Triticum spelta</i> L. <i>Triticum macha</i> Dekr. et Men. <i>Triticum vavilovii</i> (Tum.) Jakubz.	spelt wheat Makha wheat Vavilov's wheat	épeautre	Dinkel (Spelz)	Iran, Europe Georgia Armenia	
	bread wheat (common wheat)	blé tendre	Saatweizen	temperate and continental regions	see <i>Triticum durum</i>
	club wheat	blé compact	Zwergweizen	same, of minor importance	in ancient times more widely cultivated than nowadays
<i>Triticum sphaerococcum</i> Perc.	Indian dwarf wheat (shot wheat)		Indischer Kugelweizen	India	

Table 2: Wild and cultivated cereal species other than wheat

	English	French	German	Distribution	Remarks
<i>Hordeum spontaneum</i> C. Koch	wild two-row barley	orge sauvage	Wildgerste	E.Mediterranean, W. Asia	wild ancestor of all cultivated barleys
<i>Hordeum distichum</i> L. emend. Lam. <i>Hordeum distichum</i> var. <i>zeocrithon</i> Körn. (= <i>Hordeum zeocrithon</i> L.)	two-row barley dense-eared two-row barley	orge à deux rangs	zweizeilige Gerste Pfauengerste		
<i>Hordeum distichum</i> var. <i>nudum</i> <i>Hordeum agriocrithon</i> Aberg	naked two-row barley "wild" six-row barley	orge nue	Nacktgerste	China, Japan Tibet, Near East	hybrid of <i>H. vulgare</i> and <i>H. Spontaneum</i>
<i>Hordeum lagunculiforme</i> Bakhteyev				Turkmenistan	brittle rachised barley with bottle-shaped grains; reported for archaeological sites in Crimea, Caucasia and N. Iraq
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. emend. Lam. <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> var. <i>tetrastichum</i> (= <i>Hordeum tetrastichum</i> Kcke.)	six-row barley lax-eared six-row barley	orge polystique	mehrzeilige Gerste lockerährlige Gerste		
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> var. <i>hexastichum</i> (= <i>Hordeum hexastichum</i> L.)	dense-eared six-row barley		dichtährlige Gerste		
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> var. <i>coeleste</i> L. (= <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> var. <i>nudum</i> )	naked six-row barley	orge nue	Nacktgerste	China, Japan	important crop plant in prehistoric Near East
<i>Secale montanum</i> Guss.	wild rye	seigle sauvage	Wildroggen	Mediterranean, Near East	perennial wild rye
<i>Secale cereale</i> L.	rye	seigle	Roggen	Europe, Turkey	cultivated rye and weedy rye types
<i>Secale ancestrale</i> Zhuk.	wild rye	seigle sauvage	Wildroggen	Turkey	weedy rye
<i>Avena sterilis</i> L. <i>Avena byzantina</i> C. Koch <i>Avena fatua</i> L. <i>Avena sativa</i> L.	wild red oat cultivated red oat common wild oat common oat	folle avoine avoine	Flughafer Saathafer	Mediterranean, Near East Mediterranean Mediterranean, Europe Europe, W. Asia	wild cultivated weedy cultivated
<i>Panicum miliaceum</i> L.	broomcorn millet (proso millet)	millet	Rispenhirse	Asia, C. and SE. Europe	occasionally reported for Near eastern sites
<i>Setaria viridis</i> Beauv. <i>Setaria italica</i> (L.) Beauv.	green bristle-grass Italian millet (foxtail millet)	setaire verte millet des oiseaux	grüne Borstenhirse Kolbenhirse (Borstenhirste) Körnerhirste (Mohrenhirse)	Mediterranean Mediterranean, Europe	wild ancestor of <i>S. italica</i>
<i>Sorghum bicolor</i> (L.) Moench (= <i>Sorghum vulgare</i> Pers.)	grain sorghum			Africa, Asia	
<i>Oryza sativa</i> L.	rice	riz	Reis	tropical and subtropical regions	in first century B.C. cultivated in Mesopotamia, in Roman times in the Levant

# Morphology of the Cereal plant (ex. wheat)



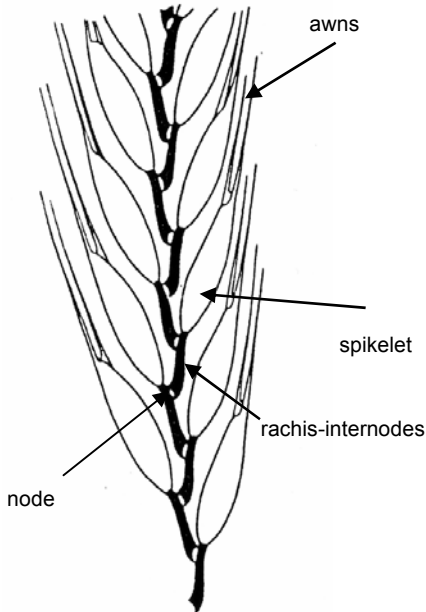
## General morphology of cereal inflorescences

The commonest type of inflorescence in the cereals is the ear. All wheat and barley species and also rye have ear (spike) inflorescences. An ear is defined in the following way: the flowers (spikelets = partial inflorescences in the case of the grasses) are arranged in rows on a main axis (see part 1).

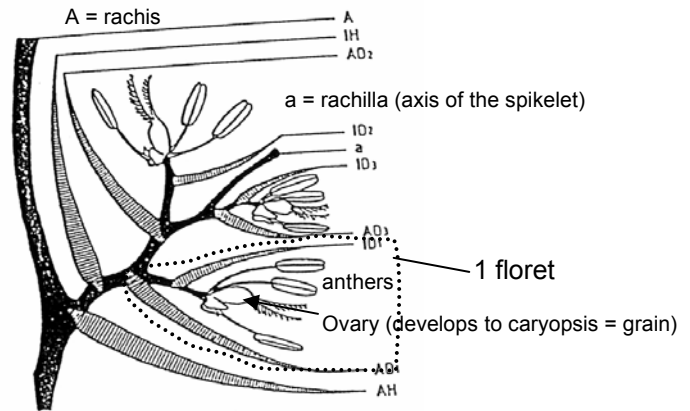
Oats and millets have their inflorescences in panicles attached to the main axis (in the case of Italian Millet, the stalks of the spikelets are very short).

In the following we shall concentrate upon ears (spikes)

**Ear/spike** (scheme)  
Lateral view



**Spikelet** (scheme)



IH, AH = glumes

A = lemma, ID = palea

Kaussmann & Schiewer 1989

### Ear:

A cereal ear (spike) consists of a rachis (central axis) with attached spikelets, each with florets. The rachis (central axis) consists of rachis segments (internodes).

The rachis can be of two different kinds:

- **brittle**, that is easily broken into segments (spikelet with a rachis segment) at the nodes. Particularly characteristic of all wild grasses of the sub-family Triticinae (wild wheats and wild barley). The domesticated glume wheats such as einkorn and emmer have a moderately brittle rachis.
- **tough**, that is hardly breaking into single segments at threshing. Typical domesticated plant characteristic, particularly characteristic for example for free-threshing wheats (*Triticum aestivum*, *T. turgidum*, *T. durum*).

### Spikelet:

basic type of inflorescence in the Gramineae (Poaceae). It consists of a group of florets on a very shortened rachis. In wild cereals the spikelet (with one rachis segment attached) is the unit of dispersal. The spikelet is one-flowered or many-flowered. It is enclosed in two glumes which can have various shapes (compare the single species).

### Florets:

A grass floret is made up of 4 parts; a lemma and a palea, which enclose the ovary (which develops to the caryopsis = grain) and anthers. The lemma can have a long or short extension - an awn. When the grain is held fast in the lemma and palea, one is dealing with a hulled (glumed) cereal. With these the grain needs to be got out from the lemma and palea by processes such as parching in an oven or pounding in a mortar. When the grain is only loosely held between the lemma and palea, these are the free-threshing or naked cereals.

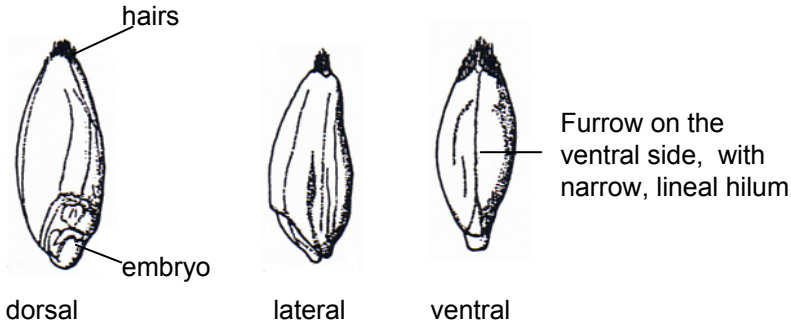
# The cereal grain (caryopsis)

(= one-seeded, syncarpous nutlet, pericarp and testa fused)

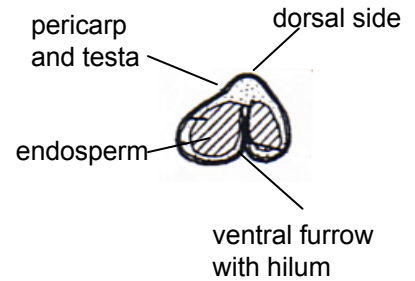
On the dorsal side of the grain one can see the embryo, which will develop into the young plant. It is more or less sunk into a cavity. The interior of the grain consists of endosperm, a nutritional tissue which mainly contains starch. On the ventral side is, sunk into a furrow, the elongated (lineal) hilum. The grain is enclosed in a series of layers:

- the pericarp which contains vitamins and minerals
- the testa (seed coat)
- the aleurone layer, which mainly contains proteins.

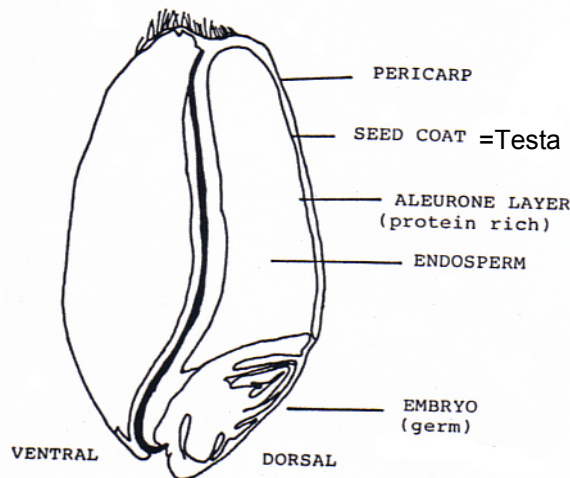
## outside view:



## cross section:

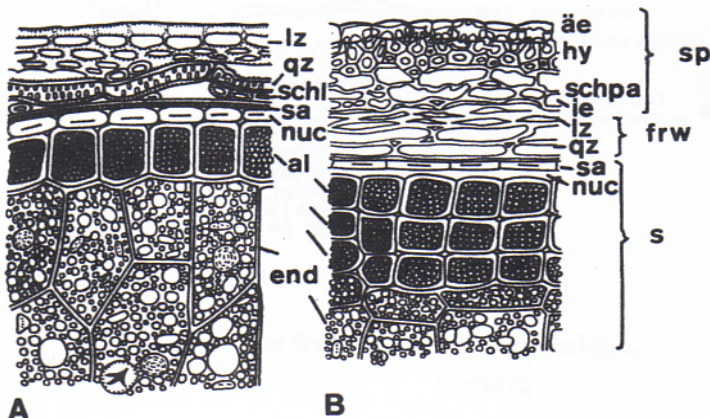


## section:



Charles 1984

## cross section through pericarp, testa etc.



A *Secale cereale*: lz=longitudinal cells; qz=cross cells; schl=tube cells; sa=testa (seed coat); nuc=remains of the nucellus; al=aleurone cells; end=endosperm

B: *Hordeum vulgare*: äe=outer epidermis; ie=inner epidermis; hy=hypodermis; schpa=spongy parenchyma; sp=lemma; frw=pericarp; s=seed; other abbrev. see A.

After Gassner 1951

Kaussmann & Schiewer 1989

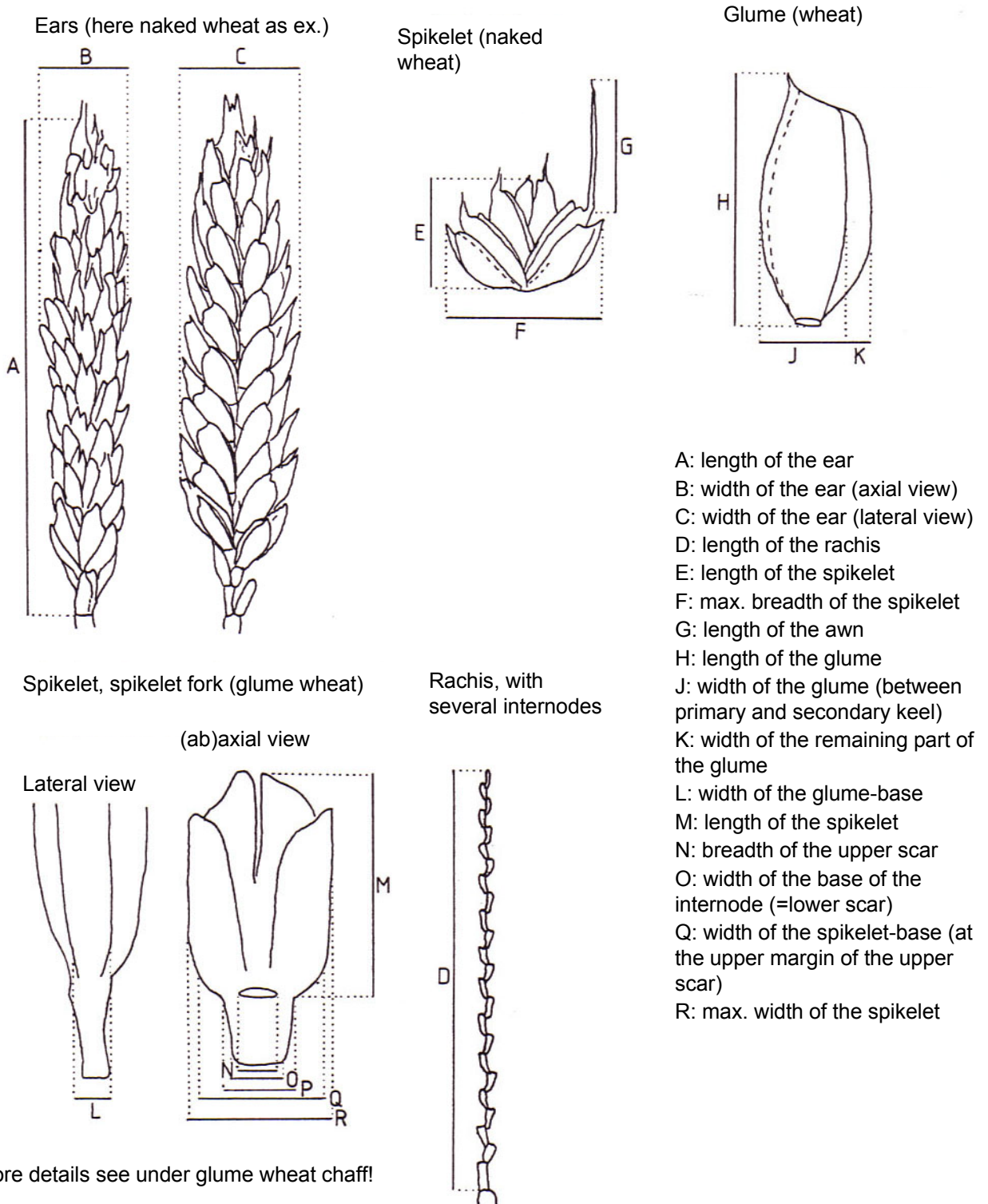
(the same holds for all grass fruits)



# Practical procedure for identification

The diagnostically important characters of the remains are given in the tables (see list). Well-preserved objects are measured at the points given (Measurements: see Fig.'s). Various indices are calculated from the collected measurement data (see single species). The objects are assigned to a particular taxon according to the morphological data and the interpretation of the metrical data. The objects are also drawn or photographed for publication.

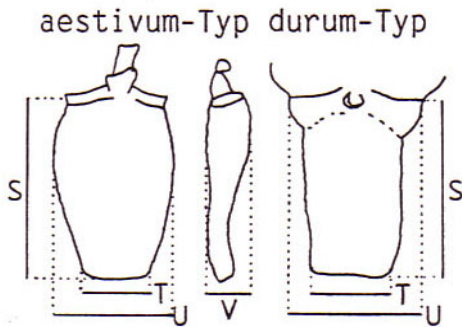
## measurement points in cereals (1)



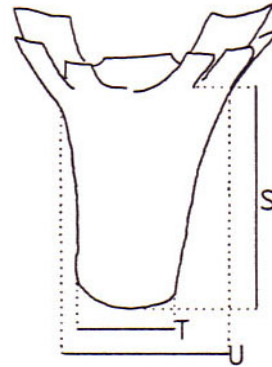
More details see under glume wheat chaff!

# measurement points in cereals (2)

Rachis-internodes (naked wheat)



Rachis-internodes (barley)

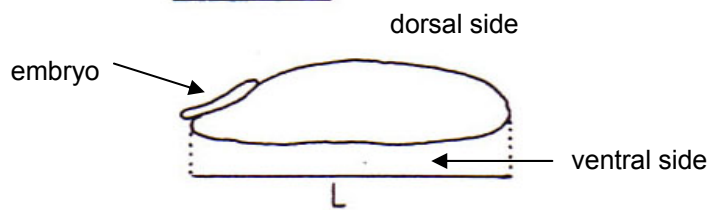


S: length of the internode (rachis segment)  
 T: breadth of the internode-base (lower scar)  
 (more details see under naked wheat)

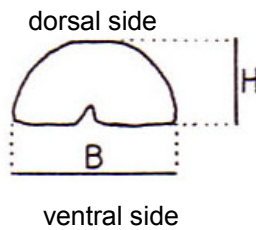
U: max. breadth of the internode  
 V: max. thickness of the internode

grain

Körner



L: length  
 H: height  
 B: breadth



# Wheat (*Triticum*)

## Inflorescences (1)



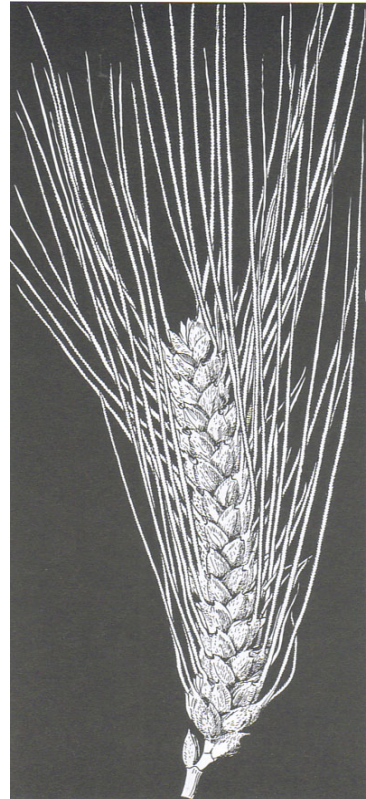
*Triticum*  
monococcum  
(diploid, glume  
wheat)



*Triticum dicoccum*  
(tetraploid, glume  
wheat)



*Triticum durum*  
(tetraploid, naked wheat)



*Triticum turgidum*  
(Tetraploid, naked  
wheat)

wheat (*Triticum*) (inflorescences, contin.)



*Triticum spelta*  
hexaploid, glume wheat



*Triticum aestivum* (hexaploid, naked wheat)

B: *ssp. compactum*

*ssp. vulgare*

C: with awns

D: without awns

# wheat: taxonomy, varieties

Wheat species resp. varieties can be classified according to two possible criteria:

a) according to **ploidy level**, also the chromosome number.

b) according to the **type of glume attachment**: there are glumed (hulled) and free-threshing (naked) wheat forms.

b1) **Glumed (hulled) wheats**: thick gripping glumes enclose the grain tightly. The grain cannot be easily extracted from the spikelets; the ears usually break into spikelets. To obtain naked grains the spikelets must be roasted (parched) and also pounded (see e.g. Hillman 1984). In this group belong:

Diploids: Einkorn (*Triticum monococcum*)

Tetraploids: Emmer (*Triticum dicoccum*)

Hexaploids: Spelt (*Triticum spelta*)

b2) **Naked wheats**: The grains are only **loosely** held in the glumes. In ripe ears the grains are visible from the outside. The glumes are generally less thickened and woody than in glume wheats. The grains can be easily freed from the ears with threshing. In this group belong:

Tetraploids: macaroni wheats (*Triticum durum*)

rivet (pollard) wheats (*T. turgidum*)

Hexaploids: bread wheats (*Triticum aestivum*)

There are >17,000 sorts (varieties = cultivars) of wheat! See, for example Derivall (1974)

Table 1 | **Species and their derived forms** Salamini et al. 2002

Species names in this review (common name)	Biological species	Genome and ploidy	Ear and seed traits	No. of loci that support B vs NB rachis*	Alleles of loci that affect either glume or glume and ear rachis (chromosome) <sup>†</sup>	References
<i>T. boeoticum</i> (wild einkorn)	<i>T. monococcum</i> L. ssp. <i>boeoticum</i> Boiss.	AA	H, B	2	<i>Sog<sub>A</sub></i> (2S)	27
<i>T. monococcum</i> (cultivated einkorn)	<i>T. monococcum</i> L. ssp. <i>monococcum</i>	AA	H, NB	2	<i>Sog<sub>A</sub></i> (2S)	27,29
<i>T. urartu</i> (wild <i>T. urartu</i> )	<i>T. urartu</i> Tuman.	AA	H, B	2	–	–
<i>Ae. tauschii</i> (wild <i>Ae. Tauschii</i> )	<i>Ae. tauschii</i> Coss.	DD	H, B	1	<i>Tg<sub>D</sub></i> (2S)	51,52
<i>T. dicoccoides</i> (wild emmer)	<i>T. turgidum</i> L. ssp. <i>dicoccoides</i> Aschers.	AABB	H, B	2; polygenic	<i>Tg<sub>2B</sub></i> (2S), <i>q<sub>A</sub><sup>§</sup></i> (5L), <i>Qft<sub>5A</sub></i> (5S), <i>Qft<sub>6A</sub></i> (6)	44,50,56,114,115, 116,117
<i>T. dicoccum</i> (cultivated emmer)	<i>T. turgidum</i> L. ssp. <i>dicoccum</i> Schübl.	AABB	H, NB	2	<i>Tg<sub>2B</sub><sup>  </sup></i> (2S), <i>q<sub>A</sub></i> (5L)	50,116
<i>T. durum</i> (hard wheat)	<i>T. turgidum</i> L. ssp. <i>durum</i> Desf.	AABB	FT, NB	polygenic	<i>tg<sub>2B</sub></i> (2S), <i>Q<sub>A</sub></i> (5L), <i>qft<sub>5A</sub></i> (5S), <i>qft<sub>6A</sub></i> (6)	50,51,56,114,116,118
<i>T. parvicoccum</i> ( <i>T. parvicoccum</i> , archaeobotanical)	<i>T. turgidum</i> L. ssp. <i>parvicoccum</i> Kislev	(AABB)	FT, NB	–	–	–
<i>T. araraticum</i> (wild Timopheev's wheat)	<i>T. timopheevii</i> Zhuk. ssp. <i>araraticum</i> Jakubcz.	AAGG	H, B	–	–	–
<i>T. timopheevii</i> (cultivated Timopheev's wheat)	<i>T. timopheevii</i> Zhuk. ssp. <i>timopheevii</i>	AAGG	H, NB	–	–	–
<i>T. spelta</i> (spelt)	<i>T. aestivum</i> L. ssp. <i>spelta</i>	AABBDD	H, NB	2	<i>Tg<sub>2B</sub>Tg<sub>D</sub></i> (2S), <i>q<sub>A</sub></i> (5L), <i>Qft<sub>5A</sub><sup>  </sup></i> (5S), <i>Qft<sub>6A</sub><sup>  </sup></i> (6)	53,55,108,114,119
<i>T. vulgare</i> (bread wheat)	<i>T. aestivum</i> L. ssp. <i>vulgare</i> Host.	AABBDD	FT, NB	2	<i>tg<sub>2B</sub>tg<sub>D</sub></i> , <i>Q<sub>A</sub><sup>  </sup></i> , <i>qft<sub>5A</sub><sup>  </sup></i> , <i>qft<sub>6A</sub><sup>  </sup></i>	44,48,51,116

Nomenclature is taken from REF 5, with modifications. \*Genes that affect rachis but not glume traits. †Subscripts indicate genomes. ‡Designated as q2 in REF. 56. §Allele inferred from genotype of wild emmer. ¶Allele inferred from genotype of hard wheat. ¶The trait is under the control of the single gene *N* (recessive *n*, naked seeds)<sup>80</sup>. *Ae.*, *Aegilops*; B, brittle rachis, ears disarticulating at maturity into spikelets; FT, free-threshing, soft glumes, shorter rachis internode, tougher rachis; H, hulled wheat, in the spikelet, the kernels of H wheats are covered by tenacious glumes, not easily separated from grains during threshing; *H.*, *Hordeum*; NB, non-brittle, non-brittle (tough) rachis that does not disarticulate at maturity; Q, Q factor; S., *Secale*; *Sog*, tenacious glumes; *T.*, *Triticum*; *Tg*, tenacious glumes.

## Origin:

**Genetics:** Wild grasses with 2n=14 chromosomes (wild einkorn = *Triticum boeoticum* s.l., *Aegilops* species (genome AA, BB or DD) and finally also *Agropyron* species) and those with 2n=28 chromosomes (wild emmer = *Triticum dicoccoides*, genome AABB).

**Geography:** Near East (Fertile Crescent) (see Zohary & Hopf 2000 and e.g. Salamini et al. 2002)

# wheat: phylogeny

(without diploids)

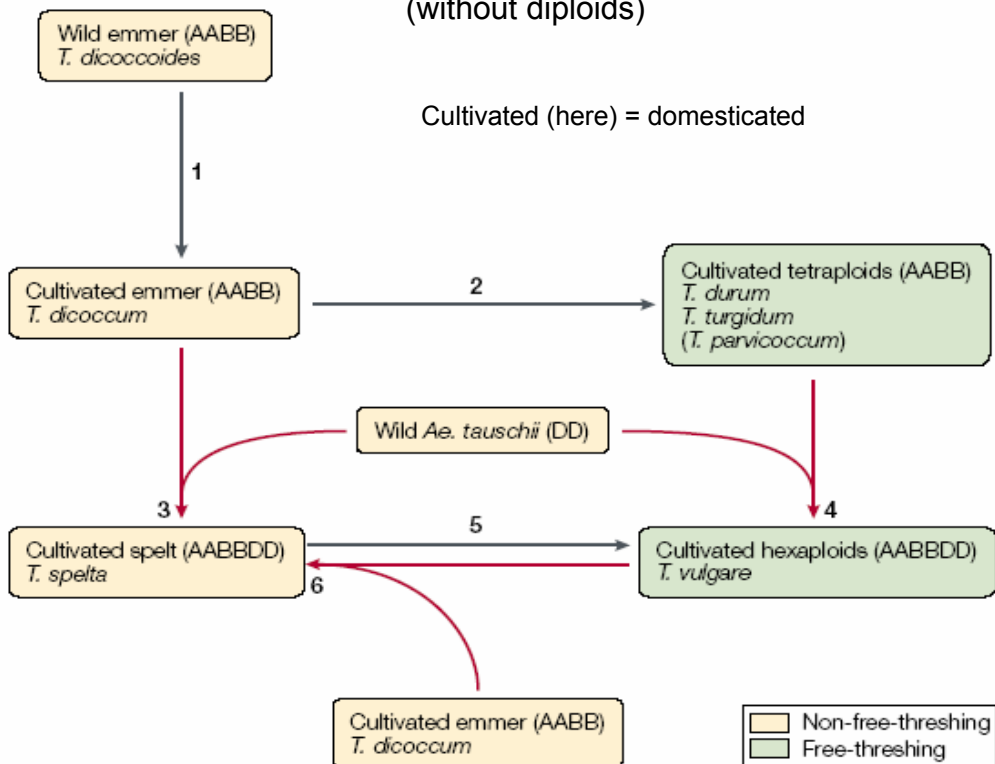


Figure 4 | **Models for the evolution of polyploid wheats under cultivation and domestication.** The red arrows indicate hybridization events; the black arrows show domestication events (see text for details). *Ae.*, *Aegilops*; *T.*, *Triticum*.

Salamini et al. 2002

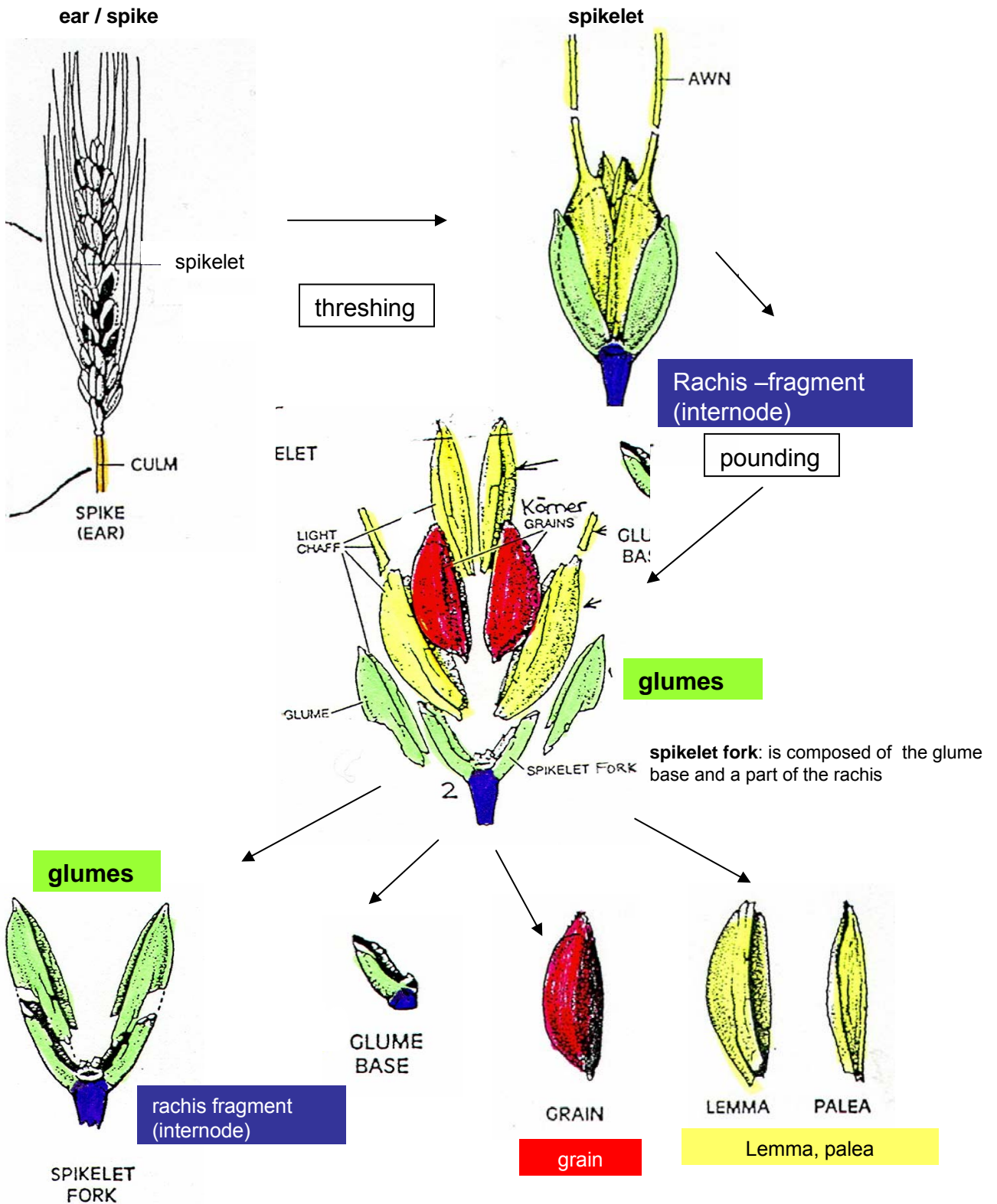
**Morphological points:** Spikelets many-flowered. Glumes wide (broad), lemmas with or without awns.

## Most important morphological characters of the finds

**Grains:** wheat grains can - according to species - have very different appearances. They are usually oval or drop-shaped in outline (see figures on the following pages).

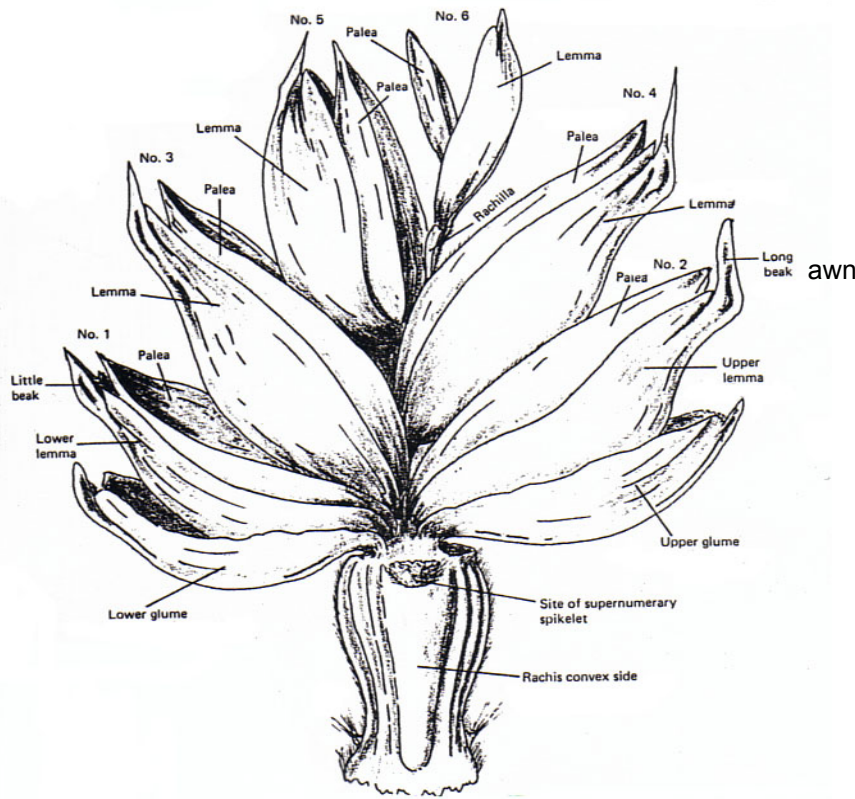
**Rachis segments:** elongated, mostly more or less rectangular, with straight or curved sides. In some species the wide bases of the glumes remain attached to the rachis (see figures on the following pages).

The most important parts of *Triticum* (wheat) ears, spikelets:  
**Glume (hulled) wheat (einkorn, emmer, spelt)**

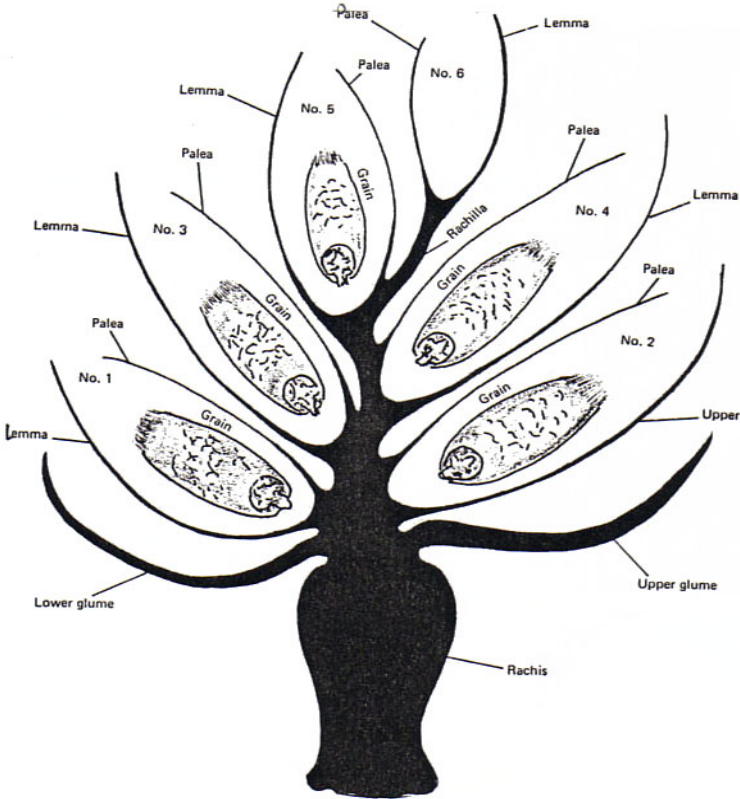


The most important parts of cereal ears (*Triticum*):  
 Naked wheat: scheme of a spikelet: bread wheat (6n): *T. aestivum*

Axial view:



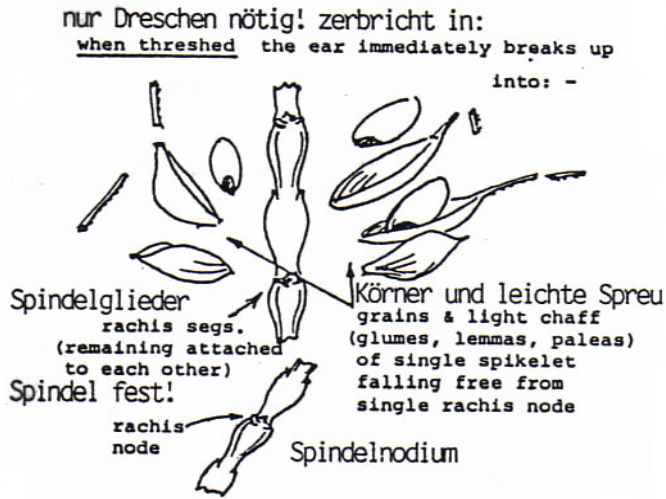
axial section:





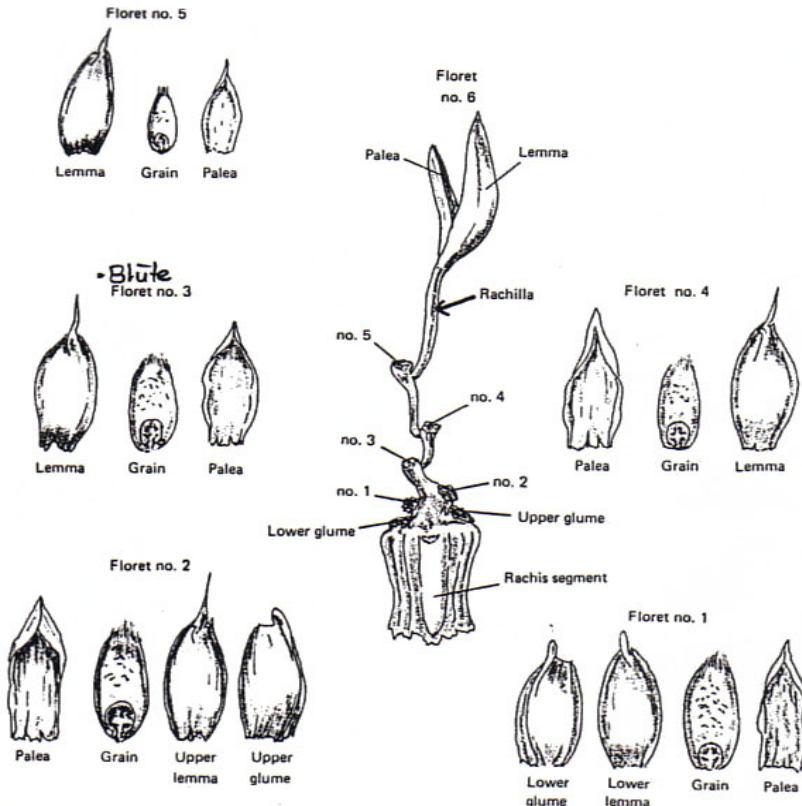
# The most important parts of cereal ears (*Triticum*) 4

## Naked wheat: parts of the spikelet after threshing



Hillmann 1984

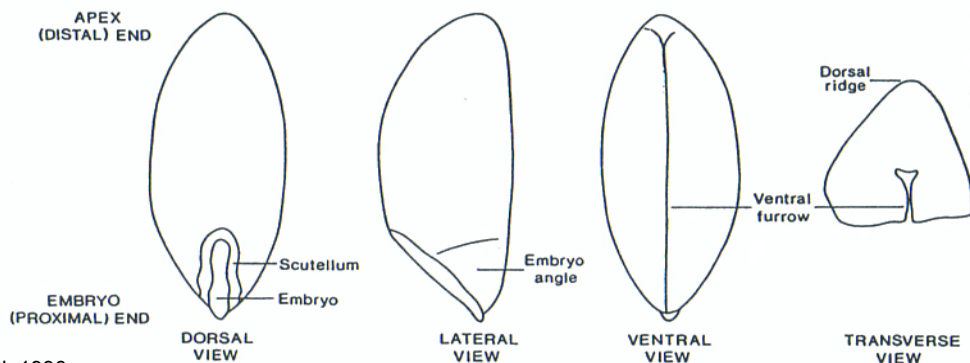
## Schematic drawing:



Hervey-Murray 1980

# Identification of charred grains of prehistoric wheat species

## Important characters of the wheat grain



Hillman et. al. 1996

### Procedure

Wheat grains are mostly found in a charred state. In waterlogged sediments however there may be many uncarbonised pericarp- and testa-remains, mostly in a fragmentary state. For their identification a special effort is needed (see e.g. Körber-Grohne 1981; Dickson 1989). We will not treat this here.

When dealing with carbonised grains it is important first to make a note of the state of preservation.

- a) preservation good, no distortions or damage visible
- b) preservation OK, but some damage
- c) grain pop-corn-like, with starch protruding
- d) grain fragmented

Secondly, the shape from above (dorsal view), from the ventral side (ventral view), from the side (lateral view) and in cross section should be noted and recorded (see criteria-list). Additionally, the shape of the ventral furrow, the position of the embryo, structure of the grain's outer surface and finally hairs at the apex of the grain should be observed and noted down. Finally, some well-preserved grains should be measured (length, breadth, height; see measurement-lines); different indices (ratios) can then be calculated from the measurement data. The individual wheat species generally have a characteristic shape (combination of characters) and also characteristic measurement indices (see below).

For the characteristics of the individual species see the following pages.

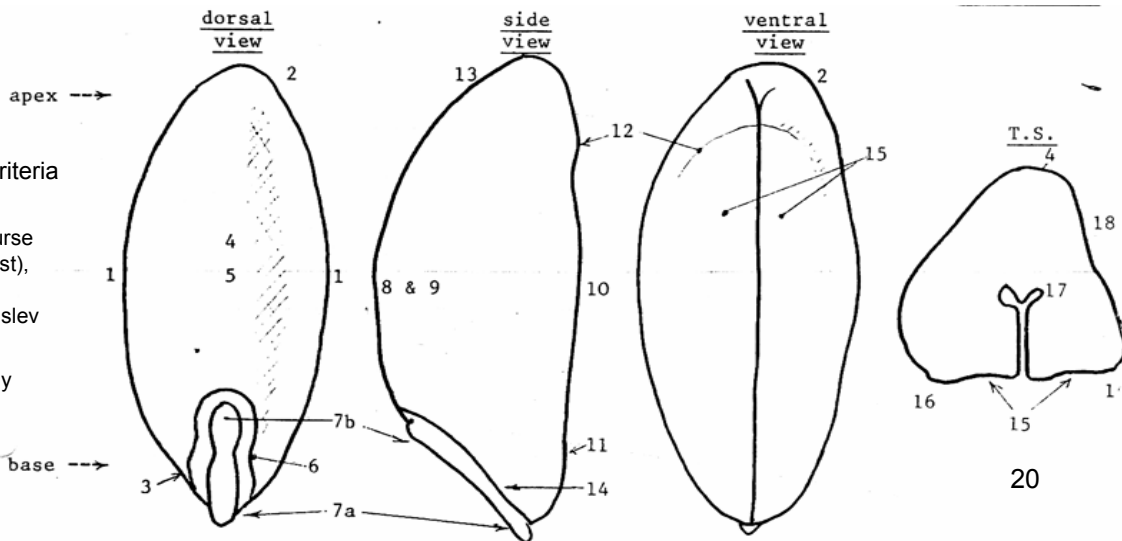
### Comment

Although there is a whole series of morphological characters, of which the ones for the identification of wheat grains to species can be summarised here, the actual species identification is often difficult. This has various causes (e.g. Knörzer 1970 p. 33; Hillman et al. 1996; the author's observations):

- The morphological similarities between the grains of the different species are large already.
- Grains of one and the same species can vary greatly in their appearance, for example caused by their position in the ear and/or the spikelet
- The intraspecific and regional variation within a species alter the appearance and dimensions greatly.
- The changes in appearance from charring are large.
- Shapes are changed differently according to the conditions of charring.

In spite of all difficulties it is usually possible to identify wheat grains. Above all, a good state of preservation is needed. It is also very helpful when one also finds chaff remains in a grain sample (especially rachis segments and glumes), for these often provide better diagnostic characters than the grains. If one finds samples of pure grain, identification to species can be difficult (compare this with Jäger 1966, Hajnalova 1978, Knörzer 1970, Dalnoki & Jacomet 2002 and many others). Only some species have a so generally characteristic shape that their certain identification is possible (einkorn, for example, as long as it is one-grained). The separation of emmer and spelt can be difficult, and also there are no (or only very vague) useable characters for the differentiation of the grains of the various species groups of free-threshing (naked) tetraploid wheats (macaroni and rivet wheats) and hexaploids (bread wheats). For the latter see Kislev 1984, and below, individual species.

# criteria useful in identifying charred cereal grains



\*= most important criteria

Hillman's practical course  
(unpublished criteria list),  
Hillmann et al 1996,  
Jacomet (unp.) and Kislev  
1984

criteria concerning only  
wild cereals omitted

## a) grains viewed dorsally (or ev. ventrally):

- \*1 form in general /asymmetry of the grain
  - rather oval-broad
  - rather slender
- 1 sides of grain (parallel-sidedness)
  - curved
  - straight
- \*1 widest point of the grain
  - in the middle
  - in the upper half ("drop-shaped")
  - in the lower half
- \*2 shape of grain apex:
  - Strongly attenuated
  - attenuated to varying degrees
  - Conspicuously rounded
- \*3 shape of the grain base
  - strongly attenuated
  - less attenuated
- \*4 shape of the back of the grain (see also transverse section)
  - ridged, often very strongly
  - generally rounded; if ridge present, very low
- \*5 ridge (if present) running down grain (see also 12)
  - running down symmetrically
  - running down asymmetrically (diagonally)
- 6 shape of the scutellum
  - often constricted in the middle
  - rarely constricted in the middle
- 19 position of the embryo
  - in a cavity
  - on the surface
- 21 surface of the grain
  - smooth
  - longitudinal furrows at the dorsal side) present (impressions of glumes)
  - horizontal wrinkles
- 22 hairs at the grain apex
  - >1mm long
  - < 1mm long
  - course
  - delicate

## b) grains in side (lateral) view

- \*8 form of the back of the grain:
  - flat
  - arched, evenly (uniformly)
  - arched, highest point in the centre
  - arched, highest point right behind embryo (humpy)
- 9 middle of back with slight lump
  - sometimes with lump (which is occ. wrinkled)
  - never (?) with lump

## b) grains in side view (continued)

- \*10 ventral face of grain
  - strongly curved (convex)
  - flat or partially flat
  - concave
- \*11 embryo end of the ventral face
  - flat
  - curved outwards for short distance behind embryo
- 12 ventral compression surface (if present) (also ventral view)
  - ending well short of apex (esp. in the upper grain of each pair; 2-g. einkorn)
  - much less of this type
- \*13 form of apex
  - gen. strongly attenuated
  - between slightly attenuated and somewhat rounded
  - strongly rounded to almost truncate
  - truncate
- 14 angle of scutellum
  - extremely shallow (acute)
  - quite shallow
  - steeper (medium)
  - steep
  - very steep (almost vertical)

## c) grains in ventral view (or ev. in the transverse section)

- 23 flatness of ventral face
- 12 ventral compression surface (if present) (also side view)
  - ending well short of apex (esp. in the upper grain of each pair; 2-g. einkorn)
- 16 "corners" of grain (also in transverse section)
  - sometimes angled
  - always rounded
- 20 shape of hilum-fold
  - a auseinanderklaffend (breit-tief) (wide)
  - c zusammengepresst (eng-tief) (narrow)

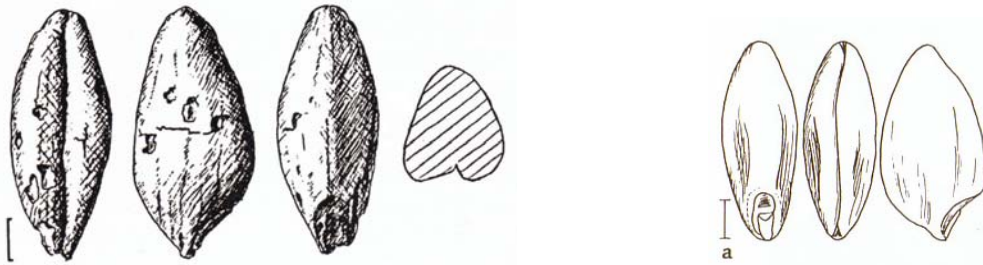


## d) grains view

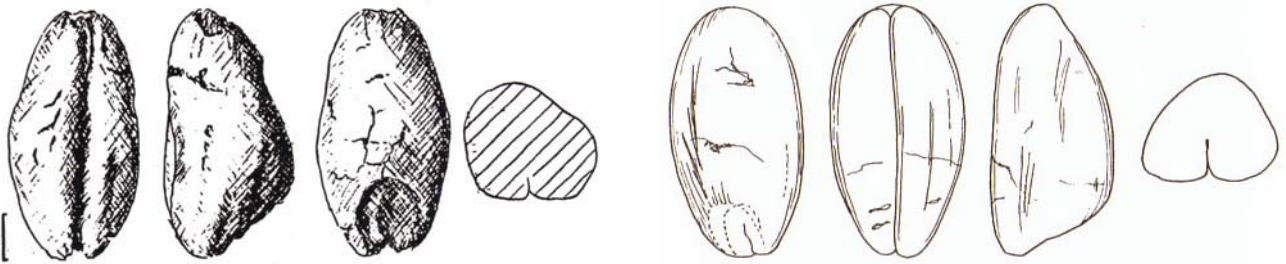
- 4 shape of the back of the grain
  - ridged, often very strongly
  - rounded; if ridge present, very low
- 15 evenness of ventral compression surface / ventral compression lines
  - uneven, bilaterally asymmetrical
  - generally even or only slightly uneven
- 16 "corners" of grain (also in ventral view)
  - sometimes angled
  - always rounded
- 18 Vertical distance between hilum and dorsal surface
  - large
  - small

# wheat grains: comparison of the different species

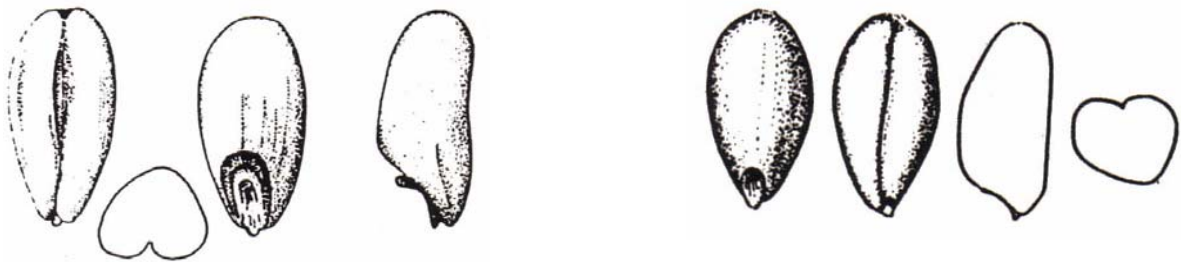
*Triticum monococcum*: einkorn, « normal shape »



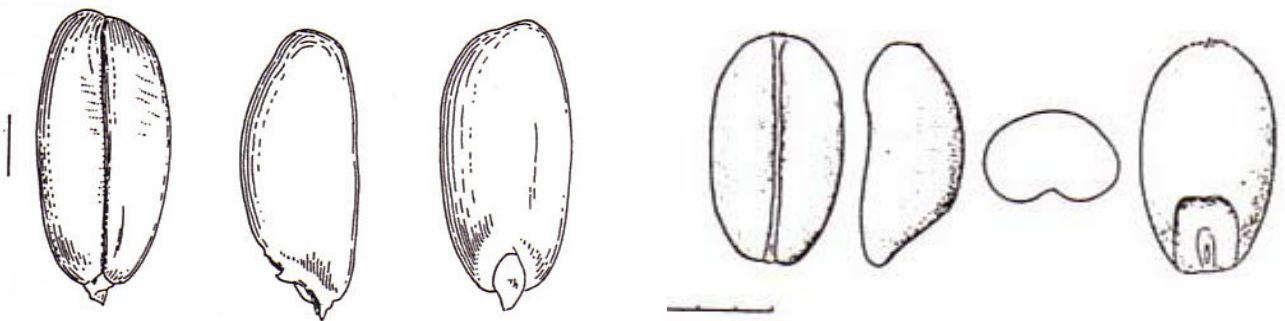
*Triticum dicoccum*: emmer "normal" shape



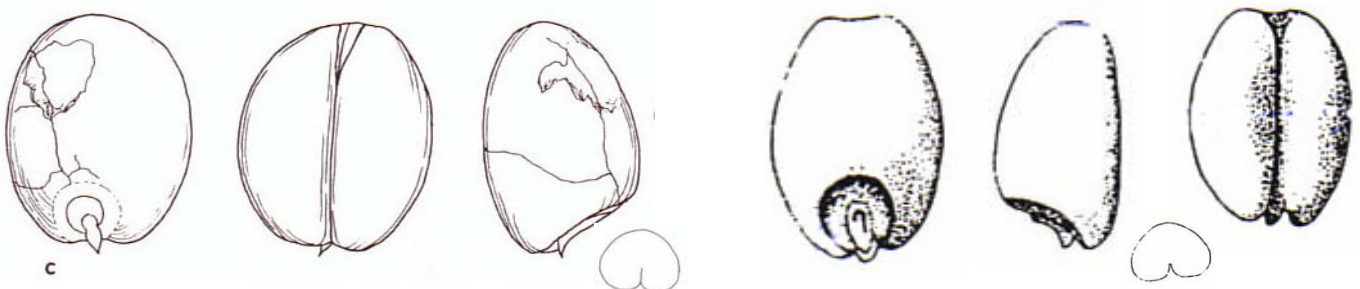
*Triticum dicoccum*: emmer, drop-shape



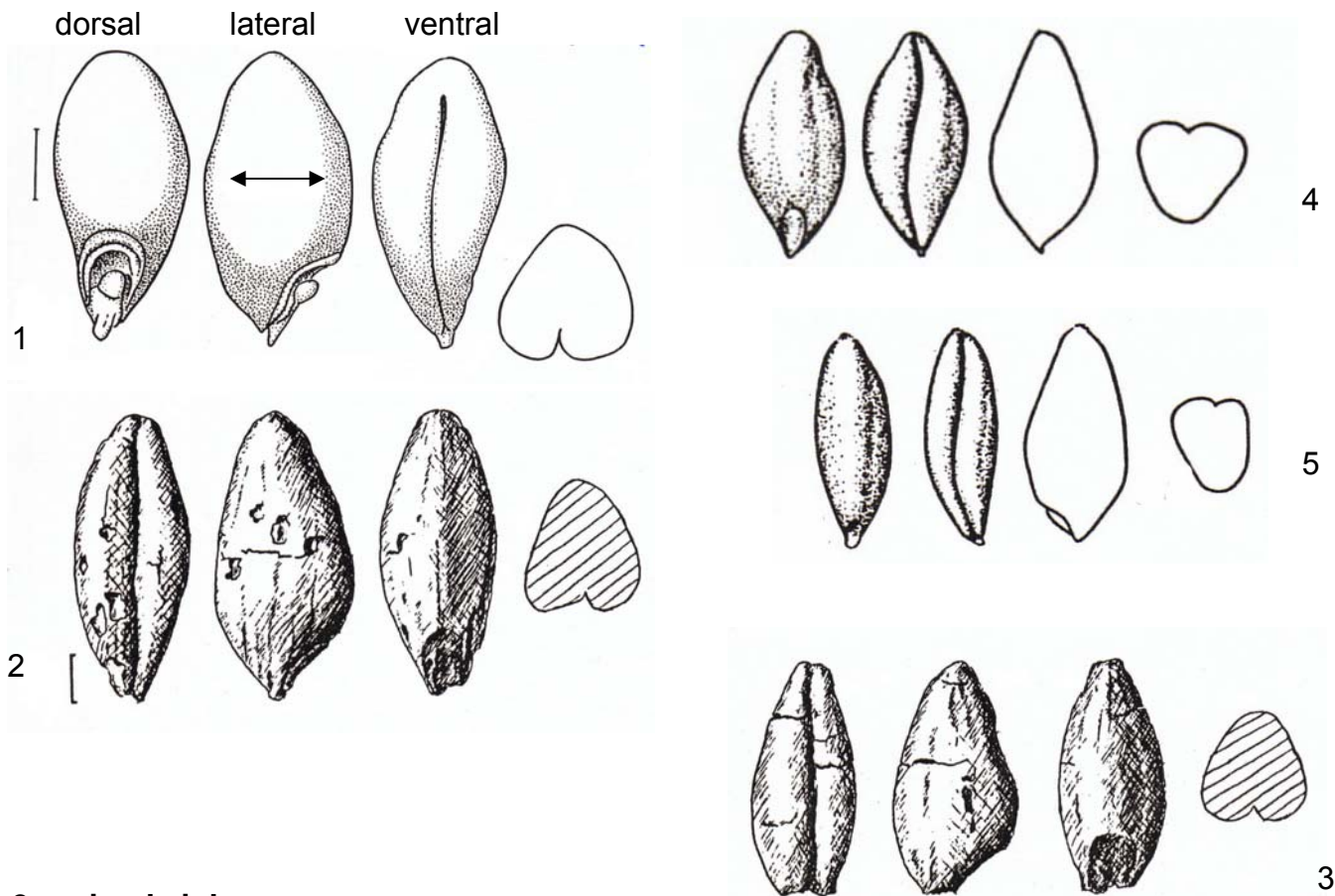
*Triticum spelta*: spelt, left: normal shape, right: drop-shape



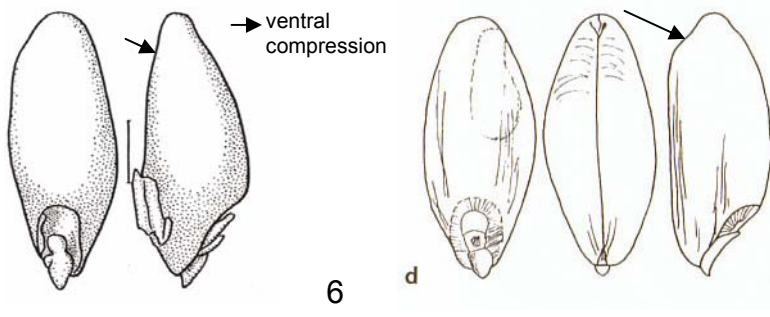
*Triticum aestivum/durum/turgidum*: naked wheat: left: spherical form, right: oval form



# Characters and images of (pre)historical finds of einkorn (*Triticum monococcum*): GRAINS



## 2-grained einkorn



1 and 6: Port-Stüdeli (Switzerland, Neolithic; Brombacher & Jacomet 2003); 2-3: Lamersdorf (LBK, Early Neolithic, Knörzer 1967); 4-5: Ehrenstein (Neolithic, Germany, Hopf 1968); 7: Stillfried (Late Bronze Age, Kohler-Schneider 2001)

**Shape in plan** (seen from the dorsal side); slim, fairly pointed at the ends.

**Shape in side view:** high backed, more or less equally rounded on each side. Ventral outline likewise convex. Highest part of the grain usually in the middle. Exception: 2-grained einkorn with flat ventral surface.

**In transversal section:** not evenly rounded, sometimes apparently with "corners". Dorsal side often almost roof-shaped, however with the highest part rounded off. The sides slightly convex, often also slightly concave. The transition from dorsal to ventral side is often marked with a corner. The ventral furrow is narrow and deep (pressed together).

**Positioning of the embryo:** slanting/upright (not in a cavity!)

**Outer surface structure:** often there are two longitudinal furrows on the dorsal side to the left and right of the highest part. These are glume impressions.

**Characteristic dimensions and ratios:**

L: 4.5-7.1 mm / B: 1.0-3.0 mm (rarely >2.5mm)

H: 1.6-3.1 mm (rarely <2.3mm)

L/B: 1.6-2.58 (rarely <2, mostly more)

L/H: 1.77-2.5 (rarely <2)

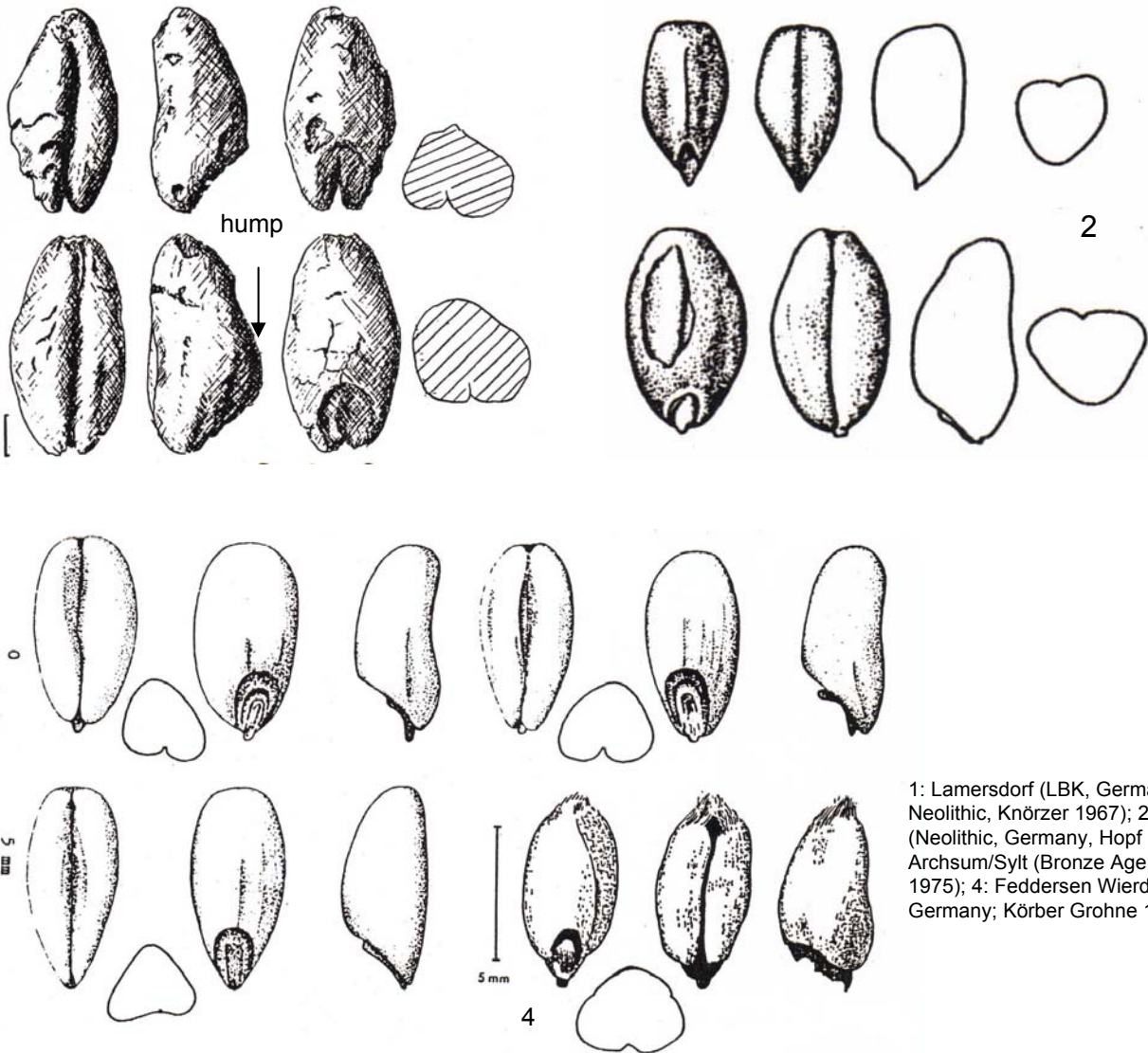
B/H: 0.69-1.2 (mostly <1)

B/Lx100: 37.8-46.2 (<50) **difference from emmer!**

**Variations, identification difficulties:**

"Typical" examples of normal, single-grained einkorn have an unmistakable shape compared with other wheat grains found in central European prehistory. Grains from 2-grained einkorn are more difficult: here there can be similarities with emmer grains. Grains of 2-grained einkorn are much more delicate than those of emmer, and have often a ventral compression ending well short of the apex (esp. the upper grain of each pair). Therefore, they can be identified with  $\pm$  great certainty, particularly when chaff is also preserved in the sample. For more details of 2-grained einkorn see the publication of Kreuz & Boenke 2003.

# Characters and images of (pre)historical finds of emmer (*Triticum dicoccum*): grains



1: Lamersdorf (LBK, Germany, Early Neolithic, Knörzer 1967); 2: Ehrenstein (Neolithic, Germany, Hopf 1968); 3: Archsum/Sylt (Bronze Age, Germany, Kroll 1975); 4: Feddersen Wierde (Iron Age; Germany, Körber Grohne 1967)

## Shape in plan view (seen from the dorsal side):

Mostly slim, the upper end frequently rather pointed, but often bluntly rounded too; this last goes particularly for the abundantly found drop-shaped grains. At the lower (embryo) end, most grains are pointed.

## Shape in side view:

The dorsal outline is often hump-backed; the highest point is often directly above the embryo. The embryo-cavity is often not symmetrically rounded, but twisted. The ventral side is mostly lightly concave to flat.

## Shape in section:

Fairly evenly rounded to rather angular; the ventral furrow is narrow and deep (rarely also angled transverse section)

**Positioning of the embryo:** mostly slanting-upright.

## Various surface structures:

Similar to einkorn, and well-preserved examples have visible longitudinal furrows which represent impressions of the glumes.

## Characteristic measurements and ratios:

L: 3.5-6.1 mm

B: 1.8-3.2 mm (rarely >3mm, normally less)

H: 1.5-3.4 mm

**L/B:** 1.57-2.04 (mostly around 2)(**difference from einkorn!**)

**L/H** 1.57-2.5 (mostly >2 but rarely as much as 2.5: **difference from einkorn and spelt**).

**B/Lx100:** 48.33 - 60.38 (normally around 54) (**difference from einkorn**).

## Possibilities for confusion, identification difficulties:

Delicate grains, for example from the apical part of an ear can be confused with those of 2-grained einkorn.

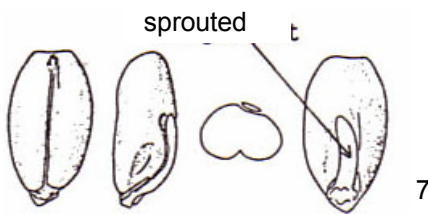
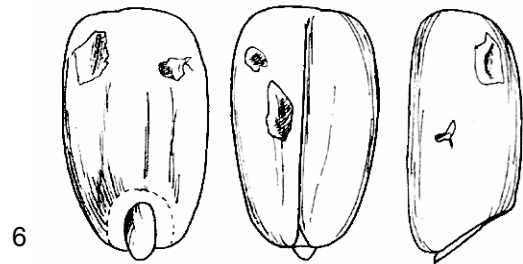
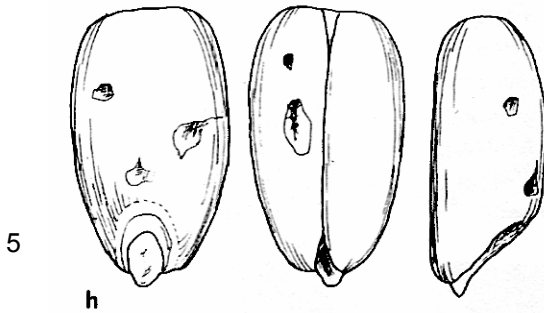
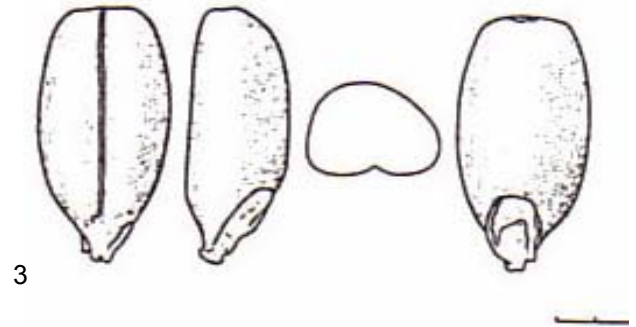
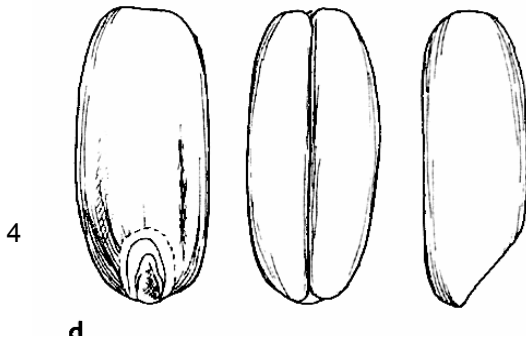
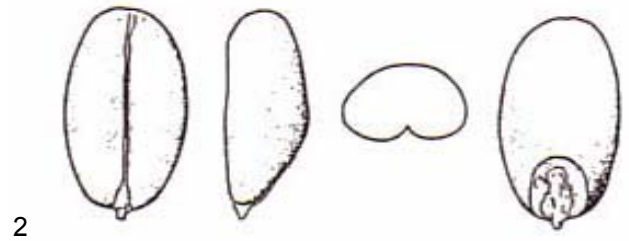
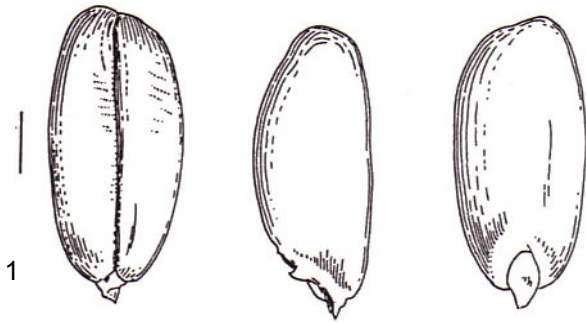
Grains from one-grained spikelets (from the base and the top of an ear) look very similar to "normal" (1-grained) einkorn.

**Differentiation from normal einkorn:** emmer grains are wider in relation to their height, that is their B/H ratio is usually >1.

**Differentiation from naked wheat forms:** Grains of emmer are normally narrower (mostly <3mm wide). From this their L/ B ratio is always distinctly higher (around 2) than in naked wheat, e.g. *Triticum aestivum* (< 1.7).

**Separation from spelt:** Emmer grains are on average higher than those of spelt, so the L/H ratio in emmer is 1.9-2.5 (mostly around 2.3), while it is mostly >2.5 in *Triticum spelta*. Furthermore, spelt grains, particularly when they were charred in the spikelets, can have a very similar shape (see Jacomet et al. 1988, Eptingen-Riedfluh, also Jacomet & Dalnoki 2002).

# Characters and images of (pre)historical finds of spelt (*Triticum spelta*: grains)



1: Zürich-Mozartstrasse (Early Bronze Age, Switzerland, Jacomet et al. 1989); 2-3+7: Valkenburg (Roman, Netherlands, Van Zeist 1968); 4-6: Stillfried (Late Bronze Age, Austria, Kohler-Schneider 2001)

**!!! oops!!!** grains of the so-called « new glume wheat » may look similar, however somewhat more delicate; see later pages

## Shape in plan view (dorsal view):

“typical” grains: oval, often with almost parallel sides. The upper end bluntly rounded, lower end blunt but often relatively pointed. There may be many grains which are somewhat drop-shaped (see figures).

## Shape in side view:

Dorsal ridge symmetrically rounded, but very flat (also the drop-shaped spelt grains are rather flat compared with emmer, but higher than the “typical” ones). Ventral surface mostly almost flat.

## Shape in section:

Mostly symmetrically rounded. Ventral furrow narrow and deep.

## Characteristic measurements and ratios:

L: 4.7-8.4 mm

B: 2.0-4.1 mm

H: 1.7-3.3 mm (rarely >3mm)

L/B: 1.5-2.45

L/H: 2.1-3.09 (in “typical” grains >2.5)

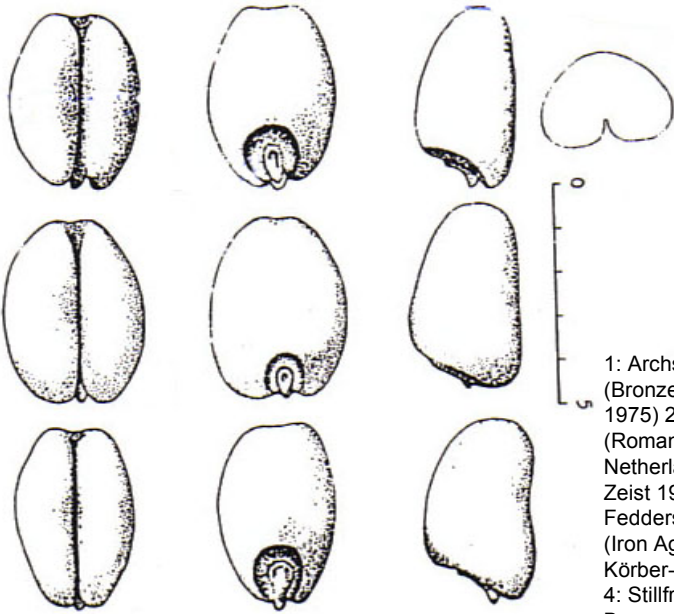
B/H: 1.0-1.5

## Possibilities for confusion:

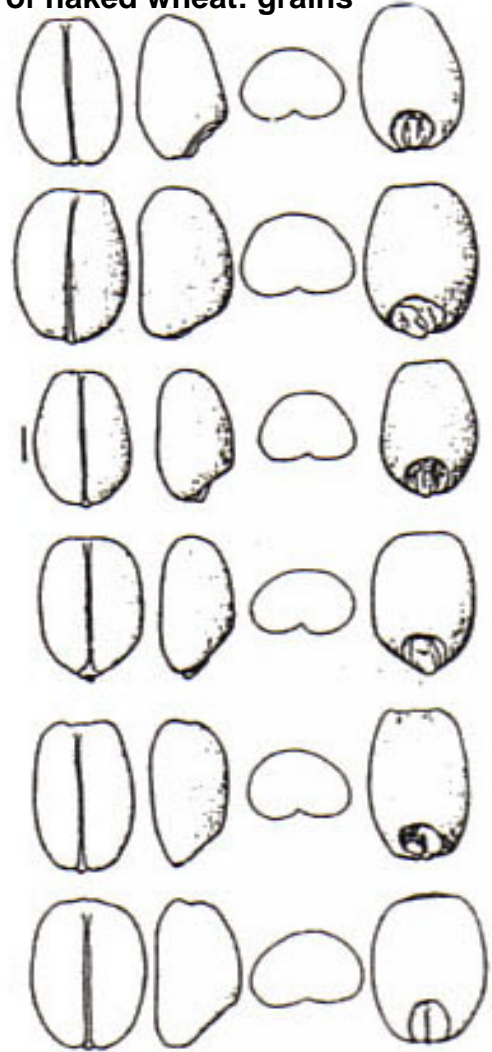
See under emmer. Important: when spelt grains became charred while in the ear or spikelet, their shape is quite different from that described in the literature as “typical” spelt. It approaches emmer closely in shape and size ratios, and drop shaped grains are encountered regularly.

# Characters and images of (pre)historical finds of naked wheat: grains

1



2

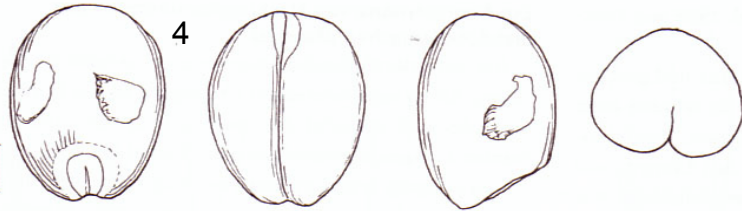


1: Archsym/Sylt (Bronze Age; Kroll 1975) 2: Valkenburg (Roman, Netherlands, Van Zeist 1968); 3: Feddersen Wierde (Iron Age, Germany, Körber-Grohne 1967); 4: Stillfried (Late Bronze Age, Austria, Kohler-Schneider 2001)

3



4



In the following we don't go into the details of the distinction between tetra- and hexaploid naked wheats (some information on the problematic is given **on the following page**). For those interested see Kislev 1979 and 1984; some of Kislev's observations are added below. The distinction is (at least) difficult (if not impossible).

In the following, by *Triticum aestivum* s.l. we mean all hexaploid naked wheat varieties (incl. *T. compactum*), by *T. turgidum* s.l. we mean tetraploid naked wheat in general (*T. turgidum* or *T. durum*). We don't treat here other hexa- or tetraploid naked wheat types because they seem not to play any role in central European (pre)history. For an overview of the taxa see the tables at the beginning of part 2.

We also don't put too much attention to the distinction of the different bread wheat-species (or more likely: varieties), because the forms and measurements are overlapping, and – in addition - the ploidy-level is *per se* not known.

## Shape in plan view (dorsal view):

Slender ("tetraploids") to oval ("*T. aestivum-vulgare*") to round ("*T. compactum*"). The upper end bluntly rounded (rarely also pointed: cf tetraploid), lower end blunt-rounded, too. Drop-shaped grains possible (cf tetraploid). The surface is smooth, without furrows. The germ area is deep, the embryo lies like in a cavity.

## Shape in side view:

Dorsal ridge (mostly symmetrically) rounded, in tetraploids humpy. Ventral surface from rounded (convex) to flat. Max. height ca. in the middle.

## Shape in section:

Mostly symmetrically rounded. Ventral furrow wide and deep.

## Characteristic measurements and ratios:

L: 3,4-7,0 mm / B: 2,2-4,7 mm / H: 2,0-4,0 mm

L/B: 1.07-1,73 (the boundary between "*T. compactum*" and "*T. vulgare*" is seen around 1,5 (compactum is below, vulgare above))

L/H: 1,1,-2,1

B/H: 1.1-1,3

B/L\*100: 54.4-89,3 ("*T. compactum*" >65-70, "*T. vulgare*" <65)

## Separation of naked wheat grains from other wheat species (Table 9):

### Separation from emmer (*Triticum dicoccum*):

Grains of emmer are mostly distinctly narrower (usually <3mm wide). Consequently their L/B ratio is clearly higher than in naked wheats (mostly around 2). There are also clear differences in B/L x 100 ratio, which is between 48 and 60 for emmer (average usually around 54) also distinctly lower than in naked wheats (around 54-81).

### Separation from "typical" (flat) spelt grains (*Triticum spelta*):

"Typical" spelt grains are relatively long and fairly slim; their L/B ratio is around 2 (1.5-2.45). Otherwise they are much flatter than naked wheat grains, so their L/H ratio is certainly >2, mostly >2.5, while in naked wheat it is between 1.1-2.1.



## Critical remarks to the identification possibilities of (pre)historical finds of naked wheat: grains

In the literature of central Europe all naked wheat grains were formerly considered to be hexaploids (Triticum aestivum L., bread wheats in the widest sense). The author, through the study of beautifully preserved finds of naked wheat from lake shore settlements in the sub-Alpine region, became aware that this clearcut arrangement could not be quite so certain (Jacomet & Schlichtherle 1984). Heer had already (1865) recognised the morphologically distinct character of some of the lake-settlement wheats and described these as a separate subspecies, called Triticum vulgare antiquorum (“small lake settlement wheat”). Our conclusion, and also Heer's before as well as that of U. Maier (1996) later, depend mainly on morphological characters of the rachis and glumes (see below). Lastly, distinct similarities with tetraploid naked wheats of the Triticum turgidum-group can be recognised. Also, Kislev (1979 and 1984) has referred to the possible presence of tetraploid naked wheats in the archaeological finds from the near East; he described what was in his opinion a tetraploid find as a new hitherto unknown species (Triticum parvicoccum). The author was therefore interested in which grain characters the tetraploid naked wheats could be separated from the hexaploids (characters see previous page, from Kislev 1984). From that, it appears that the grains of naked tetraploid wheats have a greater similarity to emmer (tetraploid glume wheat) than to hexaploid bread wheats. This however, does not hold for the larger part of the clearly tetraploid “lake-dwelling-wheats”, and maybe also not for other finds of that type from other geographical regions and periods which were made in the meantime (e.g. Kühn 1996, Petrucci-Bavaud & Jacomet 2002; Moffett 1991). Therefore we propose **to identify naked-wheat grains in central European contexts as “Triticum “nudum”, what means, that it is a tetra- or hexaploid naked wheat** (so T. aestivum s.l./turgidum s.l. (incl. durum's; it has always to be specified which nomenclature is used)).

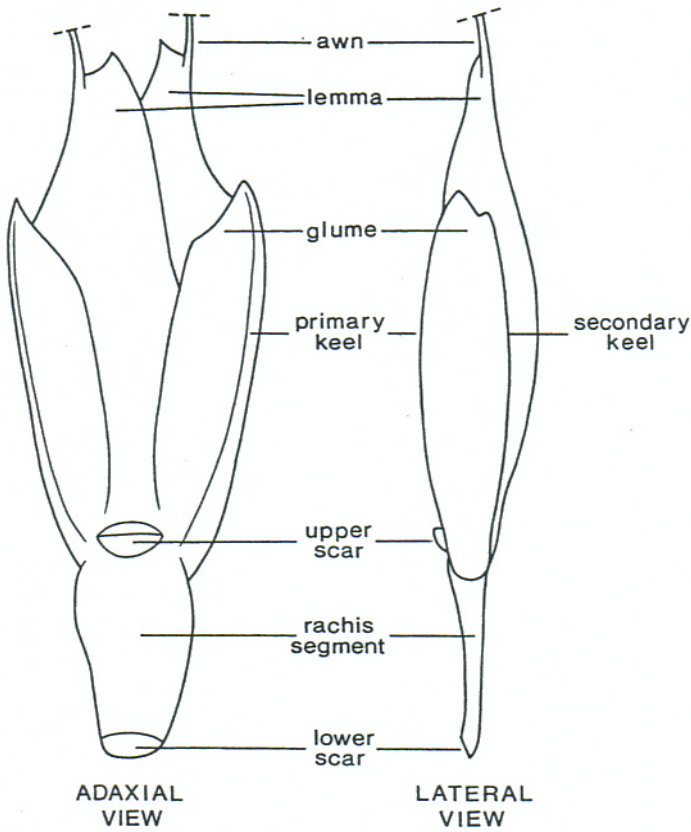
An other critical point is the difficulty to make a differentiation between the different forms of hexaploid naked wheats. From the older literature – in a time, when everybody supposed that all naked wheat found in Europe was a hexaploid – a huge debate concerning the separation of dense-eared forms (cone wheat, Triticum aestivum grex aestivo-compactum Schiem.) and lax-eared forms (Triticum aestivum L. s. str.) is known. Hopf (various publications), van Zeist 1968, Rothmaler 1955 and many others besides give various characters and dimensions as identification criteria (see partly on the previous page). This became obsolete since it is known that also tetraploids can be present in the archaeological material.

Nevertheless, it may be important to note during identifying archaeological naked wheat remains the form of the grains, because it is not excluded that different varieties are present. One can e.g. distinguish between:

- short stubby grains (former T. compactum type)
- long slim grains (former T. vulgare type)
- intermediate shapes

# Identification of chaff remains of (pre)historic wheat

The principal diagnostic features of a stylized spikelet of a glume wheat



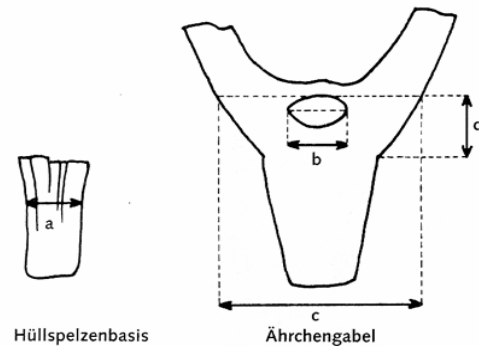
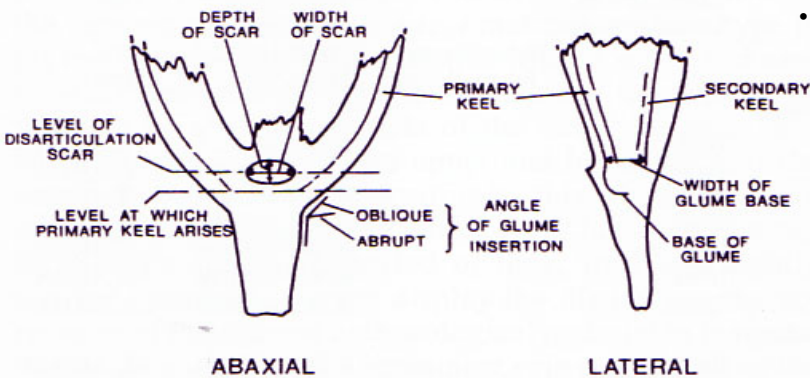
Hillman et al. 1996

The by-products resulting from grain processing, such as chaff, provide the most important means for the identification of prehistoric wheat species on the basis of morphology (see Fig. 2 in Hillman 1984). These are rachis parts (internodes, rachis fragments) and the glumes (also lemmas and paleas). These parts of the cereal flowering structure provide many diagnostically useful features for the separation of the individual taxa.

The separation of the individual species, is firstly based on morphological characters. Secondly, measurements are used for identification. The characters used in the following section come partly from the literature (Helbaek 1952 a&b, van Zeist 1968, Hopf 1968, Villaret-von Rochow 1967, Körber-Grohne 1967 and Körber-Grohne and Piening 1983, Hillman et al. 1996, Jones et al. 2000, Kohler-Schneider 2001), partly they were worked out by the Basel Lab members (e.g. Zibulski 2001) on the basis of recent and subfossil material.

For identification, the following **morphological criteria** should be considered (after Jones et al. 2000):

- the upper scar (scar left by the disarticulation of rachis)
- the primary keel (the level at which it arises, his ascendance)
- the secondary keel (robust or not)
- the angle of glume insertion
- the width of the glume bases in lateral view
- the veini




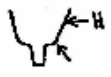

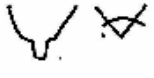
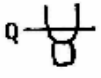
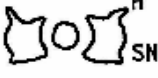
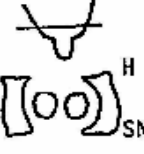




measurements used for the distinction of glume-wheat chaff:

- a width of the glume base in lateral view
- b width of the upper scar
- c width of the spikelet fork at the upper margin of the upper scar
- d distance between upper scar and the point of glume insertion

Kohler-Schneider 2001

**Fig. 5.** A diagram indicating some of the terms used to describe spikelet bases in the text Jones et al. 2000

**glume wheat chaff:** morphological and metrical criteria for distinguishing of rachis remains, spikelet forks and glumes bases of glume wheat: einkorn-emmer and spelt.  
Measurement lines see other pages

critierion	einkorn	emmer	spelt
shape of the lower part of the glume (H)	even curvature  internode broad in relation to spikelet width	basal "angle"  internode narrow in relation to spikelet width	Rather even curvature  internode rather broad
angle between the glumes	small <math><90^\circ</math> 	larger 	variable
breakage pattern of the glumes	mostly at the insertion point of the next-higher rachis segment, so fragments of the latter rarely remain	as for einkorn	mostly snaps in the region of the middle of the rachis segment, so finds have at least part of the next-higher rachis segment still attached
glume base width (dimension L)	0.45-0.9 mm av: 0.65 mm	0.7-1.1 mm av: 0.92 mm	1.1-1.4 mm ab: 1.28 mm
shape of the lower part of the glume in cross-section	massive, rounded – somewhat rectangular  Q: 	rather massive, clearly rectangular, thinner than in einkorn but more massive than in spelt 	rather massive, not so clearly rectangular, much wider and thinner than in emmer 
glume keel: main keel (H)	stands out clearly	stands out rather clearly	not clearly protruding
first side nerve (SN)	stands out clearly, visible as an edge	standing out rather clearly	very hard to make out clearly
sides (between H & N)	mostly without further longitudinal nerves	often very clear lengthwise nerves	very obvious lengthwise nerves
glume apex	clearly 2-pointed 	first point clear, (extension of the main nerve H), second point mostly indistinct 	no actual points present; upper edge has an S-shaped outline 

composed after: Helbaek 1952A + B, Körber-Grohne 1967, Körber-Grohne & Piening 1983, van Zeist 1968, Villaret-von Rochow 1967 and own studies. Composed by: S. Jacomet. From Jacomet / Brombacher / Dick 1989.

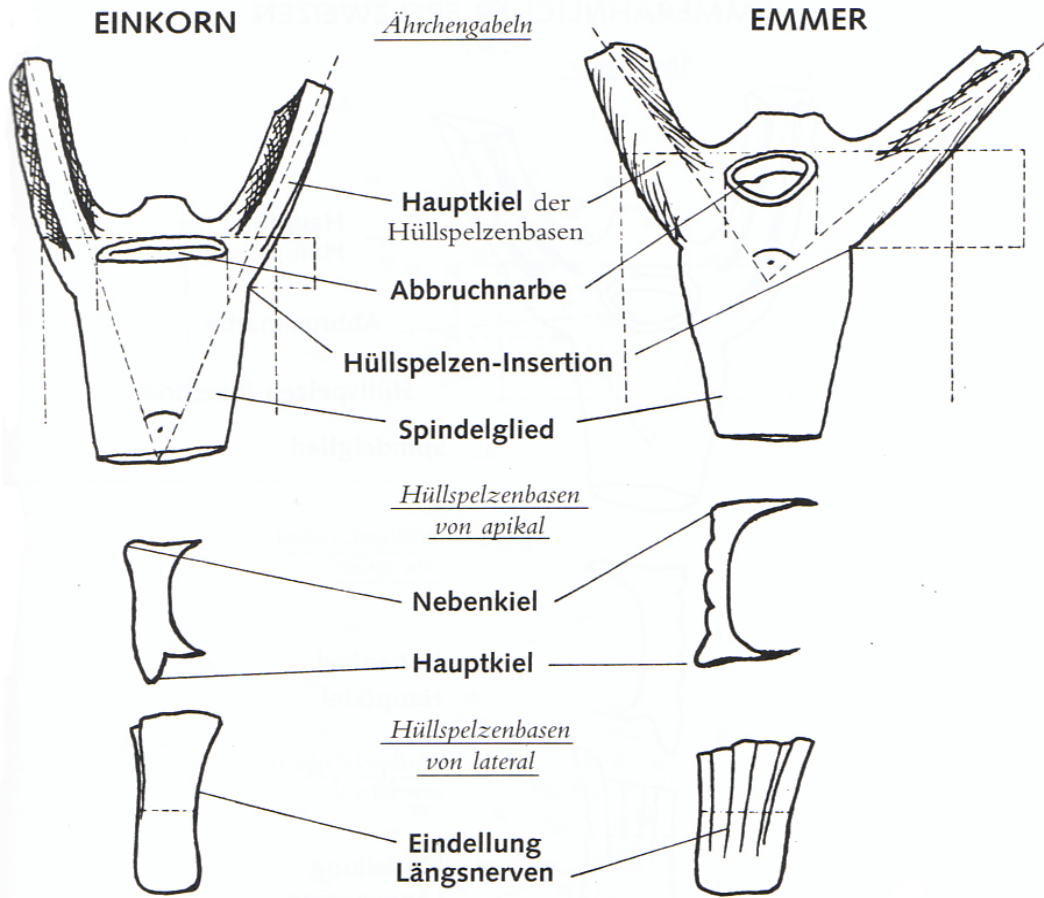
**For highly fragmented remains of glume wheat chaff see the work of Zibulski 2001**

The following suggest themselves as particularly important measurement points that are diagnostic for species identification (for measurement lines see other pages)

- the basal width of the glumes between the keel and the first side nerve (L) : provides good identification criteria between the species although there is a certain amount of overlap between emmer and einkorn on the one hand, and between emmer and spelt on the other.
- the basal width of the spikelet (Q)
- the maximal width of the rachis (P)
- the ratio Q:P. In emmer this is around 2:1, in einkorn normally <math><1.5:1</math>.
- the maximal width of the spikelet (R)

Morphological and metrical criteria for the distinction of rachis remains, spikelet forks and glumes bases of glume wheat: **EINKORN AND EMMER**

For english terms see pages 26 and 30!



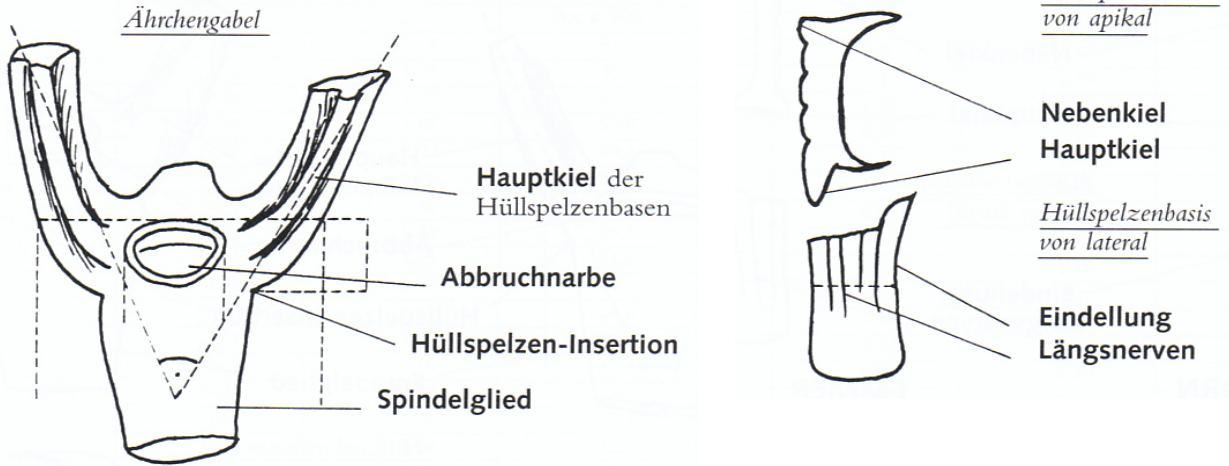
	<b>EINKORN</b>	<b>EMMER</b>
<b>Abbruchnarbe:</b>	breit, <u>linear</u> , flach	eng, <u>rund</u> , tief
<b>Hüllspelzen-Insertion:</b>	ca. in <u>Höhe</u> der Abbruchnarbe	<u>weit unterhalb</u> der Abbruchnarbe
<b>Hauptkiel der Hüllspelzenbasen:</b>	<u>sehr stark</u> ausgebildet und <u>vertikal</u> hervortretend, <u>nahe</u> an die Abbruchnarbe heranreichend	<u>weniger stark</u> ausgebildet und <u>lateral</u> hervortretend, <u>nicht</u> an die Abbruchnarbe heranreichend
<b>Nebenkiel:</b>	<u>deutlich</u> ausgeprägt	<u>weniger</u> deutlich ausgeprägt
<b>Hüllspelzenbasen von apikal:</b>	<u>sehr massiv</u> , Basisbreite niedrig	<u>weniger massiv</u> , Basisbreite höher
<b>Hüllspelzenbasen von lateral:</b>	meist <u>leichte Eindellung</u> , keine Längsnerven	keine (od. leichte) Eindellung oft zusätzliche Längsnerven
<b>Spreizwinkel der Hüllspelzenbasen:</b>	meist relativ <u>klein</u> (kein sicheres Merkmal)	meist relativ <u>groß</u> (keine sicheres Merkmal)
<b>Spindelglieder:</b>	verhältnismäßig <u>breit</u>	verhältnismäßig <u>schmal</u>

Abb. 28: Bestimmungsmerkmale an Ährchengabeln von Einkorn und Emmer (schematisch).

# Morphological and metrical criteria for the distinction of rachis remains, spikelet forks and glumes bases of glume wheat: **new glume wheat**

For english terms see pages 26 and 30!

## EMMERÄHNLICHER SPELZWEIZEN



## EMMERÄHNLICHER SPELZWEIZEN

- Abbruchnarbe:** eng, rund, tief (wie bei Emmer)
- Hüllspelzen-Insertion:** ca. in Höhe der Abbruchnarbe (wie bei Einkorn)
- Hauptkiel der Hüllspelzenbasen:** sehr stark ausgebildet und vertikal hervortretend (wie bei Einkorn), nahe an die Abbruchnarbe heranreichend (wie bei Einkorn), auffällig U-förmig ausgeweitet
- Nebenkiel:** deutlich ausgeprägt (wie bei Einkorn)
- Hüllspelzenbasen von apikal:** sehr massiv (ähnlich Einkorn), Basisbreite höher (ähnlich Emmer)
- Hüllspelzenbasen von lateral:** leichte Eindellung (wie bei Einkorn), deutliche zusätzliche Längsnerven
- Spreizwinkel der Hüllspelzenbasen:** meist zwischen typisch Einkorn und typisch Emmer (kein sicheres Merkma auffällig abrupte, U-förmige Insertion der Hüllspelzenbasen)
- Spindelglieder:** verhältnismäßig schmal (eher wie bei Emmer)

Abb. 29: Bestimmungsmerkmale an Ährchengabeln von „emmerähnlichem Spelzweizen“ (schematisch).

Tab. 53: Meßwerte von Einkorn (n=10), Emmer (n=10) und „emmerähnlichem Spelzweizen“ (n=30) in mm.

		Einkorn	Emmer	Emmerähnlicher Spelzweizen
<b>a</b>	Basisbreite der Hüllspelzen	0,66 (0,5–0,8)	0,9 (0,7–1,0)	0,91 (0,8–1,1)
<b>b</b>	Breite der Abbruchnarbe	0,87 (0,7–1,0)	0,70 (0,6–0,8)	0,85 (0,7–1,0)
<b>c</b>	Basisbreite der Ährchengabeln	1,84 (1,7–2,0)	2,21 (2,0–2,5)	2,12 (1,8–2,4)
<b>d</b>	Distanz Abbruchnarbe/Hüllsp.insertion	0,59 (0,5–0,7)	0,90 (0,7–1,1)	0,74 (0,5–0,9)
<b>b/c × 100</b>	Index	47,2 (40,2–51,6)	31,4 (27,2–35,3)	40,5 (34,5–47,5)

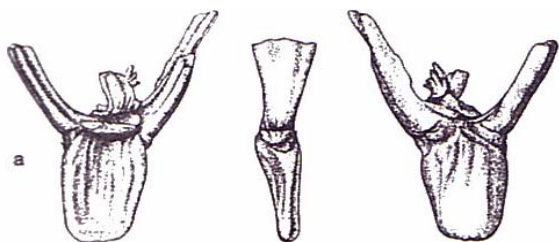
Measurements of einkorn (n=10), emmer (n=10) and new glume wheat (n=30) chaff, in mm

Morphological criteria for the distinction of rachis remains, spikelet forks and glumes bases of glume wheat: **einkorn, new glume wheat and emmer** (from Jones et al 2000)

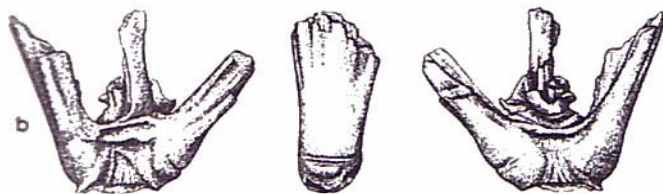
**Table 1.** Summary of the characteristics which distinguish the new type glume bases from typical einkorn and emmer glume bases from Greece

<i>Einkorn</i>	<i>New type</i>	<i>Emmer</i>
Scar left by disarticulation of rachis wide and often shallow	Scar left by disarticulation of rachis wide and deep	Scar left by disarticulation of rachis narrow
Primary keel prominent and projecting abaxially	As einkorn	Primary keel usually less prominent and tending to project laterally
Base of primary keel arising at the same level as the attachment scar	As einkorn	Base of primary keel arising below the level of the attachment scar
Primary keel ascends more or less vertically from scar	Primary keel extends laterally before ascending	Primary keel ascends obliquely
Secondary keel robust but rounded	Secondary keel sharply angled, often with a clearly defined 'vein' running along it	Secondary keel angled but less prominent
Glumes inserted into the rachis at an oblique angle	Glumes inserted into rachis at an abrupt angle	Glumes inserted into the rachis at an oblique angle
Glume bases narrow	As emmer	Glume bases wide
Lateral face of glume bases with little or no veining near the base	As emmer	Lateral face of glume bases usually veined near the base

Note that, like all identification criteria, there is considerable variation within as well as between different types which is not apparent from a summary table (see text for more details)

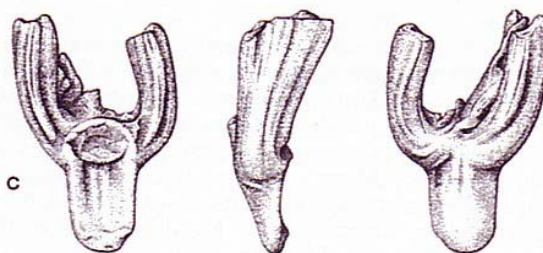


einkorn

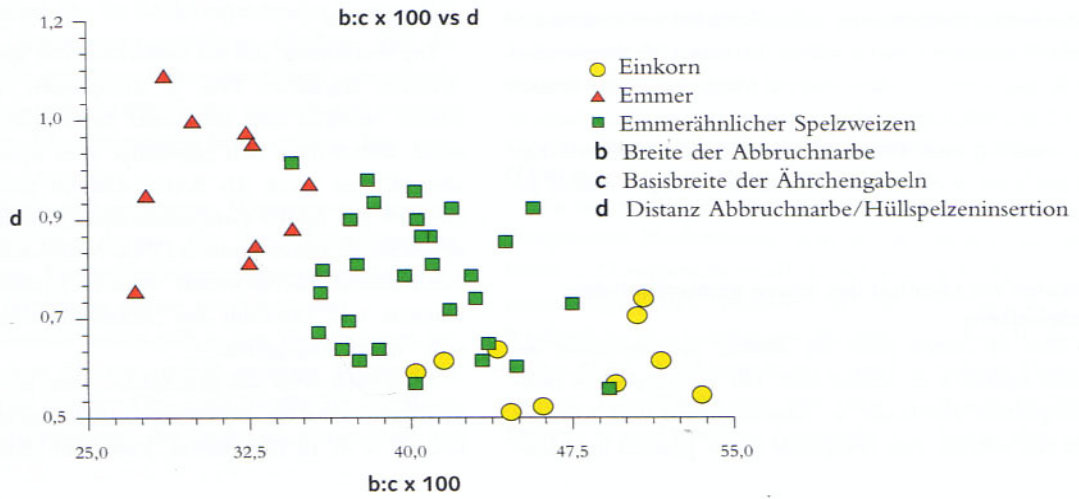
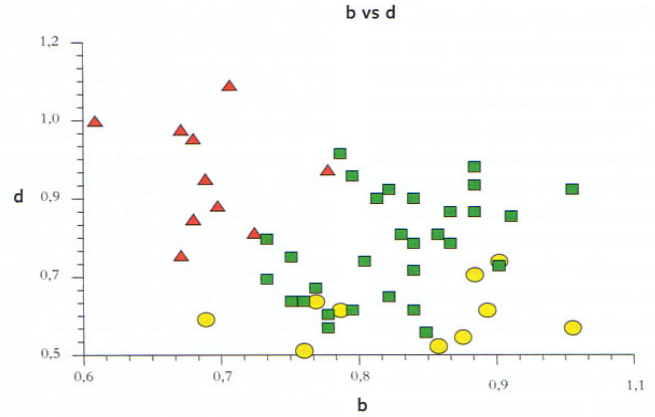
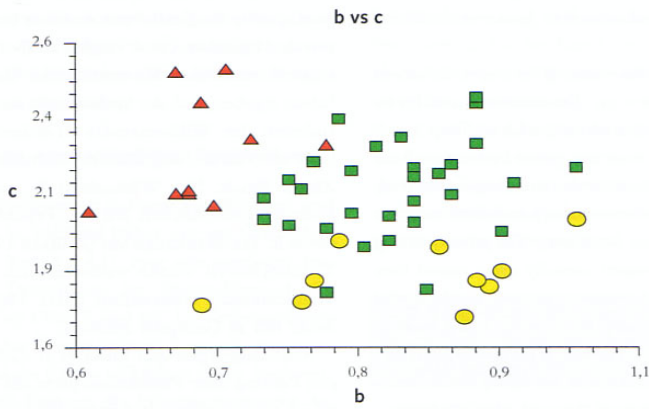


emmer

new glume wheat



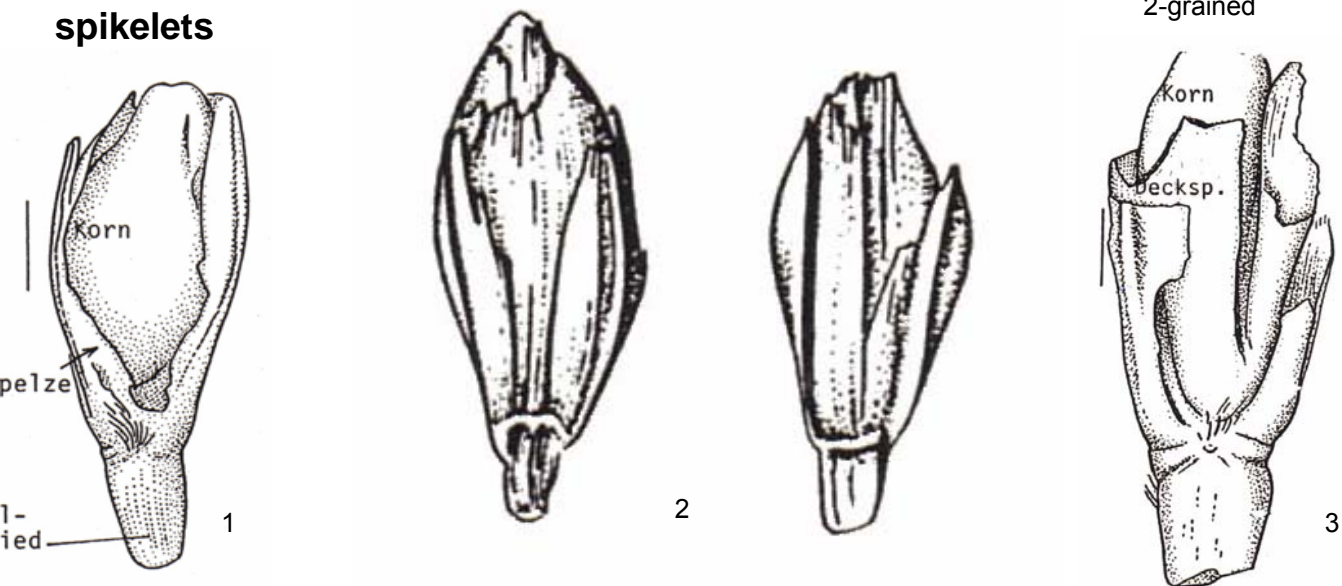
wheat: measurements of einkorn, emmer and new glume wheat chaff: comparison  
 Examples from Late Bronze Age Stillfried, Austria



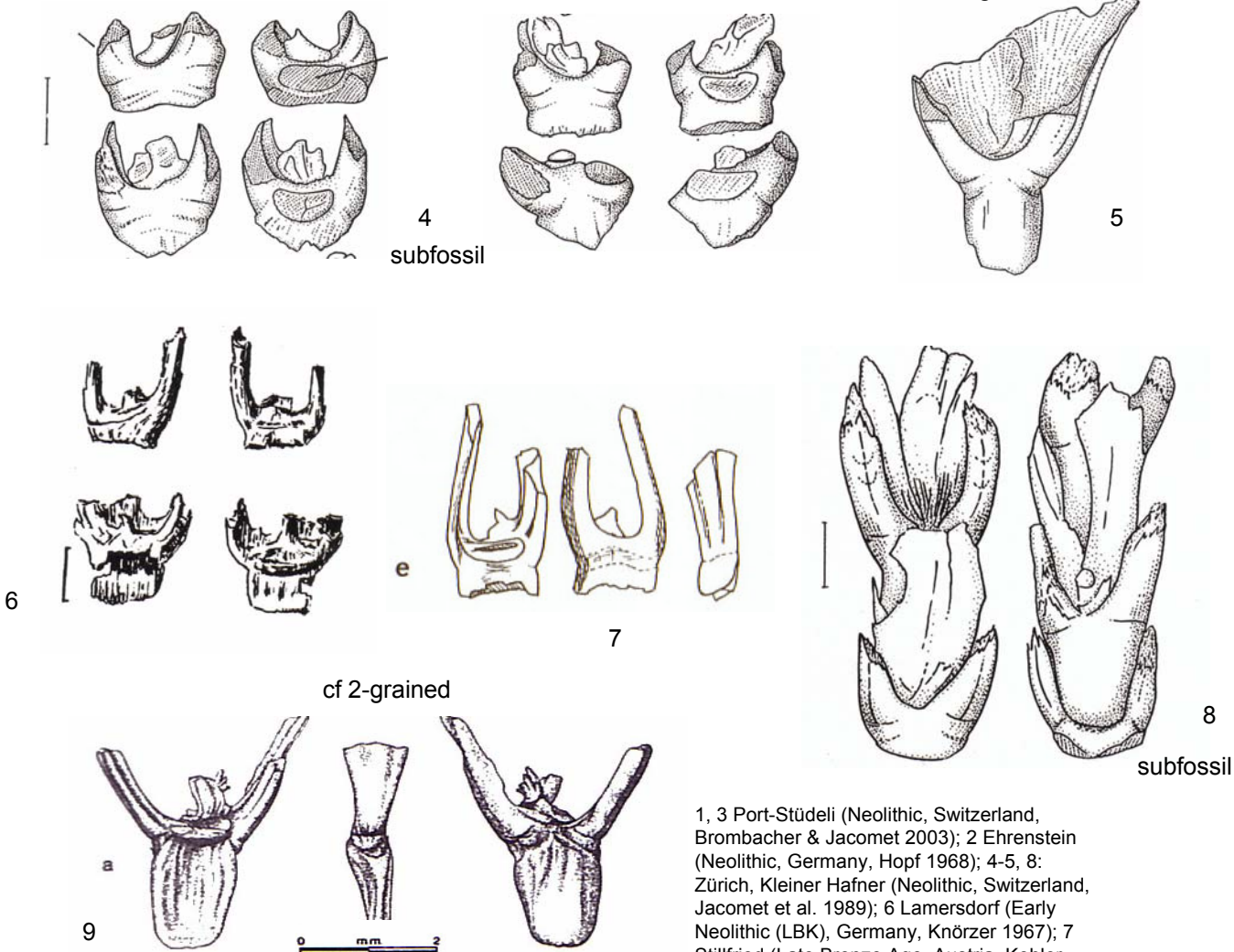
Measurement lines see p. 28

Images of (pre)historical finds of einkorn (*Triticum monococcum*):  
spikelets and chaff

spikelets



spikelet forks, rachis parts



1, 3 Port-Stüdeli (Neolithic, Switzerland, Brombacher & Jacomet 2003); 2 Ehrenstein (Neolithic, Germany, Hopf 1968); 4-5, 8: Zürich, Kleiner Hafner (Neolithic, Switzerland, Jacomet et al. 1989); 6 Lamersdorf (Early Neolithic (LBK), Germany, Knörzer 1967); 7 Stillfried (Late Bronze Age, Austria, Kohler-Schneider 2001); 9 Assiros (Bronze Age, Greece, Jones et al. 2000)



Images of (pre)historical finds of the new glume wheat (*Triticum nn*) chaff (spikelet forks) and grains (?)

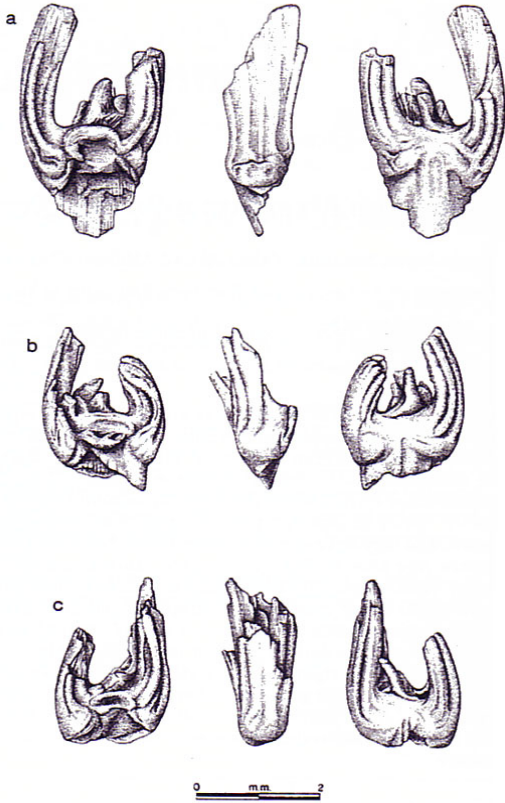
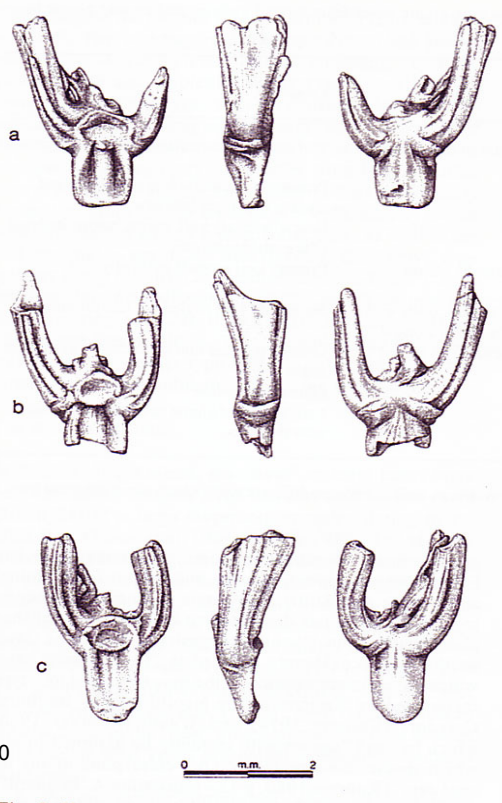
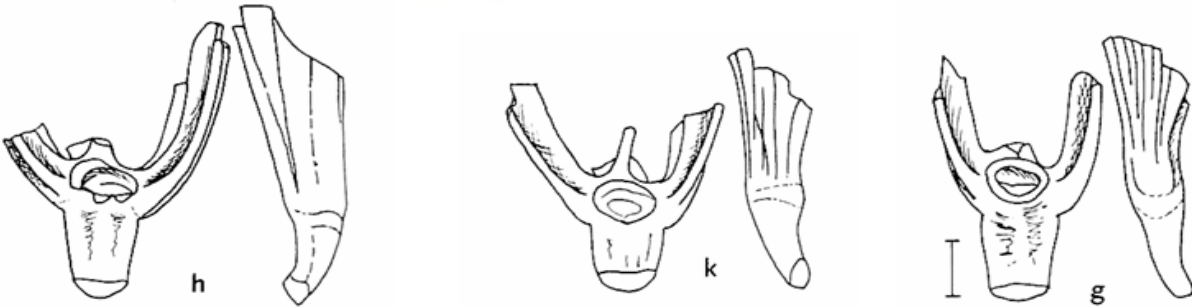


Fig. 2. New type spikelet bases from the Neolithic sites: a and b Makriyalos, c Makri



Jones et al. 2000

Fig. 3. New type spikelet bases from Bronze Age Assiros Toumba: a and b sample 4650, c sample 4384



Kohler-Schneider 2001: Stillfried, Austria, Late Bronze Age

possible corresponding modern species

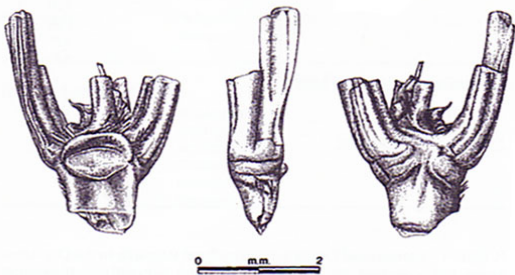
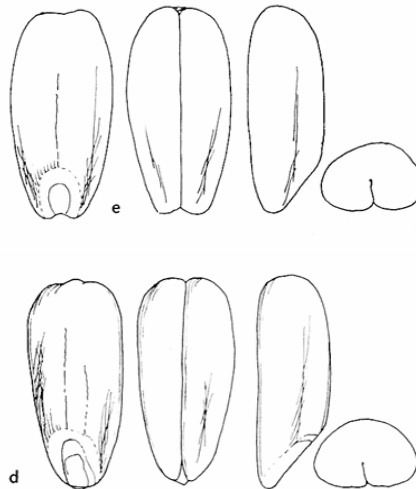


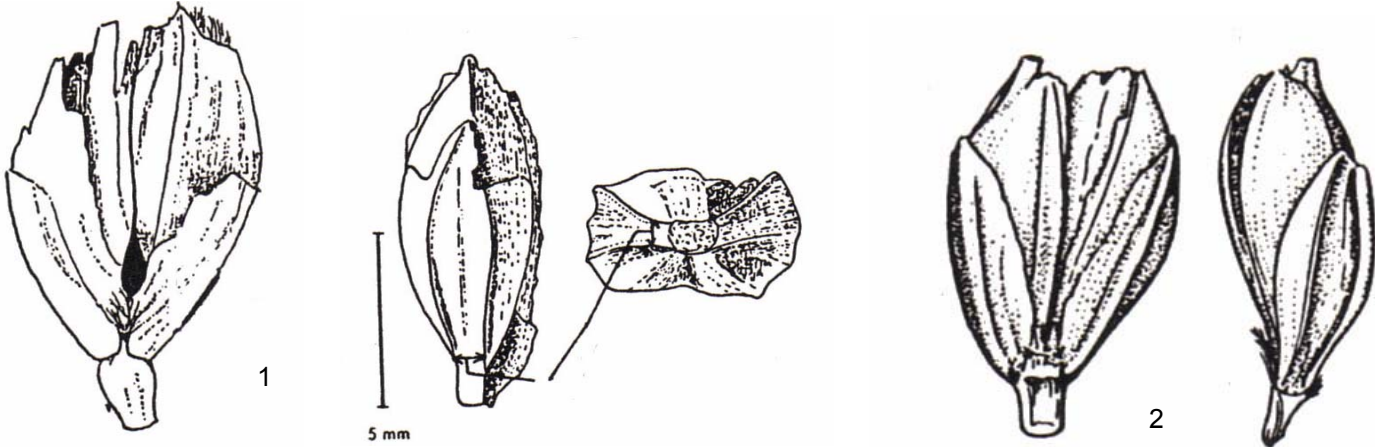
Fig. 6. A modern charred spikelet base of *Triticum timopheevi* Zhuk.



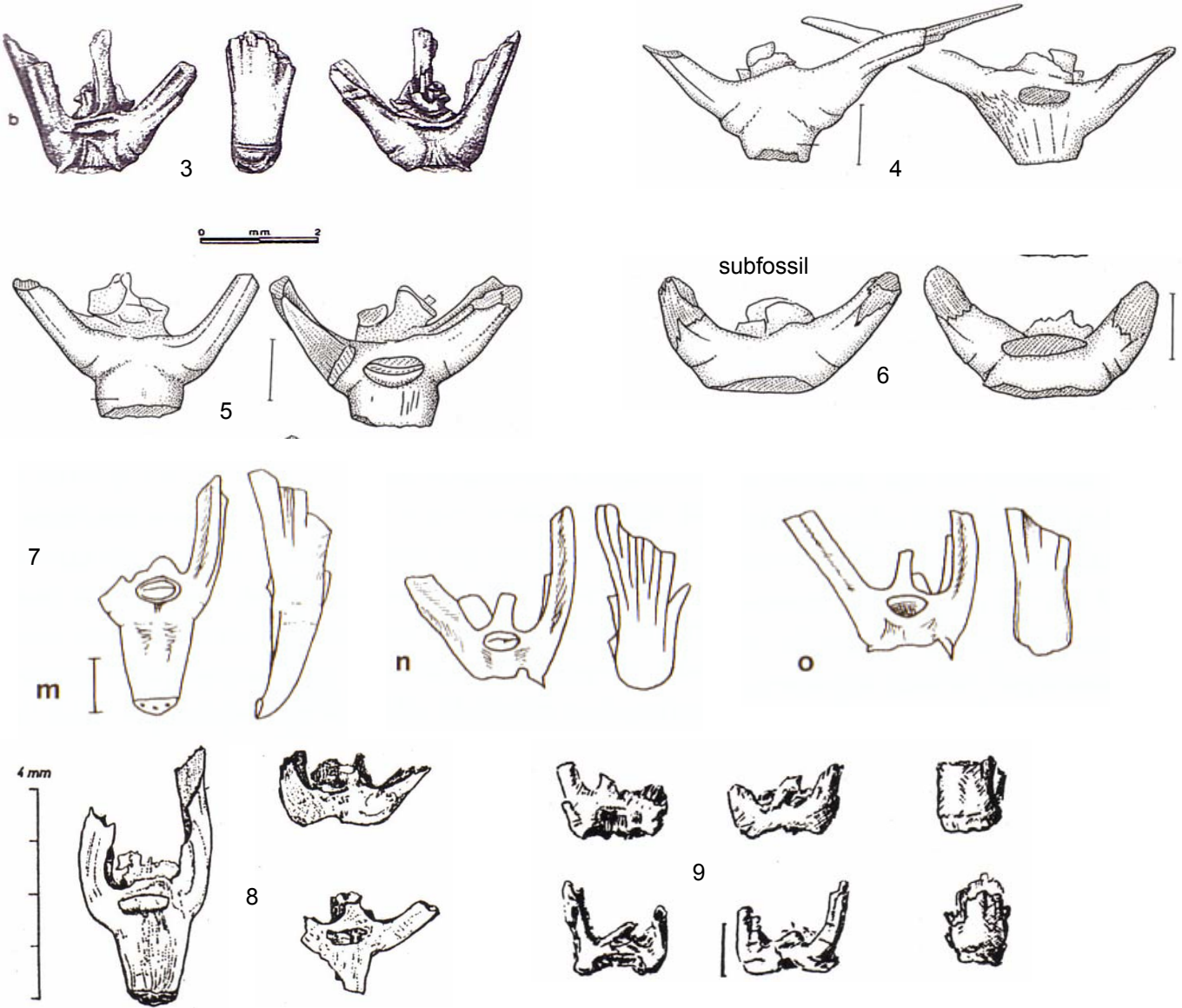
maybe the corresponding grains....  
(from Stillfried)

Images of (pre)historical finds of emmer (*Triticum dicoccum*):  
spikelets and chaff

spikelets



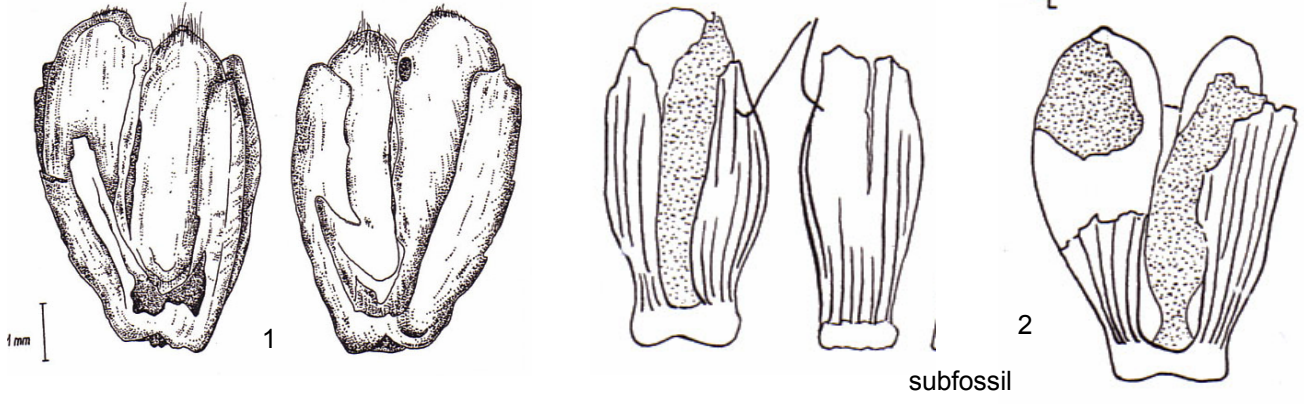
spikelet forks



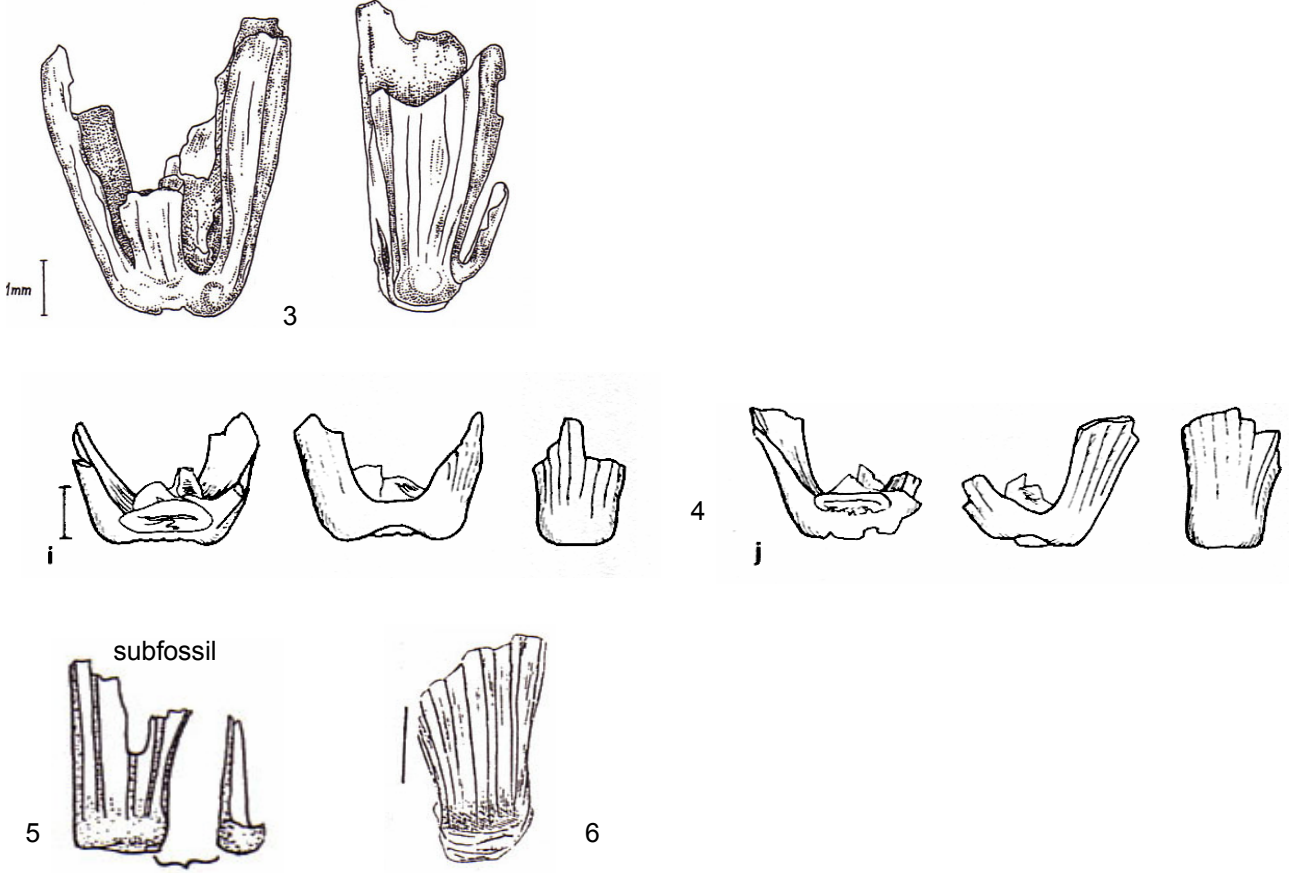
1: Feddersen Wierde (Iron Age, Northern Germany, Körber-Grohne 1967); 2 Ehrenstein (Neolithic, Germany, Hopf 1968); 3 Assiros (Bronze Age, Greece, Jones et al. 2000); 4-6 Zürich, Kleiner Hafner (Neolithic, Switzerland, Jacomet et al. 1989); 7 Stillfried (Late Bronze Age, Austria, Kohler-Schneider 2001); 8: Burgäschisee-Süd (Neolithic, Switzerland, Villaret-von Rochow 1967); 9 Lamersdorf (Early Neolithic (LBK), Germany, Knörzer 1967).

Images of (pre)historical finds of spelt (*Triticum spelta*):  
spikelets and chaff

spikelets



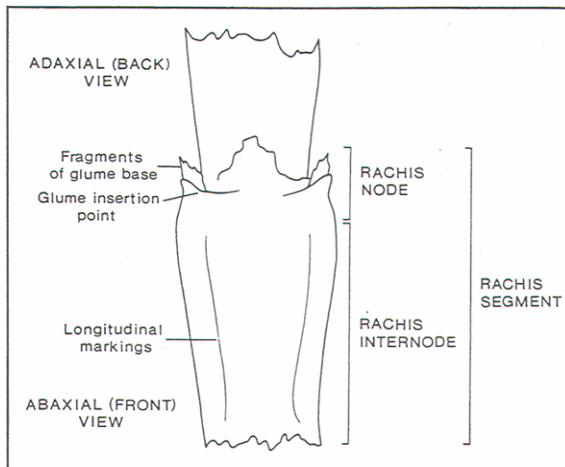
spikelet forks and glume bases



1, 3 Eptingen-Riedfluh (Middle Ages, Switzerland, Jacomet et al. 1988); 2, 5 Welzheim (Roman, Germany, Körber-Grohne & Piening 1983); 4 Stillfried (Late Bronze Age, Austria, Kohler-Schneider 2001); 6 Zürich Mozartstrasse (Bronze Age, Switzerland, Jacomet et al. 1989)

## criteria for distinguishing rachis remains of tetra- and hexaploid naked wheat

The principal diagnostic features of a portion of rachis of a free-threshing wheat. Note the distinction between « rachis segment » and « internode » (from Hillman et al 1996)

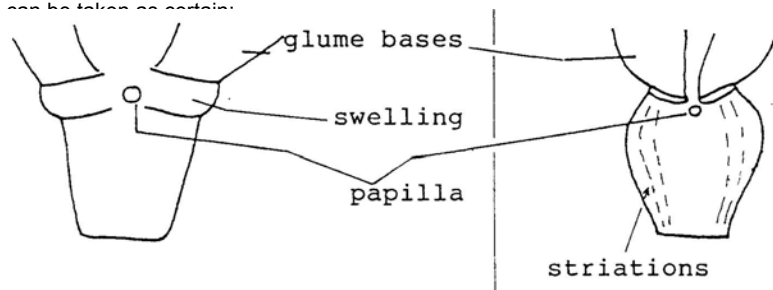


Rachis segments are certainly the first things to notice in the identification of naked wheat chaff, particularly their shape and size. The lower part of the glumes, which are mostly broken off, play a smaller role in this (compare glumed wheats). In the case of Neolithic cereals from lake shore settlements, however, it has been noticed that the lowest parts of the glumes often remain attached to the rachis (author's observations, see also e.g. Jörgensen 1975).

All naked wheat rachises were formerly, in the central European literature, without exception considered to belong to the hexaploids (see also grains). They were also placed in *Triticum aestivum* s.l. although some researchers, among them Heer in the early days, noted variations in the shape. In particular it struck Heer and for example Jörgensen (1975) in the case of Neolithic wheat material from the 'lake villages' of the sub-alpine region that the rachis segments showed unusual swellings underneath the glume attachment points. Jörgensen (1975) described the Neolithic rachis segments from Thayngen-Weier like this: "I have not seen such marked thickenings in extant collections of bread wheat and club wheat. Perhaps this feature is connected only with certain varieties of the species, or is strengthened in fossil material by carbonisation".

The presence of these swellings on the often apparently straight course of the side edges, the absence of a clear longitudinal striation in most cases and characters of the glumes (see below) already led the author to voice considerable doubt in the general classification of Neolithic naked wheat rachis segments as hexaploids (cf. Jacomet & Schlichtherle 1984; see also Maier 1996). All the characters mentioned above fit much better with naked wheats of the tetraploid group (*Triticum durum/turgidum*). Characters for the differentiation of rachis segments of the two naked wheat groups was taken from the works of Schiemann (1948), Percival (1921) and Hervey-Murray (1980), and consequently the author has made various studies of recent material. In the same period also G. Hillman developed such criteria which finally were published in 2001 (see next page).

The following criteria can be taken as certain:



<b>Tetraploidea type</b> <i>Triticum turgidum</i> , <i>T. durum</i>	<b>Hexaploidea type</b> <i>Triticum aestivum</i> s.l.
sides straight	sides curved
striations absent	striations usually obvious
thickenings (swellings) under the glume base	no thickenings (swellings) under the glumes
glume parts often remaining attached to the rachis fragments	glume parts always broken off
maximum width in upper part	maximum width just above the middle

The naked wheat rachis segments are of very different lengths (as are the ears, see the following pages). Almost all workers up to now concerned themselves with the question whether specific bread wheat types could be distinguished from club wheats (*Triticum "compactum"*) (Villaret-von Rochow 1967, Jorgensen 1975). Jorgensen (1975), on the basis of extensive studies with recent material, came to the conclusion that this was not possible, for the club wheat dimensions lay completely within the variation of the bread wheats (in the strict sense). In charred material only pieces >4mm could be assigned to bread wheat s. s. with any certainty, and then with reservations.

In naked wheat rachis material it is suggested on the basis of the author's results, to use the following groupings:

*tetraploid naked wheat type (turgidum type):*

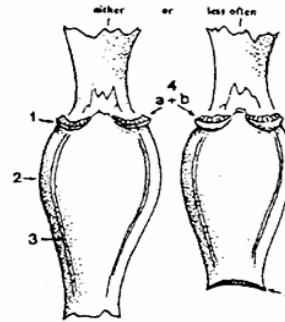
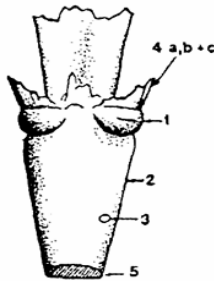
- a1) long rachis segments >4mm (lax-eared type)
- a2) short rachis segments <4mm (dense-eared type)

*hexaploid naked wheat type (aestivum type):*

- b1) long rachis segments >4mm (lax-eared type)
- b2) short rachis segments <4mm (dense-eared type)

**T. DURUM GROUP** (including *T. turgidum*, *T. turanicum* and *T. polonicum*)

**T. AESTIVUM GROUP** (including *T. compactum*) + *T. sphaerococcum*



**1. shape of rachis node immediately below point of glume insertion**

Node often with a conspicuous rounded lump beneath each glume-insertion, with or without a thin fissure across the hump. (This feature is poorly developed in some small-eared pyramidal central Anatolian *durums*.)

Node with either (a) no lumps at all, and merely a narrow ridge below glume insert; or (b) weakly developed lower halves of lumps, in which the upper halves give the impression of having collapsed.

**2. Shape of rachis internode – in lax-eared forms only.** (In dense-eared forms of either ploidy, there is insufficient room for internode shape to be properly expressed.)

Rachis internodes forming ± straight-sided trapeziums, with only a slight incurved narrowing immediately below the node, even in extremely lax-eared tetraploids such as *turanicum* and *polonicum*.

Rachis internodes conspicuously shield-shaped, with a strongly curved widening of the upper third of the internode, and a more steeply curved narrowing just below the node.

**3. Presence/absence of longitudinal lines near the outer edge of the convex (abaxial) face of rachis internodes.**

(This feature has so far proved the most reliable of all those listed here.)

No trace of lines, except those resulting from occasional wrinkles due to shrinkage if the ears were cut while still green.

Clear longitudinal lines present, often bearing hairs. The lines often have the following form in T.S.

Ridge often with hairs (The lines are just as conspicuous in compact/ dense-eared forms.)



**5. Roundness of rachis edge in transverse section.**

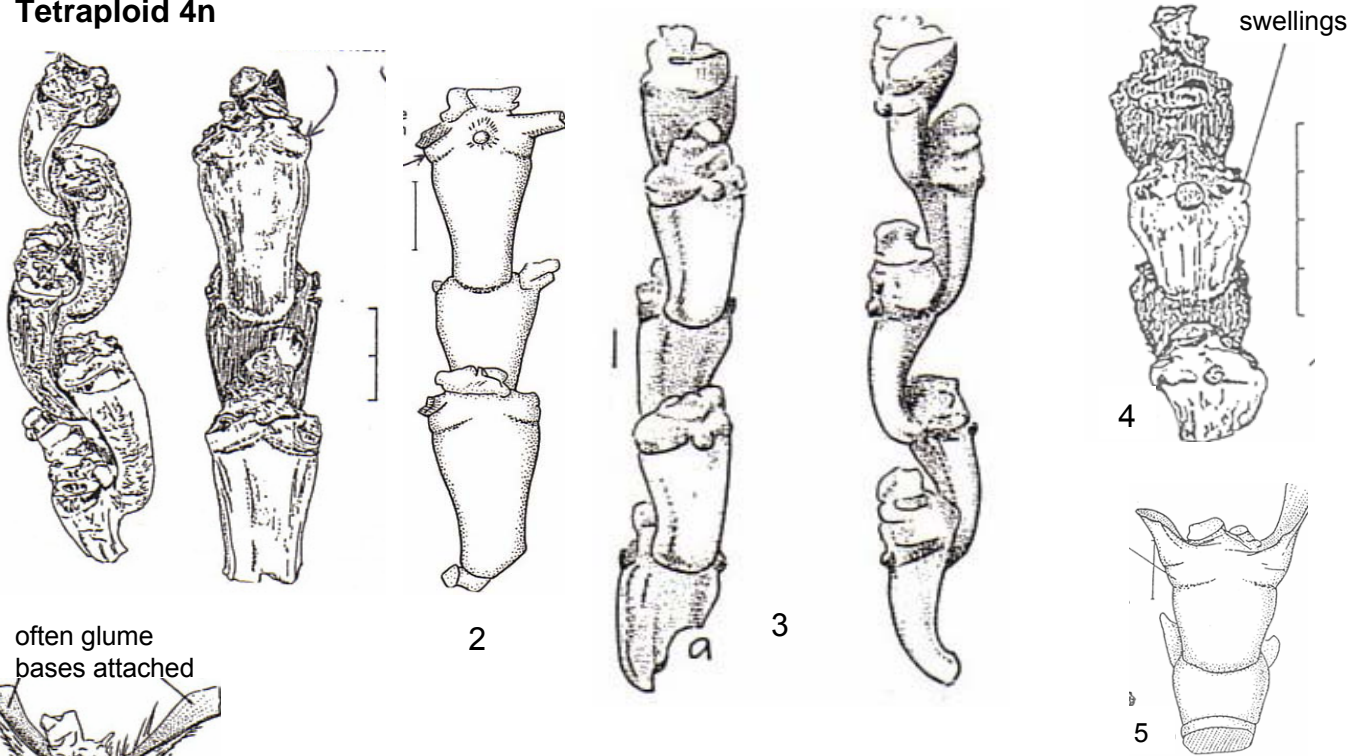
Rachis edge in T.S. generally rounded.

Rachis edge in T.S. generally attenuated.



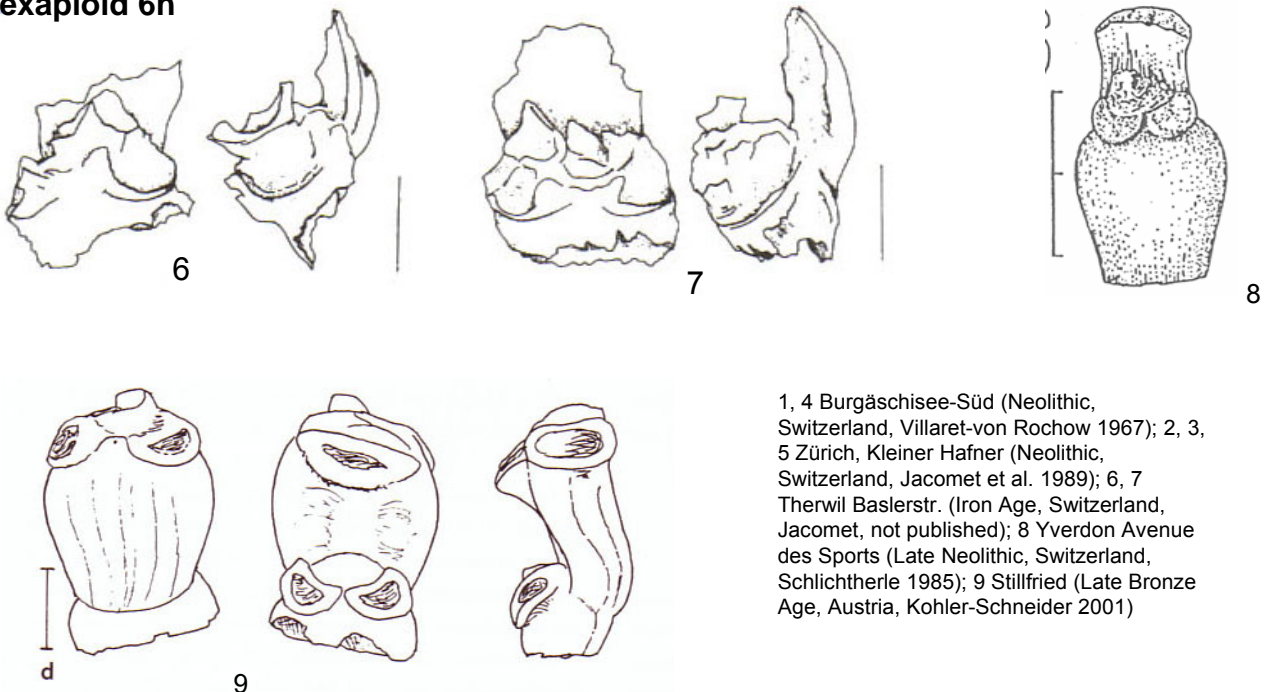
# images of (pre)historical finds of naked wheat : rachis remains

## Tetraploid 4n



1-3, 6: rather long internodes (« lax-eared »), 4-5 short internodes (« dense-eared »)

## Hexaploid 6n



1, 4 Burgäschisee-Süd (Neolithic, Switzerland, Villaret-von Rochow 1967); 2, 3, 5 Zürich, Kleiner Hafner (Neolithic, Switzerland, Jacomet et al. 1989); 6, 7 Therwil Baslerstr. (Iron Age, Switzerland, Jacomet, not published); 8 Yverdon Avenue des Sports (Late Neolithic, Switzerland, Schlichtherle 1985); 9 Stillfried (Late Bronze Age, Austria, Kohler-Schneider 2001)

## Naked wheat glumes

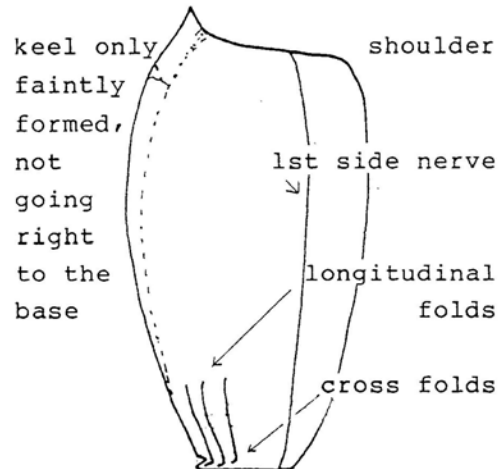
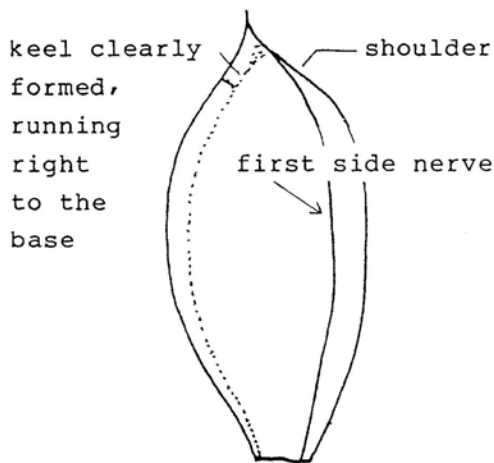
Glume fragments of naked wheat taxa are generally found infrequently. However they play a very important part, for example in the material from the waterlogged settlements in the sub-alpine region, where often whole ears or at least parts of them are found. It is therefore important to consider the glume characters of naked wheats in detail. Their shape can be taken from the figures below.

Morphological characters, of which particularly to be noted are:

- course and height of the main keel
- apical end of the main keel
- shouldering of the glume
- presence of nerves on the glume
- state of the glume base

The glumes also offer some important differential characters for the separation of hexaploid from tetraploid naked wheats

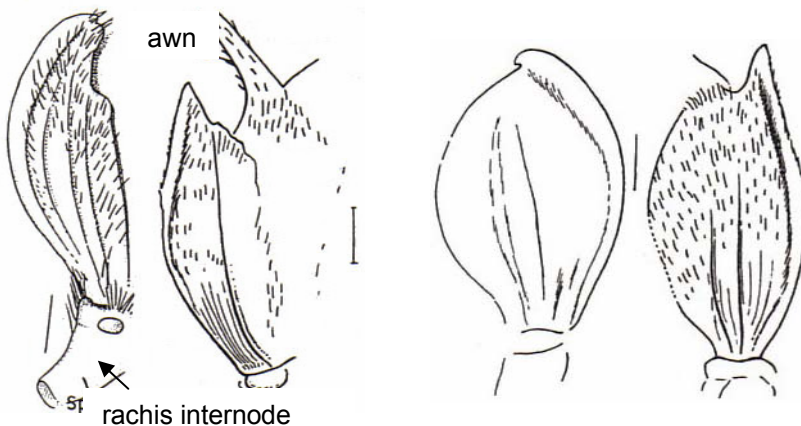
<b>Tetraploidea</b> ( <i>T. turgium</i> , <i>T. durum</i> )	<b>Hexaploidea</b> ( <i>T. aestivum</i> s.l.)
not shouldered, or only slightly	clearly shouldered
No longitudinal folds at the base	clear longitudinal folds at the base
No crosswise folds at the base	crosswise folds present at the base



For identification the following groups had better be used:

- a) tetraploidea type
- b) hexaploidea type
- c) not exactly identifiable

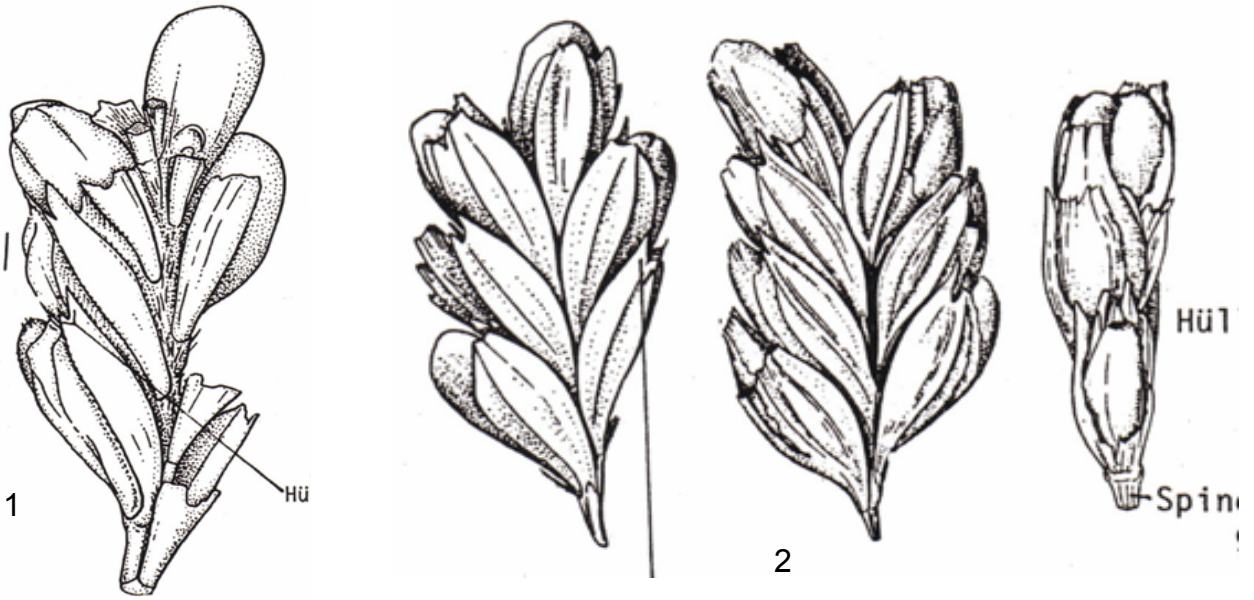
measurements for other parts of the ear: see on former pages



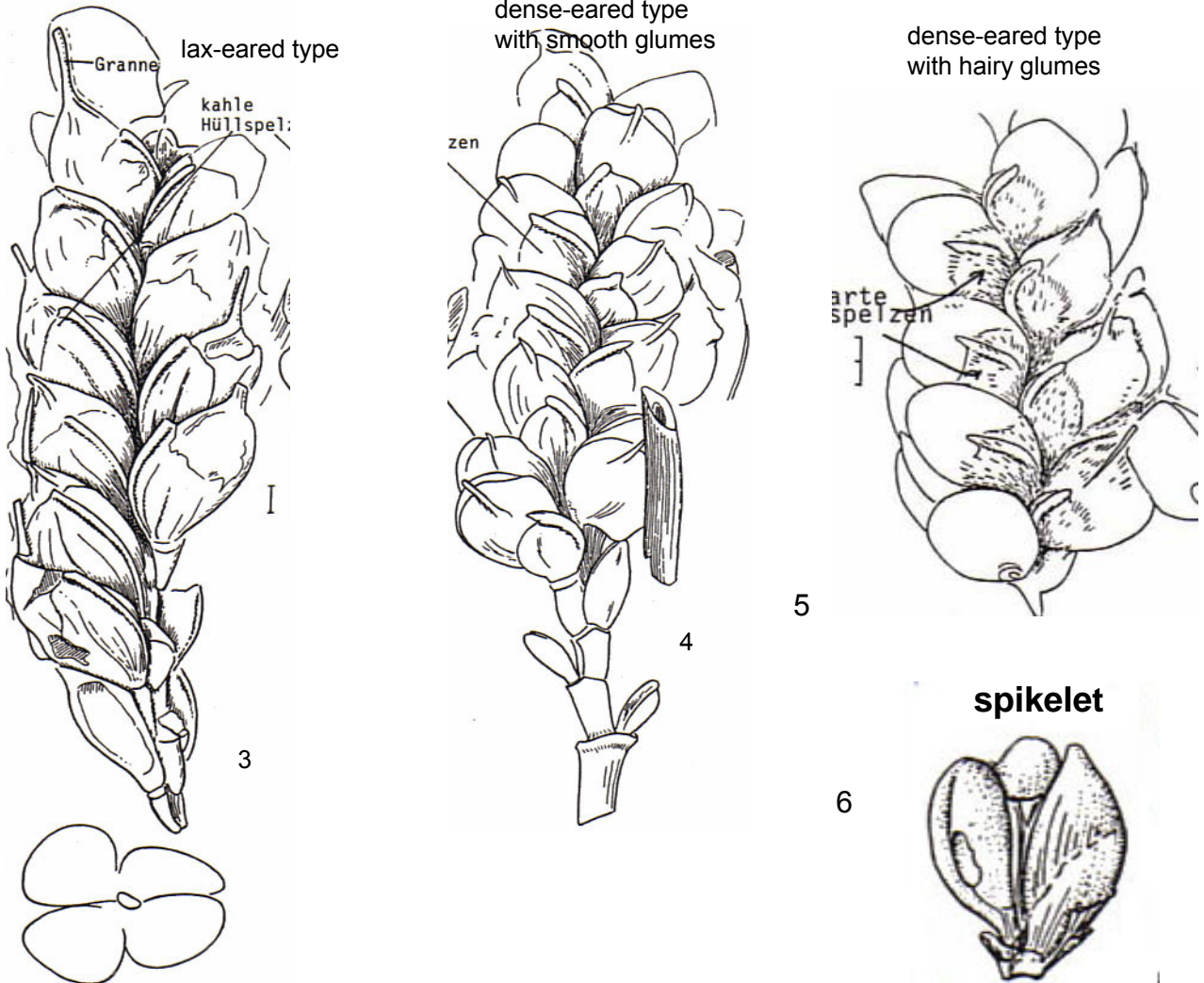
some examples of Neolithic  
4n-naked wheat glumes:  
Zürich Kleiner Hafner  
(Switzerland, Jacomet et al.  
1989)

Images of (pre)historical finds of different wheats: ear-parts (very rare!)

einkorn



tetraploid naked wheat



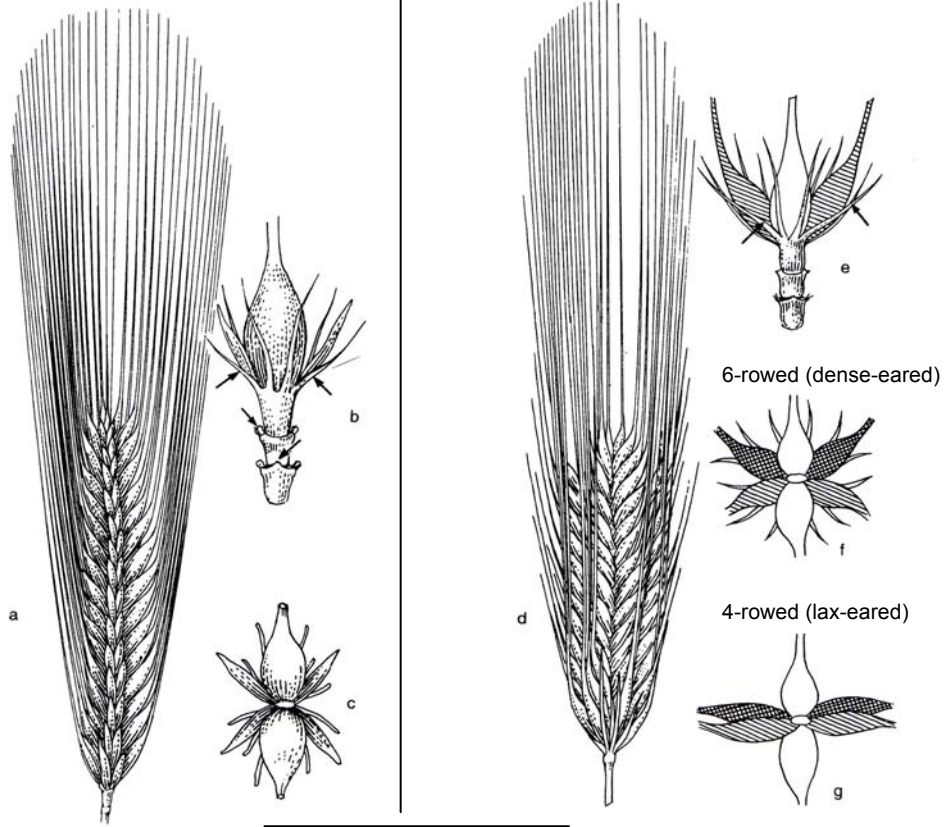
1 Port Stüdeli (Neolithic, Switzerland, Brombacher & Jacomet 2003); 2, 6 Ehrenstein (Neolithic, Germany, Hopf 1968); 3-5: Zürich Kleiner Hafner (Neolithic, Switzerland, Jacomet et al. 1989);



# Barley (*Hordeum*): General morphology

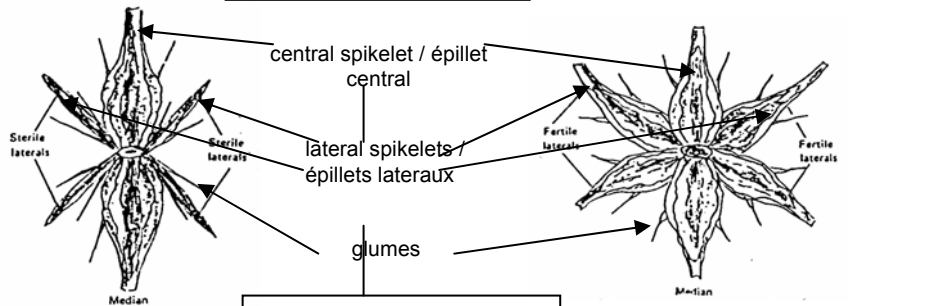
2-rowed

six-rowed (or: many-rowed)

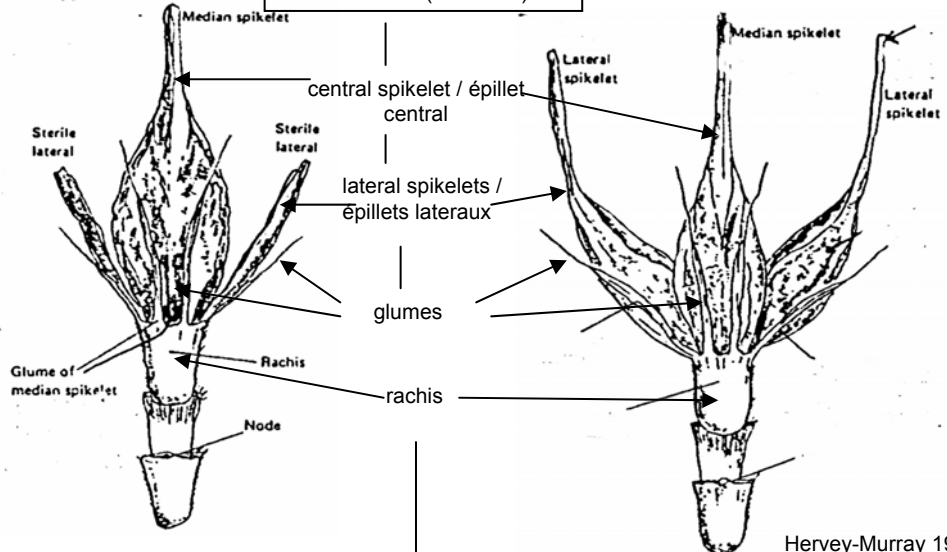


cross section of the ear  
(2 nodes)

Jacomet / Kreuz 1999



lateral view (1 nodium):



Hervey-Murray 1980

**Origin:** Wild grass with  $2n=14$  chromosomes (*Hordeum spontaneum* C. Koch), growing wild in the Near East in the Fertile Crescent area

## Morphological considerations

- spikelets 1-flowered,
- glumes awn-like,
- lemma and palea with very long awns.

## Taxonomy of the domestic forms

(see also table at the beginning of part 2, for modern grouping see Zohary & Hopf 2000):

Two main criteria for separation:

- number of fertile spikelets per rachis segment
- hulled or naked

Based on this one can distinguish between:

• **two-rowed barleys:** (*Hordeum spontaneum* and *H. distichum* L.) with only one fertile spikelet, the central one, per rachis segment; the 2 outer (=lateral) ones are sterile. There are naked and glumed (hulled) forms.

• **many-rowed barleys (also: 6-rowed)** (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) with 3 fertile spikelets per rachis segment. There are:

▶ **dense-eared forms** (the "classical" six-rowed forms, var. hexastichum)

▶ **lax-eared forms** (the so called 4-rowed barley, var. *tetrastichum*; in the literature also known as "lax-eared six-rowed")

Of both there are **hulled** and **naked** (var. nudum) forms.

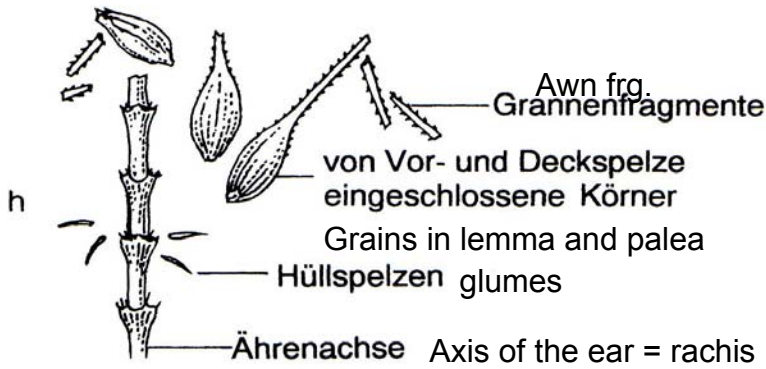
The genetic differences between the various forms are slight (see e.g. Salamini et al. 2002).

Further useful literature:

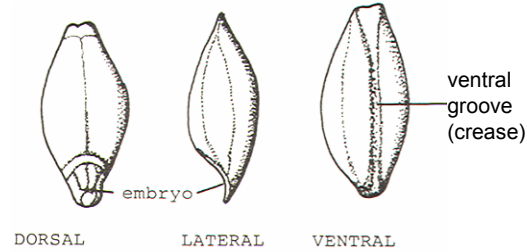
Charles 1984, Bouby 2001

# Barley (*Hordeum*): The finds and their main morphological criteria

after threshing / hulled form



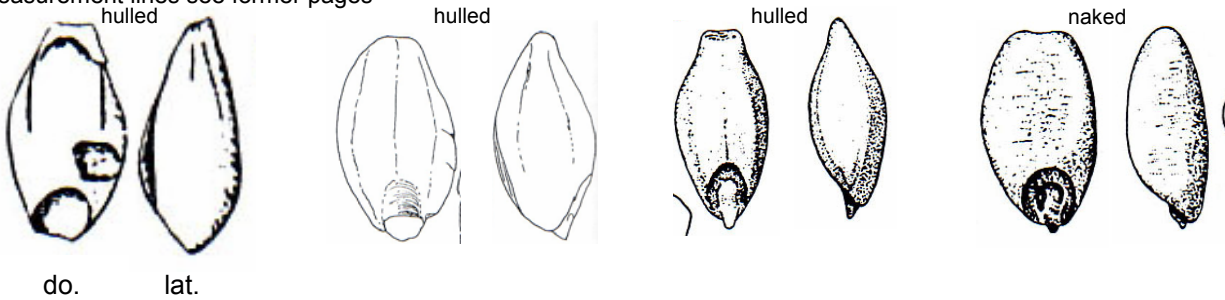
grain:  
central 6-row or 2-row grain, husks removed



Charles 1984

## Grains (and lemma):

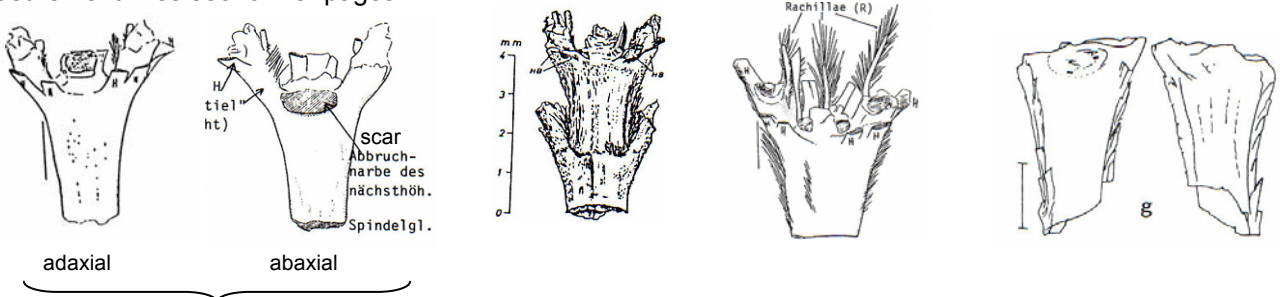
- Shape seen from the dorsal or ventral side: spindle-shaped, more or less pointed / tapering at the top and bottom.
- Shape seen from the side (lateral view): spindle-shaped too, relatively flat. Highest part more or less in the middle. For differences to wheat see the figures on the next page
- in hulled barley the lemma (and palea) is closely attached to the grain, and its basis provides useful characters for the distinction of the forms (see next pages)
- Special characteristics: see under the various taxa, see next pages
- Measurement lines see former pages



## Rachis segments:

Shape various (see the various taxa, next pages). When preservation is good, the narrow glume attachments can be seen at the top (H on the 2 left figures below). From the front one can see 4 (the 2 of the middle floret and another (=the front) of the lateral florets), from the back 2 (the rearmost of the 2 lateral florets). In contrast to wheat the rachis is very straight (in lateral view; see comparison on the **next page**).

Measurement lines see former pages



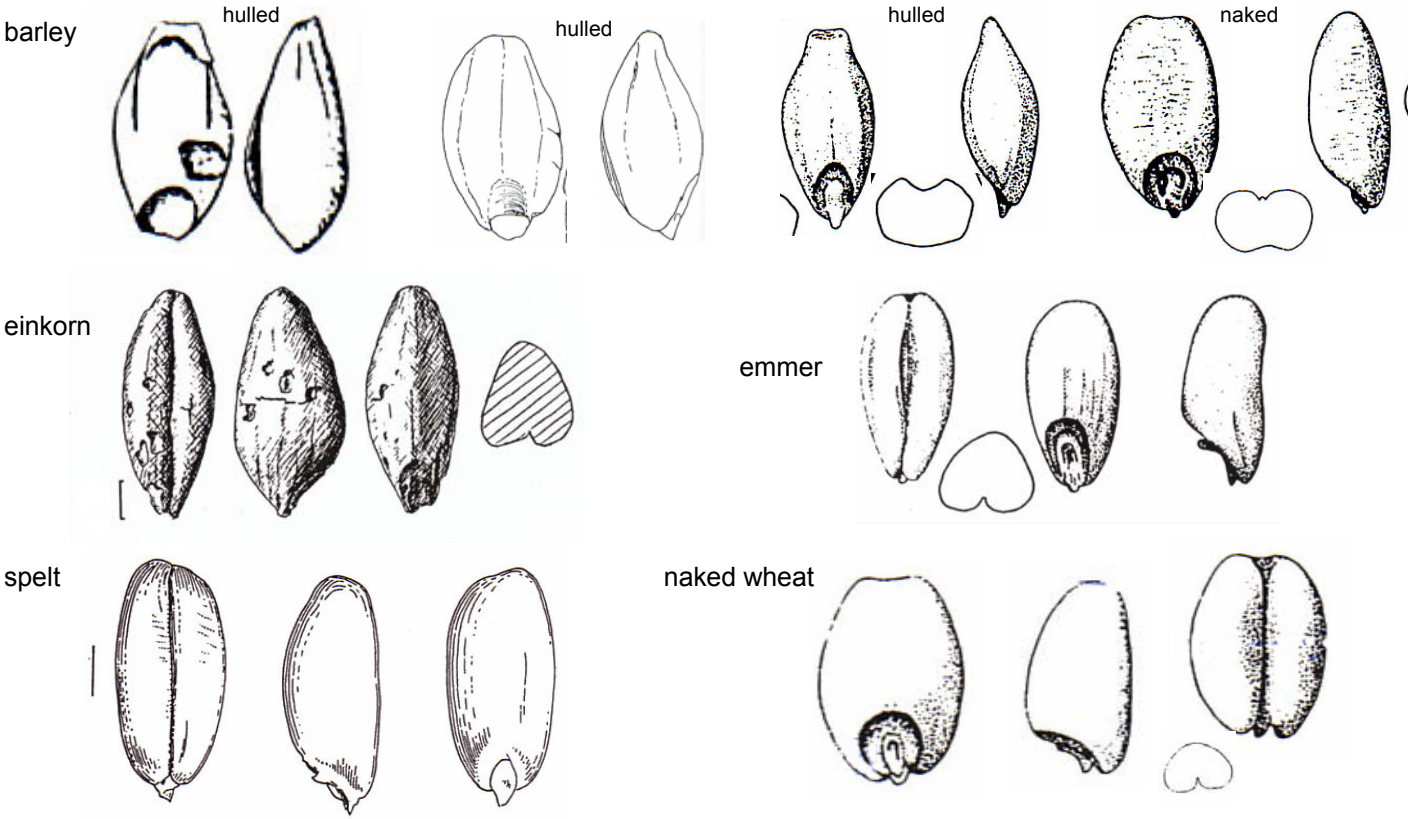
The identification of barley remains is difficult and particularly confusing for beginners because there are so many varieties. We shall deal with **two** levels of approach:

- separation of two-rowed from multi-rowed forms (*H. distichon* from *H. vulgare*)
- separation of multi-rowed forms from each other:
  - lax-eared or dense-eared
  - hulled or naked

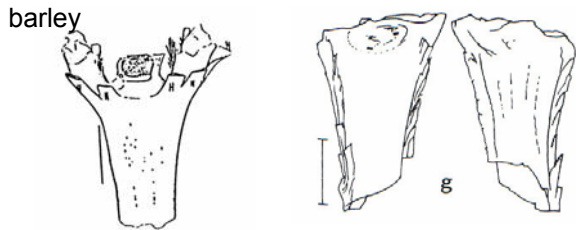
The most important identification characters are summarised in the tables on the next pages

# Barley- and wheat-remains: a comparison

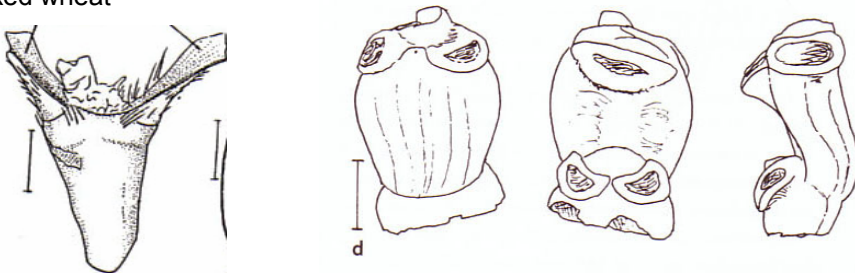
## grains



## rachis remains



## naked wheat

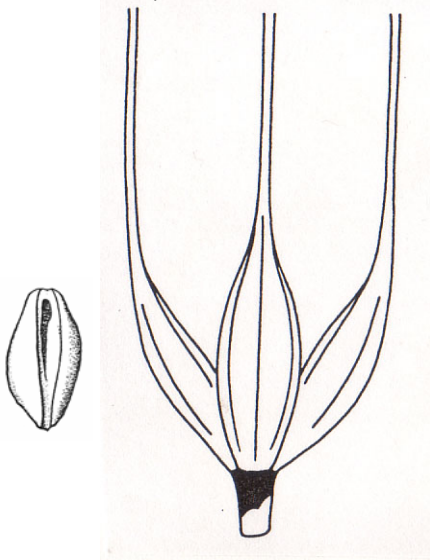


# Barley: Differences between six-rowed and two-rowed barley

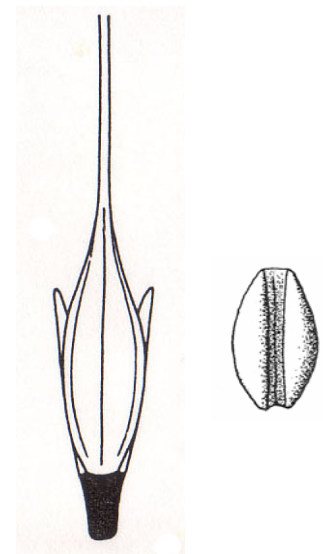
part	many-rowed barley	two-rowed barley
EARS	3 fertile spikelets per rachis segment	1 fertile spikelet per rachis segment = middle spikelet. Both side ones are stunted.
SPIKELETS depression in lemma base	Lax-eared forms (4-rowed): horseshoe shaped. Dense-eared forms (6-rowed): small fold.	horseshoe shaped
GRAINS	straight and twisted grains present (particularly in lax-eared forms). Proportion of twisted : straight grains theoretically 2:1. maximum width of grain: at centre	only straight grains present  Maximum width of grain: somewhat below the centre of the grain
RACHIS SEGMENTS bases of the side florets	well-formed bases of the side florets	bases of the side florets somewhat stunted

These criteria can be used for charred material



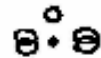



six-rowed (many-rowed) barley:  
asymmetrical grain from one of the lateral spikelets and the 3 fertile spikelets of one node of the rachis (Bouby 2001 and Van Zeist 1984)



Two-rowed barley: straight grain of the central spikelet and the one fertile and the 2 reduced spikelets of one node of the rachis (Bouby 2001 and Van Zeist 1984)








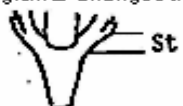



# Differences between dense- and lax eared forms of six-rowed (multi-rowed) barley

part	dense-eared = 6-row	lax-eared = 4-row
EARS	<p>spikelets arranged in threes (seen from above)</p>  <p>(seen from side)</p> 	<p>spikelets arranged in threes (seen from above)</p>  <p>(seen from side)</p> 
SPIKELETS depression in the lemma base	<p>slim, furrowed: intermediates!</p> 	<p>horseshoe-shaped</p> 
GRAINS; shape	<p>rounded = short and wide L/B index &lt; 1.8; there are intermediates!</p>	<p>slim-oval L/B index &gt; 1.8</p>
Twist	<p>twisting of the side grains not clear</p>	<p>many twisters present in finds. Theoretical ratio twisted: straight 2:1 (2). Does not actually occur.</p>
RACHIS SEGMENTS; shape:	<p>wide in ratio to length; wide base (0.6-1.3mm) (3).</p>	<p>slim, sharply tapering at the base; narrow base (width 0.4-1.1 mm (3). Length/breadth (base) 3.4 to 2.9 (3). According to author's measurements of modern material: &gt; 3 or scarcely less than 3.</p>
length:	<p>1.3-2.4 (1). Own observations on modern material: the variation across one ear is very great! The above counts are only for the middle part of the ear.</p>	<p>length 2.3-3.45 mm (1)</p>
hairs on edges:	<p>pronounced. according to (2) this character is irrelevant.</p>	<p>slightly hairy (4)</p>
side spikelets on "stalks"	<p>stalk very much reduced, hard to see</p>	<p>stalk clearly visible; high attachment points of the rear glumes of the side florets (see Table 4)</p>

There are no "stalks" on the side spikelets of hulled barley!

# Criteria to distinguish naked and hulled forms of barley (six rowed forms)

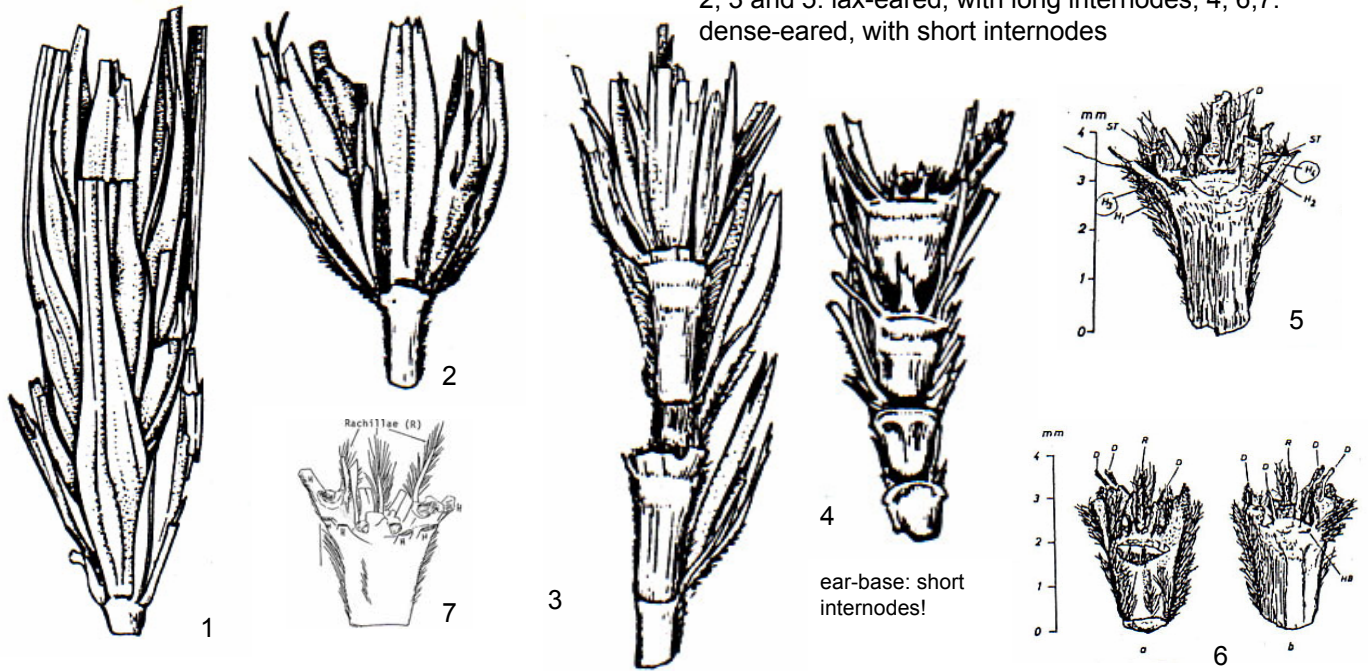
part	naked barley	hulled barley
SPIKELETS	RACHILLA absent	RACHILLA present
GRAINS		
end of grain	rounded or notched (seen from above) 	shape: (5,6) flat/straight seen from above. boat-shaped in side view. 
cross section	round 	flat-sided 
ventral furrow	wide 	shallow, v-shaped 
structure of outer layers	wavy cross-rippling 	smooth
attached lemma / palea remains	normally none; when present, without "hump" (7)	normally present; particularly palea remains on the ventral (lower) surface, lemma remains on the dorsal (upper) surface. "humps" obvious on the lemmas! (7)
<p>According to the author's observations the presence or absence of the "humps" on the lemmas is a problematic character, for the formation of the hump changes with the degree of charring of the find. Besides, lemma remains can remain attached to grain also in the case of naked barleys (see text).</p>		
RACHIS SEGMENTS	parts of the lemmas and paleas present, rachilla still attached (somewhat higgledy-piggledy appearance)	all glumes/lemmas/paleas broken off, with the exception of the lemma bases. Rachilla broken off ("clean appearance")
<p>Problematic This character works in cases where an ear broke up in an uncharred state and the parts charred separately. When the ears and consequently their parts charred when joined together and only then broke up, this character can only be used with caution, as the author's charring experiments showed. Also, the separation of lax-eared forms is less difficult than for dense-eared types.</p>		
"Staks" of the side florets (real staks in the sense of (3).	present 4-rowed (lax eared) forms: side florets clearly staked, the rear glumes arranged thus:  6-rowed (dense-eared) forms: presence of stalk not clearly visible	absent 

Zusammengestellt nach Angaben aus der Literatur (Villaret- von Rochow 1967, van Zeist 1968, Piening 1981 und mündliche Mitteilung, Helbaek 1952A + B, Kroll 1987 und Körber-Grohne & Piening 1980) und eigenen Beobachtungen an Vergleichsmaterial.  
Zusammenstellung: S. Jacomet.

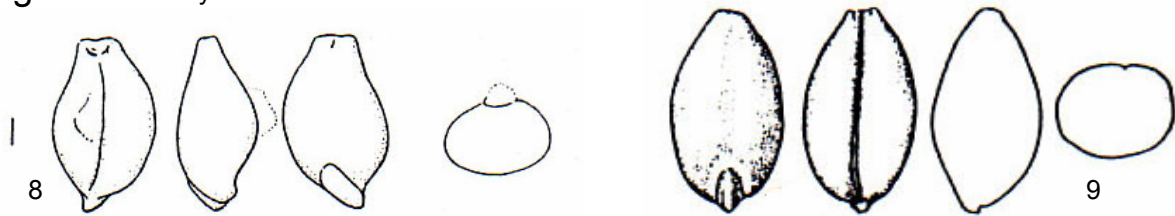
# images of (pre)historical finds of six-rowed barley (*Hordeum vulgare*): naked

ears, spikelets and rachis parts

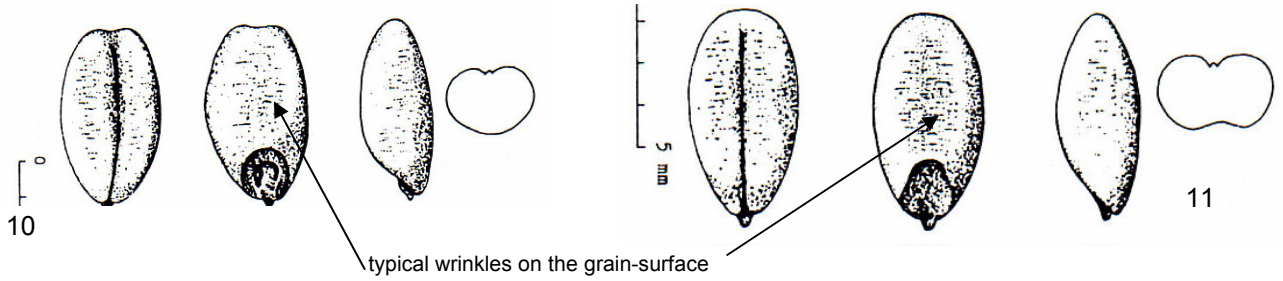
2, 3 and 5: lax-eared, with long internodes; 4, 6, 7: dense-eared, with short internodes



grains: mostly rather slender forms



asymmetrical and distorted (above) grains: lax-eared



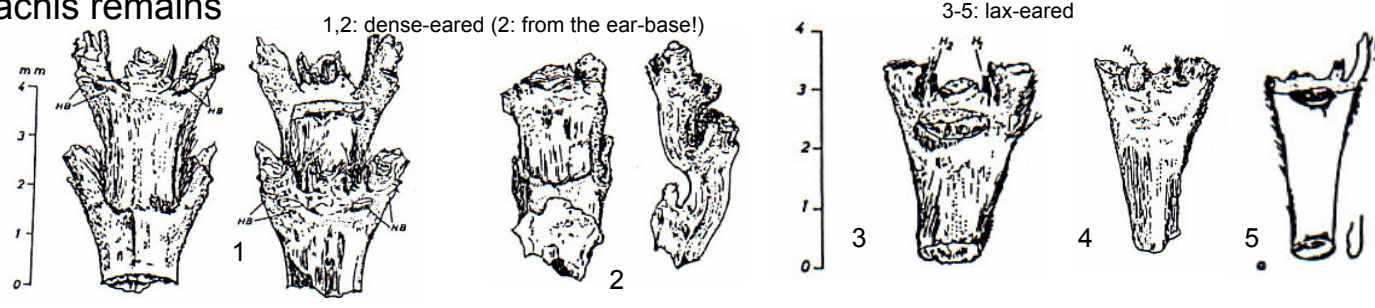
Raphe



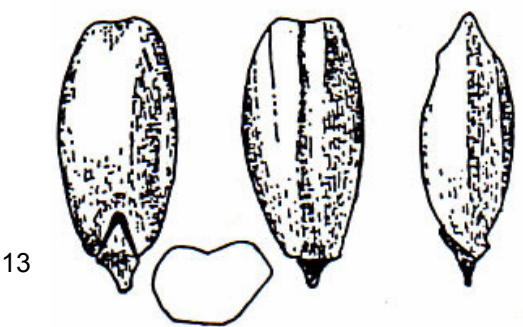
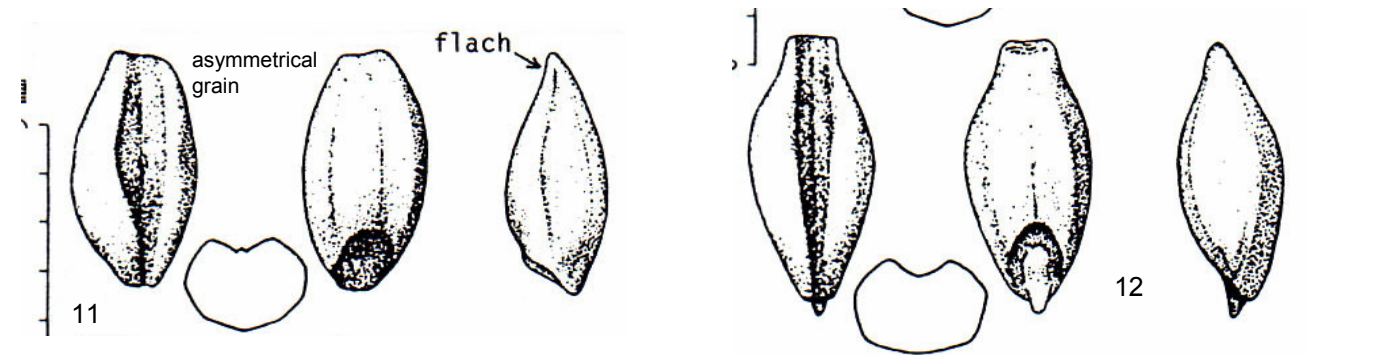
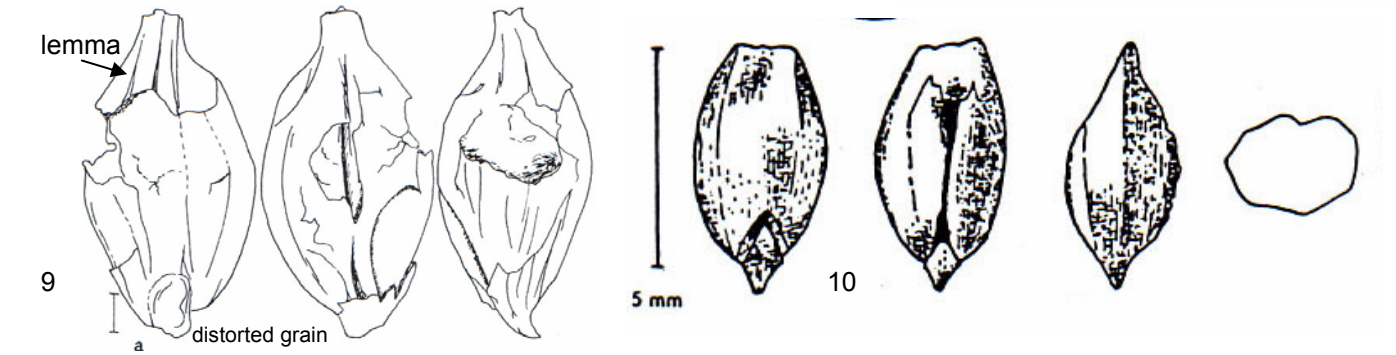
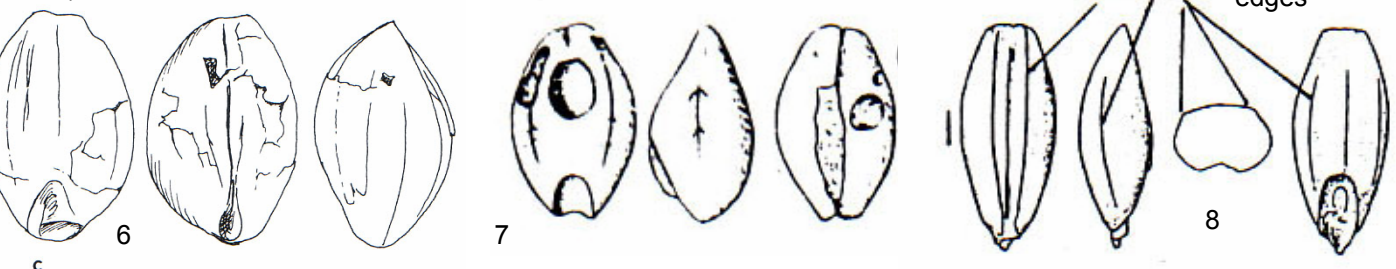
1-4,9: Ehrenstein (Neolithic, Germany, Hopf 1968); 5-6: Burgäschisee-Süd (Neolithic, Switzerland, Villaret-von Rochow 1967); 7-8: Zürich kleiner Hafner (Neolithic, Switzerland, Jacomet et al. 1989); 10-11: Archsum (Bronze Age, Northern Germany, Kroll 1975); 12: Valkenburg (Roman, Netherlands, Van Zeist 1968); 13: Augst (Switzerland, Roman, Jacomet et al. 1988).

# images of (pre)historical finds of of six-rowed barley (*Hordeum vulgare*): hulled

## rachis remains



## grains: 6, 7, 10: rather roundish grains (cf. from dense-eared forms), the others rather slender (cf. from lax eared forms)

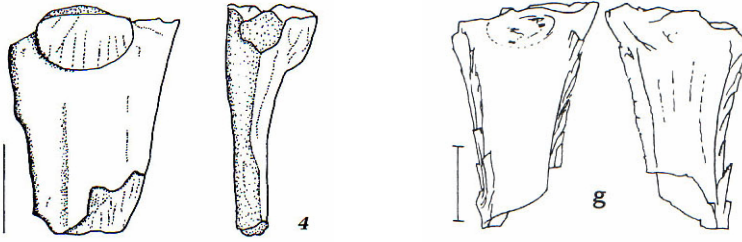


1-4: Burgäschisee-Süd (Neolithic, Switzerland, Villaret-von Rochow 1967); 5, 10 and 13: Feddersen Wierde (Iron Age, Northern Germany, Körber-Grohne 1967); 6, 9: Stillfried (Late Bronze Age, Austria; Kohler-Schneider 2001); 7: Augst (Switzerland, Roman, Jacomet et al. 1988); 8: Valkenburg (Roman, Netherlands, Van Zeist 1968); 11-12: Archsum (Bronze Age, Northern Germany, Kroll 1975)

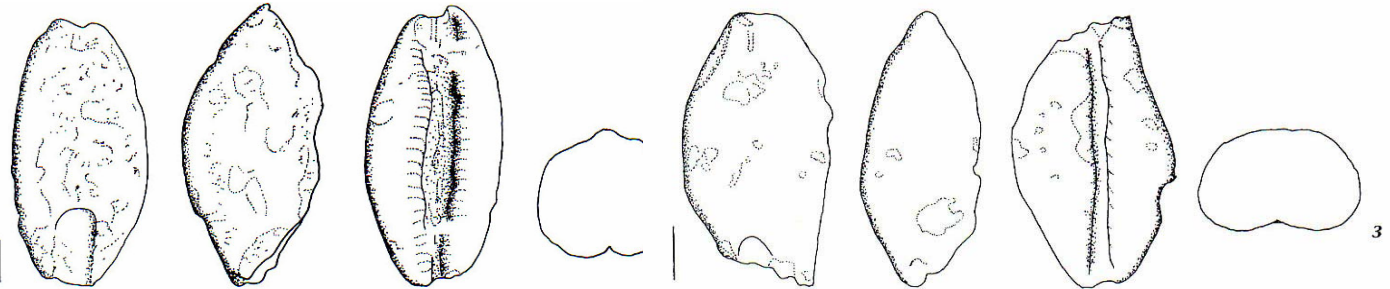


**images of (pre)historical finds of of barley (*Hordeum vulgare/distichon*): various**

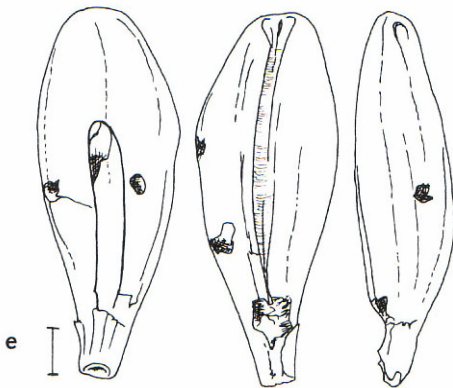
**badly preserved rachis remains from dry sites, not to decide which form** (left: Augst, Roman, Jacomet & Petrucci-Bavaud 2004, right: Stillfried, Late Bronze Age, Austria, Kohler-Schneider 2001)



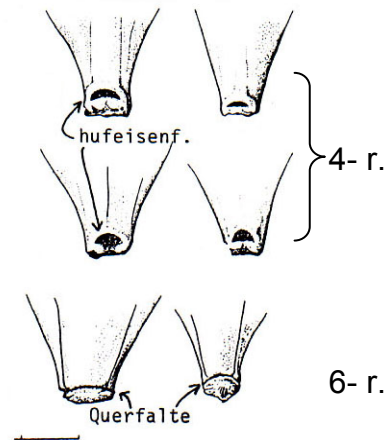
**Badly preserved grains of barley from dry sites, not to decide which form!** (Augst, Roman, Jacomet & Petrucci-Bavaud 2004)



**Sprouted barley-grain**, slender, distorted (lax-eared, 4-rowed barley) (Stillfried, Late Bronze Age, Austria, Kohler-Schneider 2001)



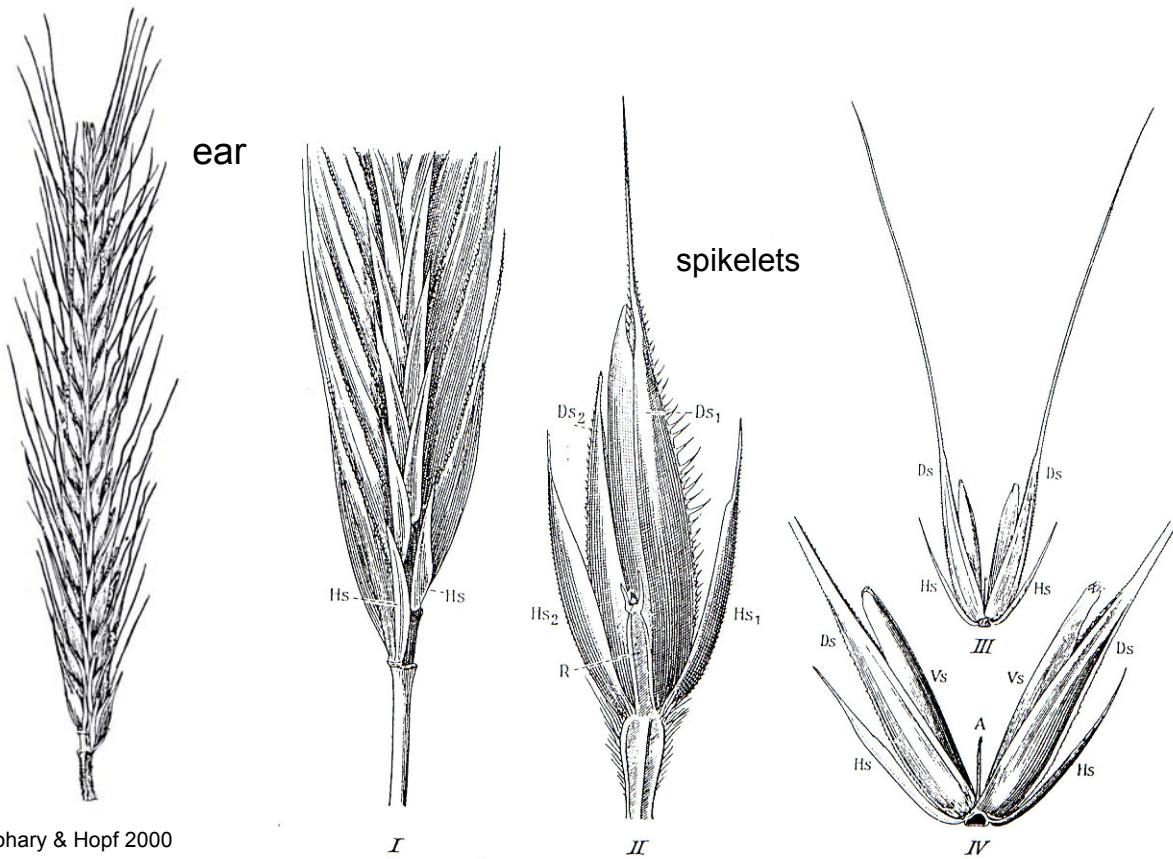
**lemma bases:**



Valkenburg (Roman, Netherlands, Van Zeist 1968)

for the identification of 2-rowed barley see Bouby 2001

# Rye (*Secale cereale* L.)



Zohary & Hopf 2000

*Secale cereale* (from Troll, 1954, 1957). **I lower part of the ear**; *Hs* glumes (narrow). **II apex of the ear** with rudiment of the rachis (R) and a fertile spikelet, *Hs*<sub>1</sub>, *Hs*<sub>2</sub> glumes of the uppermost spikelet, *Ds*<sub>1</sub>, *Ds*<sub>2</sub> the lemmas of the uppermost spikelet (only 1 grain developed in *Ds*<sub>1</sub>). **III, IV spikelets in adaxial view**: A axis of the spikelet (rachilla); *Hs* glumes; *Vs* paleas; *Ds* lemma's (both fertile). Rye spikelets have 2 fertile florets.

## Identification of rye-grains

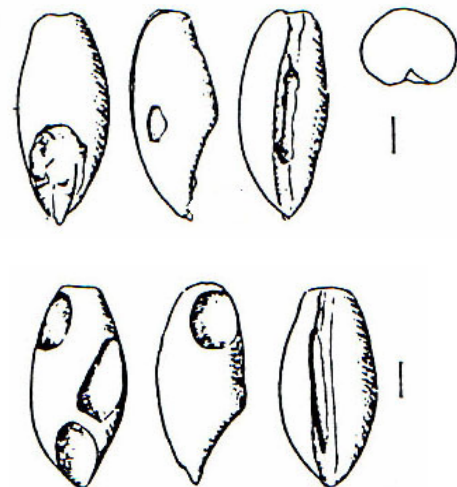
**shape in dorsal view**: oval, rather often with almost parallel sides. Upper end truncate (to rounded). Lower (embryo) end strongly attenuated. Scutellum mostly very long.

**Shape in lateral (side) view**: Ventral face from rather convex to flat. Back evenly arched to rather flat. Upper end suddenly truncated.

**Transverse section**: mostly rounded. Hilum fold deep, reaching the apex of the grain.

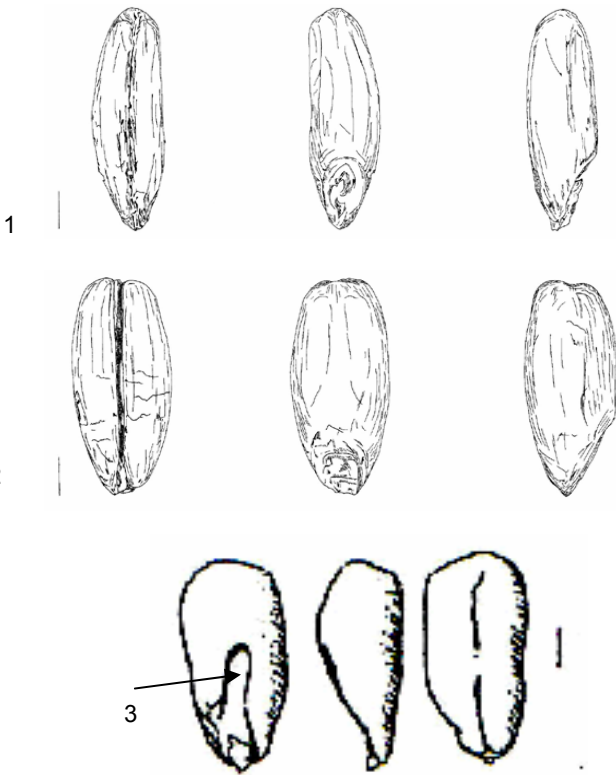
Rye grains are usually easy to distinguish from wheat and barley grains by the truncated apex and the long scutellum.

Rye is a naked cereal, therefore the glumes don't leave a trace on the grain surface which is usually smooth and shiny.



two rye grains from Roman Augusta Raurica, Switzerland (Jacomet et al. 1988)

# rye (*Secale cereale*): archaeological finds and identification criteria of the rachis remains)



rye grains: 1,2: from medieval Basel-Rosshof, Switzerland (Kühn 1996). 3: from Roman Augusta Raurica, Switzerland (Jacomet et al. 1988). 3: sprouted (arrow)

measurements and indices of rye grains from Roman Augusta Raurica (37 grains):

L: 5,1 mm (3,9-6,0 mm)

B: 2,4 mm (2,0-2,9 mm)

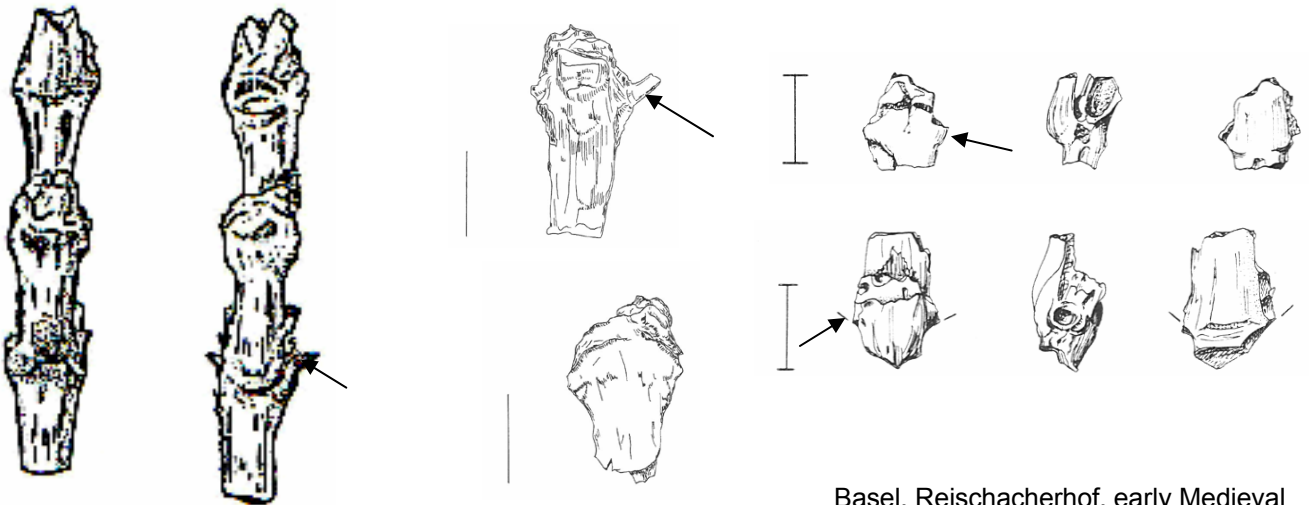
H: 2,2 mm (1,6-2,7 mm)

L/B: 2,14 (1,54-2,48)

L/H: 2,41 (1,62-3,56)

B/H: 1,13 (0,84-1,5)

## Rachis remains of rye



Dorestad NL (Van Zeist 1968)

Basel-Rosshof, medieval (Kühn 1996)

Basel, Reischacherhof, early Medieval (Jacomet & Blöchliger 1994)

→ glume bases

**Identification criteria:** sides straight. The bases of the narrow glumes are visible at the side in the region of the node.

# Oat (*Avena* species)

## *Avena sativa*



In contrast to wheat, barley and rye, oat has its spikelets in **panicles**.

In European archaeological contexts usually 4 different *Avena*-species may be present:

***Avena sativa***, the domestic oat

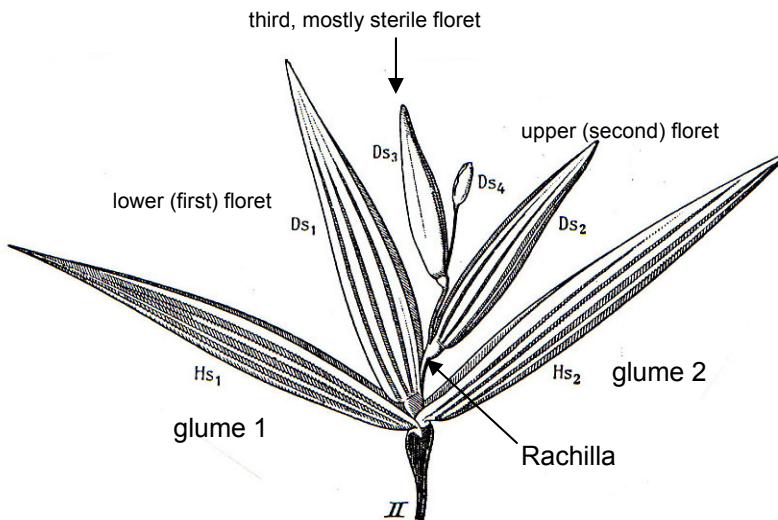
***Avena strigosa***, weedy and cultivated

***Avena fatua***, a weed

***Avena sterilis***, a weed

They are not easy to distinguish in the archaeobotanical record. For the grains, this is rather impossible. If good preserved parts of the florets (esp. the lemma and parts of the rachilla) are present, it may be possible.

## spikelet



the spikelets of *A. sativa* have usually two fertile florets (ev. 3)

Ds1 = lemma of the first floret (the first grain)

Ds 2 = lemma of the second floret (the second grain)

from Troll 1954/1957

# Oat (*Avena L.*): Identification criteria

(after Pasternak 1991 and there cited literature as well as Ruas & Pradat 2001)

Morphological feature / plant part	<i>Avena sativa</i>	<i>Avena strigosa</i>	<i>Avena fatua</i>
surface of the lemma	smooth, without hairs	smooth, at the basis and the rachilla occasionally a bit hairy	rough (grob gekörnelt), densely hairy. Base of the lemma and Rachilla with dense and rough hairs
awns on the lemma	lemma of the first floret occasionally with awn, lemma of the second floret without awn.	all lemma's with awn	all lemma's with awn
Disarticulation scar of the first floret	broad, close to the lemma-base	narrow, often tapering (attenuate), in some distance of the lemma-base	oblique, horsehoe-shaped, with bulge at the edge
Disarticulation scar of the second floret	narrow, close to the lemma-base	see first floret	see first floret
Rachilla (spikelet axe)	That of the first floret broad and short, that of the second floret long and thin (fine)	That of the first floret narrow, at the upper end a bit broadened and often „gekniert“. That of the second floret is always very thin.	thin
Size of the grains	First grains large, second grains smaller (like <i>A. strigosa</i> ). Max. height in the center.	Smaller than the first grains of <i>A. sativa</i> , equal size than the second grains of <i>A. sativa</i>	Similar to those of the other species. Rather very slender. Apex a bit attenuated, max. height below the center.

# Identification key for hulled oat-grains

(Text and figures from Pasternak 1991: Schleswig, Germany, Medieval).

1 lemma without awn

2 Rachilla broad and short, disarticulation scar broad and near to the lemma-base: *Avena sativa*, 1. grain without awn

2\* Rachilla long and thin, disarticulation scar narrow and near to the lemma-base : *Avena sativa*, 2. grain

1\* lemma with awn

3 Rachilla broad and long, with bristle hairs and horseshoe-shaped at the end, disarticulation scar horseshoe-shaped, too: *Avena fatua*, 1.-3. grain

3\* disarticulation scar not horseshoe-shaped

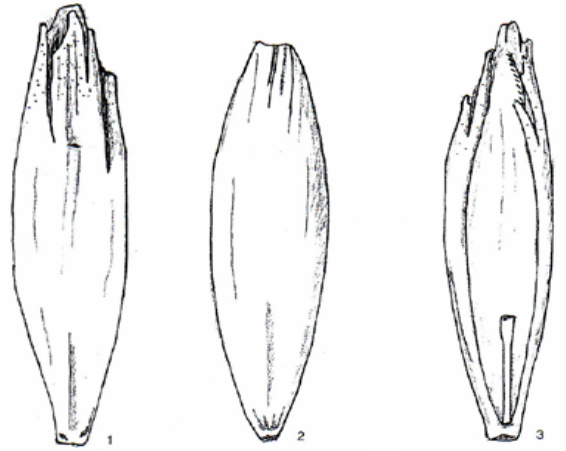
4 Rachilla broad and short, disarticulation scar broad and near to the lemma-base: *Avena sativa*, 1. grain, with awn

4\* Rachilla long and narrow, disarticulation scar narrow, in some distance of the lemma-base

5 Rachilla narrow, at the upper end broadened, often gekniet, and occasionally somewhat hairy: *Avena strigosa*, 1. grain

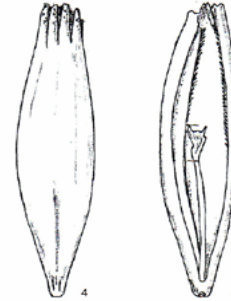
5\* Rachilla very thin (like a filament): *Avena strigosa*, 2. grain

Difference of *Avena sterilis* from the other mentioned species: the first grain is formed like in *Avena fatua*. The disarticulation scar however is longish-oval and not horseshoe-shaped. The second grain of *Avena sterilis* is very similar to the second grain of *Avena strigosa*, and when an awn is lacking also to that of *Avena sativa*. It is not possible to distinguish it surely from the latter species. The glumes are plus/minus hairy.



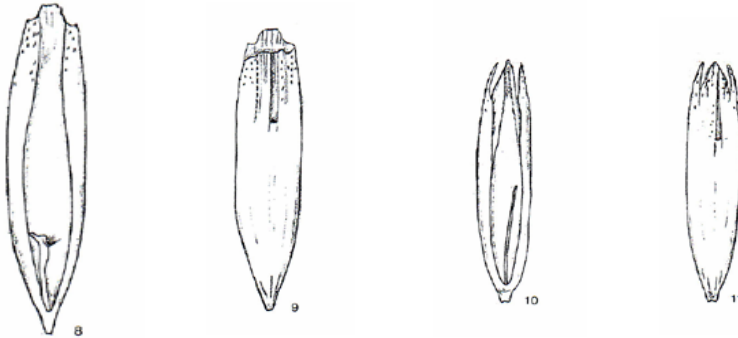
1 *A. sativa*: 1. grain, with awn at the dorsal side

2 *A. sativa*: 1. grain, dorsal side without awn, 3 *A. sativa*: 1. grain, ventral side



4+5: *A. sativa*: 2. grain: left: dorsal side, right: ventral side

8-11: *A. strigosa*



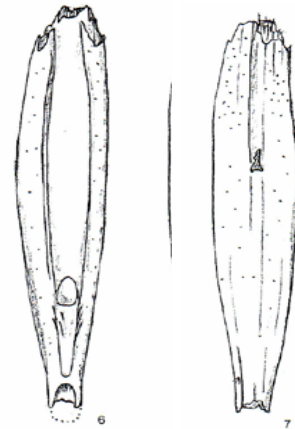
8 1. grain, ventral side

9 1. grain, dorsal side

10 2. grain: ventral side

11 2. grain, dorsal side

6-7: *A. fatua*



6: ventral;

7: dorsal side

floret-bases of *Avena sativa*

and *Avena fatua*



**oat (*Avena* L.): flower base morphology:** examples from a medieval site in France compared with modern specimen (from Ruas & Pradat 2001)

FIG. 54

Lemmes actuelles d'*Avena sativa* vues en face ventrales : **a** premier fleuron ; **b** deuxième fleuron.

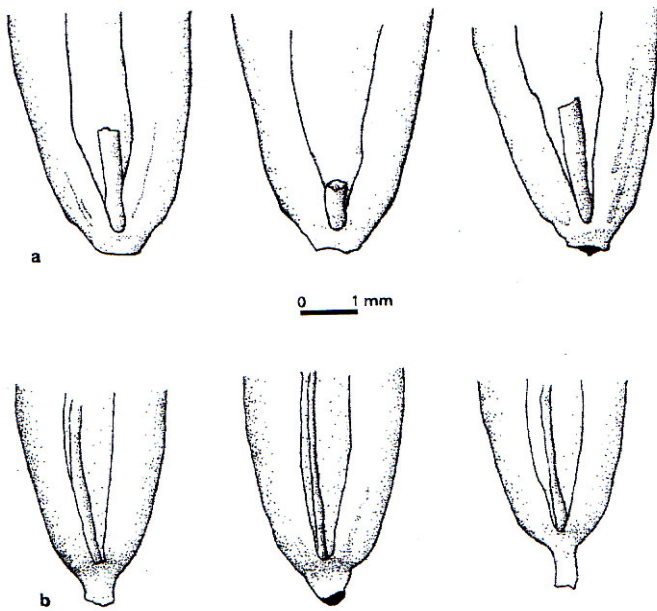


FIG. 55

Lemmes actuelles d'*Avena strigosa* (face ventrale).

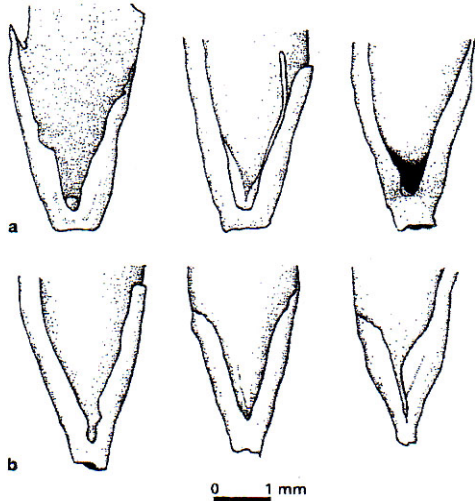
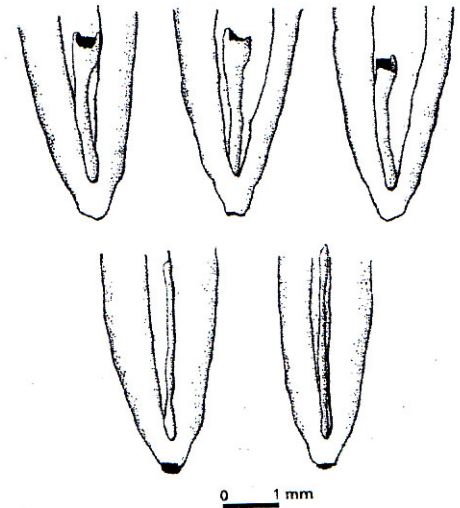


FIG. 56

Lemmes carbonisées d'avoines : **a** *Avena sativa*, site de Gaudines (IX<sup>e</sup>-X<sup>e</sup> s.) ; **b** *Avena strigosa*, site de Pérans (X<sup>e</sup> s.).

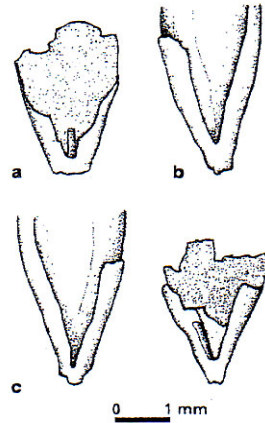
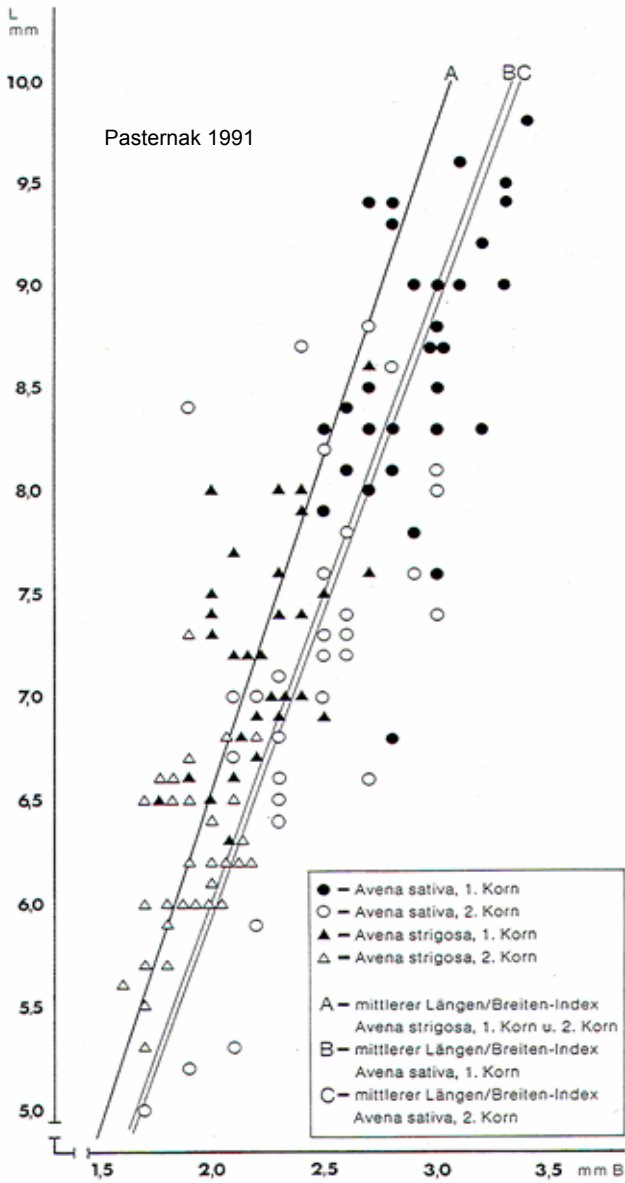


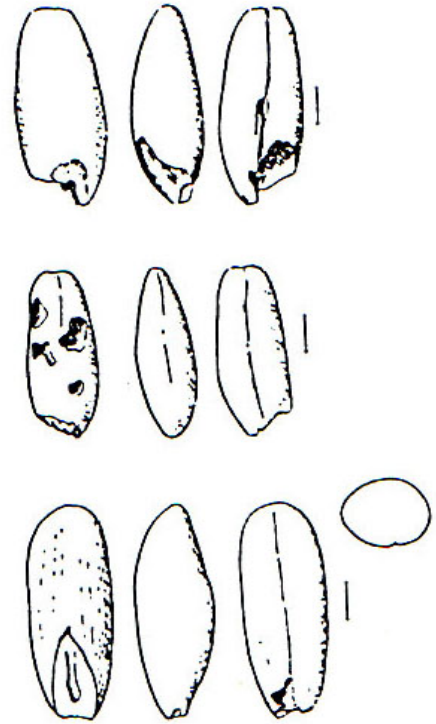
FIG. 57

Le Teilleul. Lemmes carbonisées d'avoines extraites de la fosse 2209 : **a** *Avena sativa* ; **b** *Avena sativa/strigosa* ; **c** *Avena strigosa*.

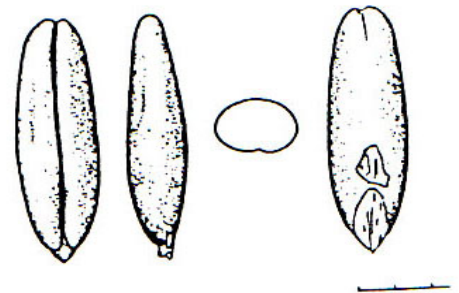
# oat (*Avena L.*): Grain morphology and sizes



oat grains from Augst (Roman, Switzerland, Jacomet et al. 1988)



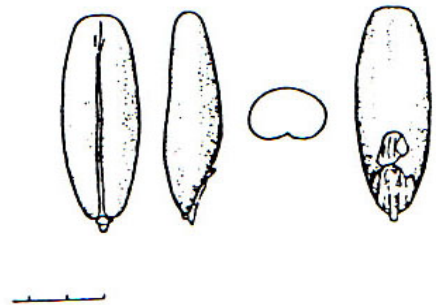
oat grains from Dorestad (Roman, Netherlands, Van Zeist 1968)



**Dorsal view:** Oat-grains are slender, the widest point is in the middle (esp. in *A. sativa*; in *A. fatua* also in the lower half). Sides maybe straight or slightly curved. Scutellum is rather long. Apex is rounded.

**In lateral view** the grains are rather flat, both sides are evenly arched and slightly convex. Apex rounded.

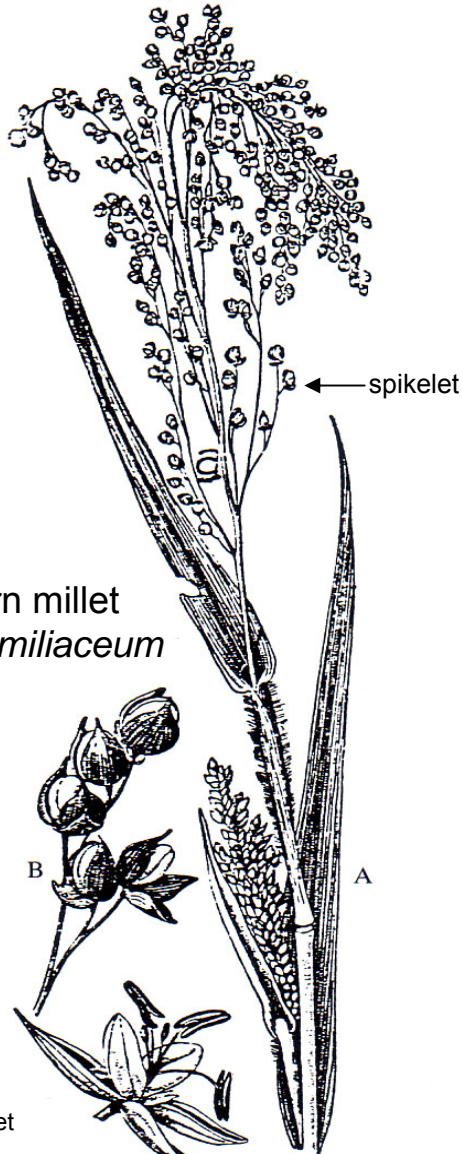
Zu den **Messwerten:** es wurden bespelzte Haferkörner gemessen. Die Körner wurden von Spelzbasis bis Kornende gemessen. *Avena sativa* hat im Mittel die größeren Körner, es wird allerdings deutlich, daß die ersten Körner von *Avena strigosa* und die zweiten Körner von *Avena sativa* in denselben Größenbereich fallen. Daraus folgt, daß eine Trennung der beiden Arten in entspelztem Zustand mit ausschließlich metrischen Methoden nicht möglich ist. Zwar hat *Avena strigosa* geringfügig schmalere und deutlich kleinere Körner, die große Streuung der Maße von *Avena sativa* verhindert jedoch eine Trennung der beiden Arten.





# Millets

In the millets, the spikelets contain 1 floret. The inflorescences are panicles (in *Setaria italica* with very short branches!)



Broomcorn millet  
*Panicum miliaceum*

Part of the panicle with spikelets

floret

Zohary&Hopf 2000

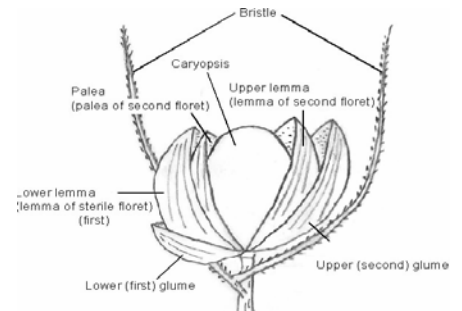
Italian millet  
*Setaria italica*

Part of the panicle with spikelets



Spikelet of *Setaria italica*

A spikelet in the millets consists of 1 sterile and 1 fertile floret. The lemma of sterile floret (lower lemma) is still visible, the palea of the first floret is atrophied to very small and scarious organ and sometimes lost. The lemma and palea of the second floret are well developed and enclose the grain closely.



Spikelet

Nasu et al., in press  
(Vegetation History  
and Archaeobotany)

# Millets

Broomcorn millet: *Panicum miliaceum* L., Italian millet: *Setaria italica* (L.) P.B.

In the following literature characteristics of the domestic millet species can be found: NETOLITZKY 1914, KROLL 1983, KÖRBER-GROHNE 1967, KNÖRZER 1971 und WASYLIKOWA 1978 (see also Nasu et al., in press). The most important identification criteria are:

• **The surface structure of the lemma and palea:**

*Panicum miliaceum*: surface smooth, with some longitudinal stripes. Cells longish-rectangular.

*Setaria italica*: surface with papillae.

• **The shape and size of the grains:** KROLL 1983

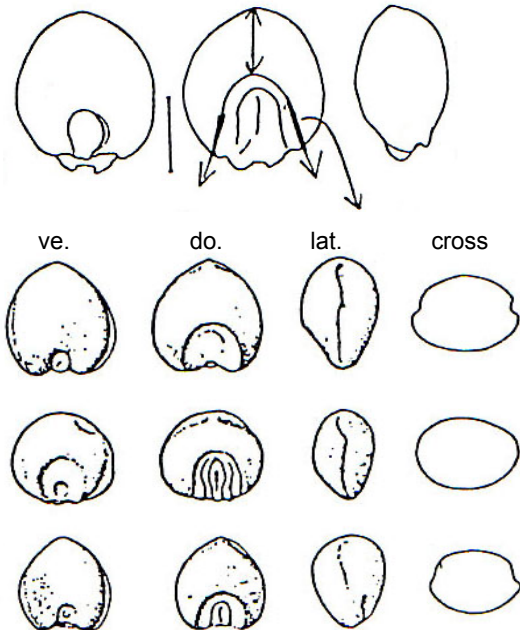
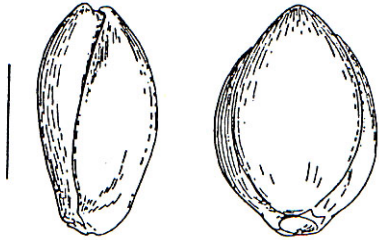
*P. miliaceum*: oval; in carbonised state 1.3-2.2 mm long;

*S. italica*: roundish; in carbonised state 1.1-1.7 mm long

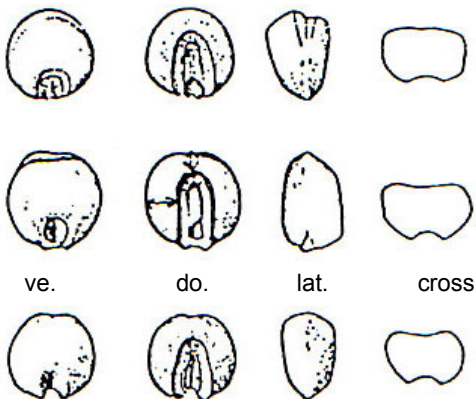
• **The shape of the scutellum (embryo-cavity) in naked grains:**

*Panicum miliaceum*: very broad scutellum with divergent edges versus the base. Reaches in maximum the half of the grain length. (In *Echinochloa* = *Panicum crus-galli*: scutellum a bit narrower than in *P. miliaceum* and reaching 2/3 of the grain length. Edges plus minus parallelly).

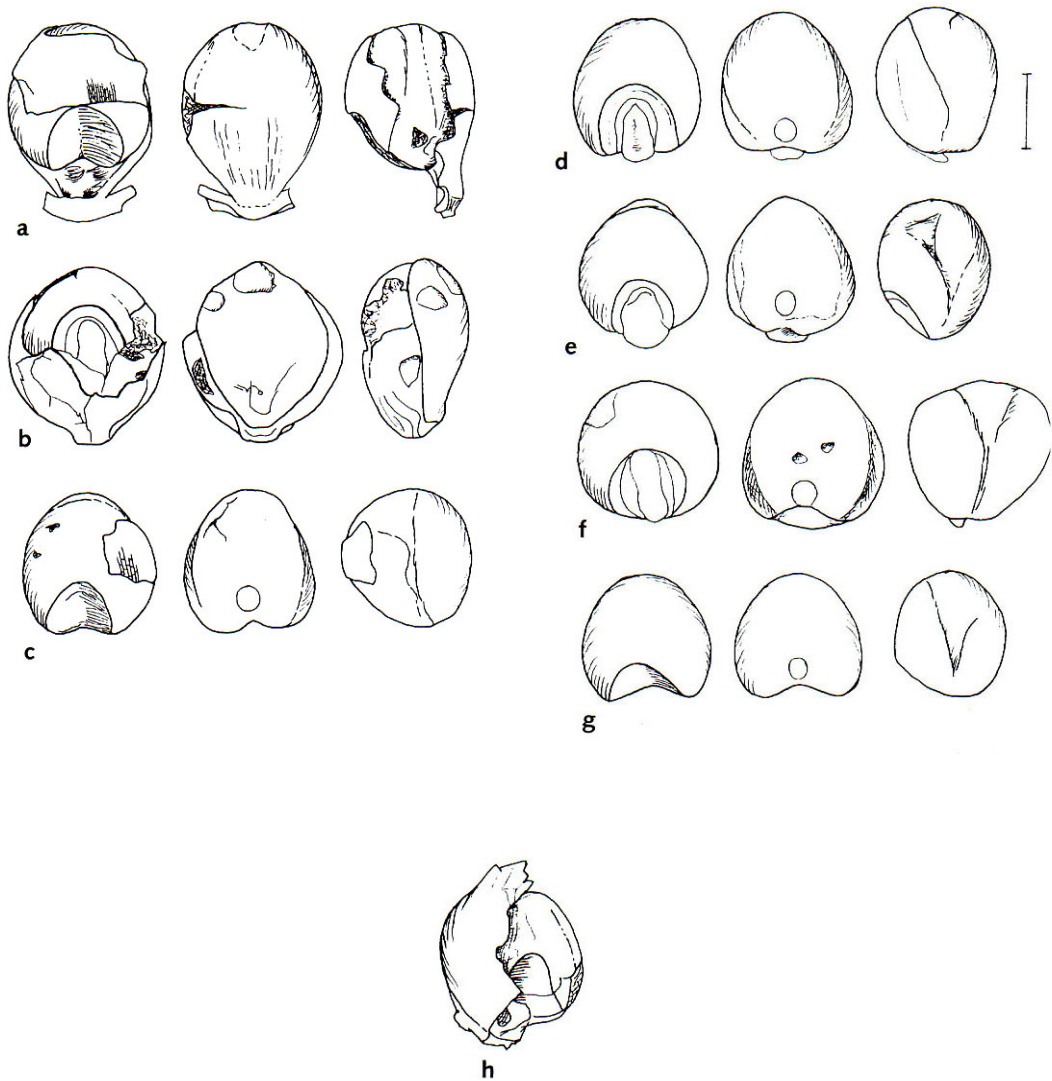
*Setaria italica*: Scutellum narrow, reaching min. 2/3 of the grain length, edges parallelly.  
*Panicum miliaceum*: grain with lemma and palea: Bronze Age, Zürich-Mozartstrasse, Switzerland (Jacomet et al. 1989)  
 Naked grains of *Panicum miliaceum* (from several sites)



Naked grains of *Setaria italica* ( from several sites)



Carbonised grains of broomcorn millet from Late Bronze Age Stillfried  
(Austria, Kohler-Schneider 2001)



**A-h:** Rispenhirse (*Panicum miliaceum*), **a-g:** Körner von ventral, dorsal und lateral; **a,b,c,h:** Körner mit Spelzenresten (Kohler-Schneider 2001).

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