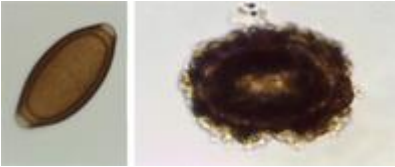


Project name	
Molecular typing of parasites from the past	
Project description	
<p>This project seeks to analyze ancient DNA remains from parasite eggs found in archeological samples from Denmark. Initial focus is on the common food-borne infections, <i>Trichuris</i> (whipworm) and <i>Ascaris</i> (round worm). These parasites produce very hard-shelled eggs, which allow them to survive in the environment for extended periods of time, 30.000 years have been reported.</p>	
 <p>One-thousand years old, intact eggs from <i>Trichuris</i> (left) and <i>Ascaris</i> (right), isolated from soil samples taken from Viborg Søndersø, Denmark (Photo: MJ Sjøe)</p>	<p>We will test the hypothesis that the exposure to and diversity of food-borne infections (parasites) has changed with cultural and dietary habits, hunting practice and intensity of animal husbandry.</p>
Collaborators	
Department of Veterinary Disease, experts in ancient DNA analysis at the Natural History Museum, and experts in archeology at the SAXO Institute, University of Copenhagen.	
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