CHEMICAL AND MINERALOGICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL CERAMICS FROM XINGÓ

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Archaeology has used several techniques to reconstruct ancient cultures, mainly, the analysis of found artifacts material by means of natural science methods. Because ceramics represents a sophisticated merging of previously separate domains of human knowledge and experience these objects are intensely studied by means of archaeometric methods. In recent years an interdisciplinary research program was started between Xingó Archaeological Museum (MAX) and Instituto de Pesquisas Energéticas e Nucleares (IPEN-CNEN/SP) to study the ancient ceramist cultures from Xingó region, located in Sergipe, in Northeast Brazil. The archaeological sites from Baixo São Francisco River have been considered important to Brazilian archaeology because of the quantity and variety of rescued remains. In this work, mineralogical and chemical analyses were performed on ceramic and clay samples (clays (39) and ceramics (56)) from Barracão archaeological site, from Baixo São Francisco River. Chemical analysis via INAA, X-ray diffraction (XRD) and electronic paramagnetic resonance (EPR) were performed in the ceramic and clay samples. Temper effect in the ceramics paste was studied by means of modified Mahalanobis filter. The data set were interpreted by cluster and discriminant analysis. The results obtained in this work in association with archaeological information allowed for the identification of ceramics groups related to ceramist occupations in Xingó area. In short, this work aims to provide contribution for the reconstitution of the Brazilian Northeast ceramist population general frame.