Southern Red Sea Farming: Comparing the Beginnings of Agriculture in the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia/Eritrea) and Southwest Arabia (Yemen)

Michael Harrower and Catherine D’Andrea
1) Roots of Agriculture in Southern Arabia (RASA)
2) Gulo Makeda Archaeological Project (G-MAP)
Cattle, Crops, and Irrigation

Yemen
- Cattle - 7th millennium BP
- Crops and Irrigation - 6th millennium BP

Ethiopia/Eritrea
- Cattle - 4th millennium BP
- Crops - 3rd millennium BP
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Why Not Before?</th>
<th>Local Foragers</th>
<th>Immigrant Agriculturists</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Local Foragers</strong></td>
<td>• environments were rich</td>
<td>• areas were already densely inhabited by foragers</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• environments were meager</td>
<td>• potential immigrants strategies were ill-suited to new locales</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• little population pressure</td>
<td>• there was little pressure to emigrate from previous homelands</td>
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<td>• lacking sociocultural pressure</td>
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The RASA and G-MAP Projects
Pressing Questions

• Why does there appear to be so much of a gap in the timing of changes for regions that are so close together?

• Were Levantine and African Crops first cultivated together (but at different times) on either side of the Red Sea?

• What drove early contacts along and across the Red Sea?
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