



## **Rock Magnetic characterization of Prehistoric Ameridian ceramics from Dos Mosquises Island (Venezuela)**

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Rock magnetic studies of 12 pottery shards from Dos Mosquises Island (Los Roques, Venezuela) have been performed in order to characterize different clay sources and pottery craftsmanship. Although these ceramics have been excavated in a single site with a C14 age of about AD 1480, archeological evidence categorize them into three distinct stylistic groups (i.e. standardized, heterogeneous and unspecified). Petrographic analyses agree with the clusters of data identified in scatter plots of initial magnetic susceptibility (MS) versus saturation isothermal remanent magnetization (SIRM) and natural remanent magnetization (NRM). Therefore, these magnetic parameters appear to be suitable for describing clay source characteristics. On the other hand, effective magnetic grain sizes, investigated via SIRM acquisition and AF demagnetization crossover plots, seem to be related less to the characteristics of the clay sources than to the manufacturing techniques (i.e. preparation of the clay, finishing and firing). Thermomagnetic curves might also provide valuable information about original firing conditions in variable redox atmospheres.