

Supporting Information. Odonne, G., M. van den Bel, M. Burst, O. Brunaux, M. Bruno, E. Dambrine, D. Davy, M. Desprez, J. Engel, B. Ferry, V. Freycon, P. Grenand, S. Jérémie, M. Mestre, J.F. Molino, P. Petronelli, D. Sabatier, and B. Hérault. 2019. Long-term influence of early human occupations on current forests of the Guiana Shield. *Ecology*.

Appendix S2.

Description of the sampled A sites

Aca : The Acarouany site

This plot is situated at the flat summit of a migmatite Caraïbes outcrop along the Sainte-Anne or Petit Acarouany Creek. The summit holds silty brown soils becoming yellowish towards the bottom containing very little coarse elements. One profile (1b) was thought to be different and « dirty » due to large quantities of charcoal –which were observed in the majority of the pits and borings– and incited an archaeological survey of this hillock. In March 2010, a handful of ceramics were found at the northern part of the summit as well as in a small hand-dug pit of 1x1 m. One sherd yielded a starch sample which evidenced the consumption of sweet potatoes, arrowroot and maize. Four radiocarbon dates were obtained for this site which evolve between the second half of the 12th and beginning of the 17th century. The small concentration of artefacts in the northern part of the summit and dirty soils in the vicinity evokes a small settlement, perhaps related to gardening.

EpBar: The Eperon Barré site

This pre-Columbian dark-earth site is situated upon a hillock with steep flanks overlooking Crique Tortue and surfacing about 1 ha. In the surroundings of this site six other sites have been detected suggesting an important ancient human presence at the piedmonts of the Montagne Tortue mountain range. The contemporaneity of these sites, however, has to be determined yet. The Eperon barré site was mechanically tested, covering 300 m². This habitation site yielded postholes and firm quantities of ceramics. The formers were dated showing an occupation around 1000 BP (n=3). One radiocarbon dating is too old and might suggest the ancient presence of paleofires.

FC: The Fortunat Capiri site

This ringditched site is located at the summit of a hillock overlooking Crique Kapiri. The site was discovered during the construction of the RN 2 in the early 1990 by road surveyors. At the foot of the hillock another site was discovered providing typical Koriabo ceramics. The ditch circumferences approximately 1 ha and at the surface little archaeological material was encountered. One quarter of this site has been deforested (after cataloguing all the trees thicker than 10 cm) and excavated extensively with mechanical shovels during a programmed excavation led by Mickaël Mestre. Numerous radiocarbon datings (n=15) suggest an occupation between the 8 and 14th century. This time span appears to be related to the urn burials which were found at the center of the enclosure suggesting that this site represents a burial ground or cemetery also revealing anthropomorphic Aristé urns.

MC87: The Montagne Couronnée 87 site

The ringditched site MC 87 is located at the summit of a small plateau which is situated between the river basins of Crique Kapiri and Crique Kourouaï, both debouching in the Approuague River. The oblong-shaped ditch has a depth of 2 to 3 m and is marked by two possible “entrances” which are corresponding to the longitudinal ridge of the plateau, underscoring the infrastructural aspects of this sites. In total ten pits of 1,5 x 1,5 m have been dug: two in the ditch, one at the exterior of the ditch and seven inside the enclosure. The ceramics, notably abundant in the dark-earth soils found at several pits dug in the interior of the site, could not be attributed to any series or complex, but several decoration modes appear frequently in the coastal zone. The presence of the dark-earth as well as the large time-span obtained by radiocarbon dating (n=6) suggest a multicomponent site. The radiocarbon dates range between the 5th and 13th century.

Mcwila: The Wilapananãg site

The ringditched site Wilapananãg is located along the Camopi River, at the summit of a hillock overlooking the river close to the rapids “Saut Tampak”. A circular ditch (from place to place shaped like a terrace) surrounds the top of the hill and delimits a broadly circular area of nearly 8000m². This place was shown to us by the Teko inhabitants of the area. No pits were dug in this area, but ceramic sherds were abundant at soil surface inside the ditch enclosure. They could not be attributed to any series or complex. No radiocarbon dates are available.