In this contribution I present a summary of archaeological research dealing with the recognition of management practices of local crops at the Argentinean Northwest (ANW). The identified management practices can be interpreted as cultivation in a broad sense (conscious plant husbandry) not always linked to domestication or being the previous step to it in a linear pathway of evolution and social change.

###METHODS

**Biometrical and morphological analyses** were made on the mentioned taxa, leaves, seeds and fruits. A characterization of diagnostic morphological and anatomical traits was applied on each case for different organs. Usually recovered in archaeological remains from the area dated to the 1st millennium BC. In the case of squash seeds experimental resuscitation (90°C during 120’) was also applied referenced modern samples obtaining a new set of diagnostic traits (Lema et al. 2008, Lema 2009).

###RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Archaeological site</th>
<th>Organ</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Identification</th>
<th>Taxonomic identification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pampa Grande</td>
<td>Seed</td>
<td>2 entire and charred</td>
<td>Macroscopic and biometric characters (length and width only in those traits which are extra identified as C. maxima)</td>
<td>Cucurbita maxima (ssp. maxima)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 entire and dry</td>
<td>Microscopic and biometric characters (length and width only in those traits which are extra identified as C. maxima)</td>
<td>Cucurbita maxima (ssp. maxima)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 dry remain</td>
<td>Macroscopic and biometric characters (length and width only in those traits which are extra identified as C. maxima)</td>
<td>Cucurbita maxima (ssp. maxima)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ANATOMIC**

- **Macroscopic** characters (length and width only in those traits which are extra identified as C. maxima).
- **Microscopic** characters (length and width only in those traits which are extra identified as C. maxima).

**ANATOMY**

- **Macroscopic** characters (length and width only in those traits which are extra identified as C. maxima).
- **Microscopic** characters (length and width only in those traits which are extra identified as C. maxima).

**RESULTS**

1) *Phasolus vulgaris* (Table 2) in Pampa grande (PG) seed analysis showed the presence of wild and domesticated variants with similar biometric values. These last ones were of two kinds: those with biometric macroscopic characters overlapping with wild types and those of macroscopic characters of wild types per surface area of wild types and those of macroscopic characters of wild types per surface area of wild types. These types of intermediate forms have a wide range of intermediate forms that correspond to different useful forms allowed the identification of domesticated and spontaneous forms. The type of intermediate forms has a range of intermediate forms that correspond to different useful forms allowed the identification of domesticated and spontaneous forms. These types of intermediate forms have a wide range of intermediate forms that correspond to different useful forms allowed the identification of domesticated and spontaneous forms.

**ANALYSED MATERIALS**

- Analysed plant remains correspond to two crops (Cucurbita maxima Duch, ex Lam. subsp. maxima and Phaseolus vulgaris L. var. vulgaris) which have different samples of both varieties, obtained from different archaeological contexts and reference collection as well as those from different processing techniques (i.e. boiling, roasting).

**CONCLUSIONS**

So far, at the ANW, wild crops are usually recovered together with their domestic counterpart and "intermediate" forms at the same archaeological contexts, mainly in Formative (ca. 2500-1500 BP) sites. We interpret this association as the presence of wild-woody crop complexes (Beebe et al. 1997) resulting from husbandry practices and selective pressures which enhances diversity over homogeneity. The presence of plants with a different degree of association with human societies in the same archaeological contexts points to the absence of a continuum of transformations through a linear evolutionary process. These "in between" (intermediate) forms are also detected in sites of later periods representing a long term modality of plant-people interaction, also present in contemporary andean communities. In these "in between" (intermediate) forms are also detected in sites of later periods representing a long term modality of plant-people interaction, also present in contemporary andean communities. In these "in between" (intermediate) forms are also detected in sites of later periods representing a long term modality of plant-people interaction, also present in contemporary andean communities. In these "in between" (intermediate) forms are also detected in sites of later periods representing a long term modality of plant-people interaction, also present in contemporary andean communities. In these "in between" (intermediate) forms are also detected in sites of later periods representing a long term modality of plant-people interaction, also present in contemporary andean communities.