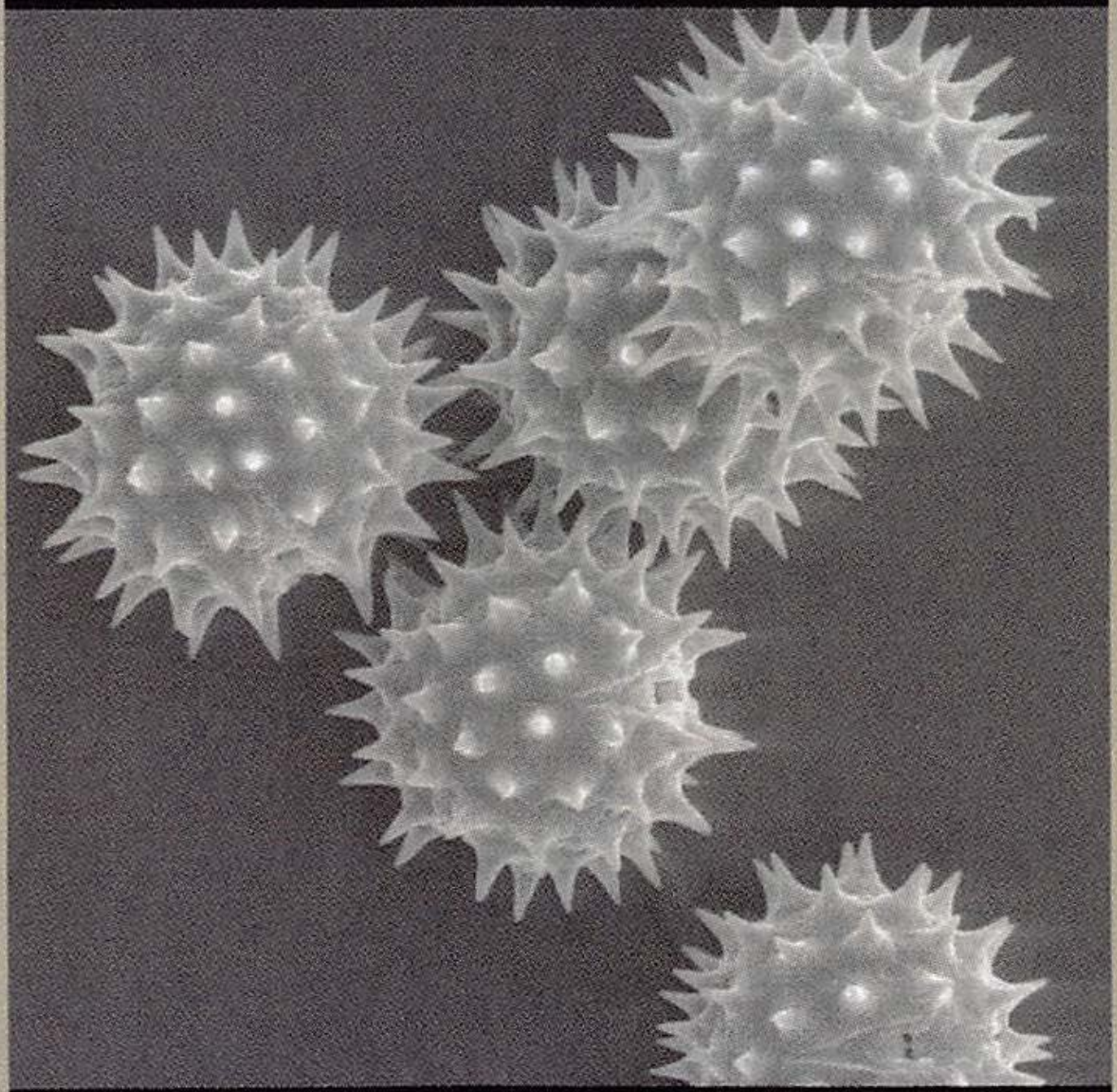
Archeobotany



Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail

Archeobotany

An archeobotanist is an archeologist that specializes in plants. What can plants tell us about the past? Plant fossils tell stories about events that transformed the landscape. For example, soon after the English built a settlement at Jamestown, they began to cut down large areas of forest to build more towns and fields for farming. We know this because archeobotanists can see a spike in the amount of fossilized ragweed pollen around 1650. Ragweed is a plant that grows well in areas where trees have been cut down.

Learn more at nps.gov/cajo

Image of pollen grains, courtesy Dartmouth College