As a worldwide staple, rice plays a very important role in modern life. Archaeologists, biologists, climatologists, and other scientists are interested in the origins and early development of rice agriculture. The origins and domestication of rice cultivation are hotly debated among scholars, including debate over where, when, how and under what circumstances did cultivation or domestication happen. Systematic archaeobotanical work around the Shandong highlands in eastern China provides interesting and critical evidence for understanding Neolithic rice exploitation and contributes to the knowledge of its agricultural origins not only by providing new data, but also by raising additional questions.