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**PROGRAM
and
ABSTRACTS**

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ARCHAEOBOTANICAL DATA ON THE
MESOLITHIC/ANCIENT-MEDIUM NEOLITHIC SITE OF TERRAGNE
(TARANTO-SOUTHERN ITALY, 96 m a.s.l., 40°24'N 17°38'E)

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The site is placed on the Terragne hill, in a higher topographic location than the surrounding landscape, which is mostly flat. The cultural framework (with radiocarbon dates spanning over some centuries) shows a first occupation in the Lowest Layer-SU5 (dated 7260 ± 70 BP). It is to be attributed to a group of hunter-gatherers (late Mesolithic), probably in contact with communities with productive economy. Then the cultural sequence shows the settling of a Neolithic community with an articulated pottery production (Upper Layer-SU3; 6870 ± 70 BP). The stratigraphic series ends with a layer of recent and sub-recent anthropic activity (plow zone SU 1-2). Xylotomical analysis of charcoals sampled in the two archaeological levels, with 10 taxa identified, shows a change in the forest vegetation exploited for firewood. The Lower layer is characterized by deciduous oak wood taxa, while in the Upper layer Mediterranean forest taxa are prevalent. The cultivation of cereals is testified in Neolithic level by caryopses and chaff remains of Einkorn, Emmer, Bread Wheat and Barley, cotyledons of *Vicia* sp. were recorded too. The presence of caryopses (*Hordeum* sp., *Triticum monococcum*, *T.sp.*) in the Lower level, is interesting for the question of the beginning of cereal cultivation in Southern Italy. The analysis of uncarbonized seed by recent weeds growing on the site, is employed to investigate post-depositional turbation of the deposit. Pollen analysis was carried out on 9 samples taken in the Stratigraphic series every 5 cm from 24cm (SU2) and 65cm depth (SU5). A soil surface sample was analyzed too. Pollen content was sufficient (3000-8000 p/g) and reliable pollen spectra was obtained though pollen preservation was not good. About 7000 pollen and 100 pollen types were identified. Pollen diagram shows an open vegetation (AP 4-8%) dominated by *Cichorioideae* and wild grasses. Woody plant pollen testifies Mediterranean forest/macquis (*Quercus cf. ilex*, *Olea europaea*, *Pistacia*, *Phillyrea*, *Cistus*, *Pinus cf. halepensis*), deciduous oak woods (*Quercus*-deciduous, *Tilia*, *Ulmus*, *Carpinus betulus*, *Castanea*, etc.) and Beech woods. Fresh-water wetland plant community pollen (*Salix*, *Alnus*, *Populus*, *Cyperaceae*, *Alisma*, *Typha*) was higher in the lower spectra. *Hordeum*-group pollen was recorded in all spectra. In Neolithic-levels *Avena/Triticum*-group pollen was found too. Weeds and ruderals were recorded in all samples and were highest in the Neolithic ones.