

2nd international
congress on



"science and technology
for the safeguard of cultural
heritage in the mediterranean basin"

5-9

July
1999

Paris
France

PROGRAMS AND ABSTRACTS
PROGRAMME ET RÉSUMÉS



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P a r i s
F r a n c e

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Pollen and seeds/fruits from the archaeological site of Monte Castellaccio (Imola - Bologna, Northern Italy) - Eneolithic and Bronze age

Anna Maria Mercuri, Marta Bandini Mazzanti, Carla Alberta Accorsi

Laboratory of Palynology and Palaeobotany, Botanic Garden, University of Modena and
Reggio Emilia
v.le Caduti in Guerra 127, 41100 Modena, Italy

The archaeological site of Monte Castellaccio is located on a hillock in Imola, near Bologna. It is mainly dated back to the Bronze Age (from BM1-2 to BR), but also Eneolithic records were found. The site was excavated by G. Scarabelli, in the second half of the last century. This Author carried out archaeological and naturalistic researches on this site and collected a great amount of materials currently preserved in the Civic Museum of Imola, among which some thousands of seeds/fruits and a stratigraphic sequence of the site, including a hearth. This sequence was recently submitted to a number of archaeoenvironmental studies (radiocarbon datings, stratigraphical, micromorphological and palynological analyses). Seeds/fruits were counted and identified.

This paper reports pollen data obtained from 8 subsamples taken in the sequence and data concerning seeds and fruits. The pollen diagram spanned from the Eneolithic (2600-2400 B.C.) and the BM3? (1400-1325 B.C.). The analysis of the two upper subsamples (BR:1324-1150), very poor in pollen, is in progress. Seeds/fruits were dated to the Bronze age, without further detail.

The lower pollen spectrum (Eneolithic) suggested a middle forested environment, characterised by a mixed oak wood (*Quercus* accompanied by *Acer*, *Carpinus*, *Fraxinus*, *Ulmus*, *Tilia*). Subsequently, an open vegetation dominated by Gramineae and Compositae was evidenced. Along the whole diagram anthropogenic pollen types were found. The most important records were those related to agriculture. Pollen grains of *Hordeum* type and *Avena/Triticum* type were always present, increasing in the Bronze Age where caryopses testified that barley and various wheat, mainly *Triticum aestivum/durum* s.l. were cultivated. Other cultivated plants were *Linum* cf. *usitatissimum*, *Vicia faba* and other Leguminosae. Also some woody plants were possibly cultivated, such as *Platanus* and *Buxus*. Cultivated plants were always accompanied by a number of wild anthropogenic plants.

Pollen suggested that since the beginning of the Subboreal humans were in the area clearing the forest and using the land for farming. In particular, pollen and seeds/fruits showed that the Bronze age was a period of notable human activity there.