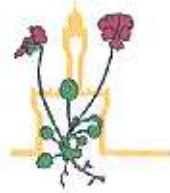




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FACOLTÀ DI SCIENZE MATEMATICHE
FISICHE E NATURALI

*105° Congresso Nazionale
della Società Botanica Italiana Onlus*

Aula Magna dell'Università degli Studi di Milano,
via Festa del Perdono 7

25-28 AGOSTO 2010



Riassunti delle comunicazioni e dei poster

**Cultural landscape and human impact in circum-Mediterranean countries:
the multidisciplinary archaeobotanical research of the PICAR project**

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Biological archives, accumulated stratigraphically in archaeological sites, are an exceptional source of information about landscape characteristics, climatic conditions and available resources of a certain area at a certain time. These archives are largely the result of 'human action' (e.g., selection, collection and plant transport), and therefore are crucial for evaluating changes in the exploitation of wild resources and, more generally, in the amplitude of human impact over a territory. Landscape evolution and the role of people, both past and present, in this evolution are key topics in both the life and the social sciences. Topics such as these are traditionally tackled in projects led by archaeologists or geo-archaeologists, and, as a consequence, knowledge of the environment and its reconstruction are commonly put aside in favour of other, more typically anthropological subjects, such as settlement and cultural contexts, industries, subsistence and economic strategies. This is generally never openly admitted, while in that context a botanical approach with the ability to further out our knowledge of those environments risks being relegated to the role of 'ancillary science', a label which is unwarranted based on the scientific results obtained and the high potential for environmental reconstructions offered.

Addressing the problem of 'landscape/culture interactions' from a modern point of view requires a multidisciplinary, integrated, and diachronic research. The natural environment affects human culture, while at the same time human activities induce changes in the environment. This relationship requires an ecological approach, considering environment and human civilizations as interdependent elements of a dynamic system.

PICAR (Paesaggio culturale e Impatto antropico in paesi Circum-mediterranei: ricerca multidisciplinare con analisi di resti Archeobotanici per la Ricostruzione ambientale, climatica, filogeografica e virtuale) aims at the reconstruction of the Cultural Landscape, shaped through time by the interaction of climatic-environmental conditions and Human Impact, in archaeological sites located in circum-Mediterranean countries (Italy: Veneto, Emilia Romagna, Latium and Lucania; Turkey, and Libya), an area extraordinarily rich in floristic and cultural biodiversity. The project will use the most effective archaeobotanical tools for this type of research (pollen and plant macroremains), integrating them systematically with non pollen palynomorphs (NPP), isotopic analyses, and ancient DNA (aDNA) extraction from sub-fossil plant materials.

A parallel study on the genetic variability of living plants, aiming at furthering out our knowledge of wild or cultivated species of remarkable human interest, such as vine, olive and wild cereals, is planned. A few plant elements are particularly important (e.g., *Olea europaea* and *Pinus halepensis*, the former for its cultural/cultivation value, the latter for its importance as a landscape element) and it appears worth to focus on one of them at least. The use of archaeobotanical analyses 'sensu lato', i.e., the study of plant remains from a site through the simultaneous measurements of the biological parameters above mentioned, is still underexploited. PICAR wants, in this way, to explore the new cognitive potentialities of the archaeobotanical method which, by definition, 'investigates the relationship man-plant' through the analysis of the plant remains recovered from archaeological layers or, anyway, from layers coeval to the human occupation of a territory.