



*XVI International Conference on Science, Arts and Culture
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SESAME
In honour of Paolo Budinich*

Veli Lošinj, Croatia, 29th August - 2nd September 2016

X-rays for cultural heritage and archaeology at ICTP

Federico Bernardini



EXACT Project

Elemental **X**-ray **A**nalysis and **C**omputed **T**omography

- **Micro-Tomography**
- **Portable X-ray system**

Multidisciplinary Laboratory, ICTP

F. Bernardini, I. Birri, A. Cicuttin, M. Crespo, C. Kwasi Nuviadenu, A. Mendoza Cuevas, C. Zanolli

Elettra Sincrotrone Trieste

D. Dreossi, A. Gianoncelli, L. Mancini, N. Sodini, G. Tromba, F. Zanini

Coordinator: C. Tuniz

Euro 600,000.00 from **Friuli Venezia-Giulia Region**





Fermi Centre Interdisciplinary Research Projects

Centro Fermi – Museo Storico della Fisica e Centro Studi e Ricerche Enrico Fermi

**Microtomography for Archaeology and
Paleoanthropology (2014-2016)**

S.A.P.I.E.N.S

**Scienze per l'Archeologia e la Paleoantropologia:
Interpretare la Nostra Storia (2017-?)**

The cone-beam mCT station at ICTP



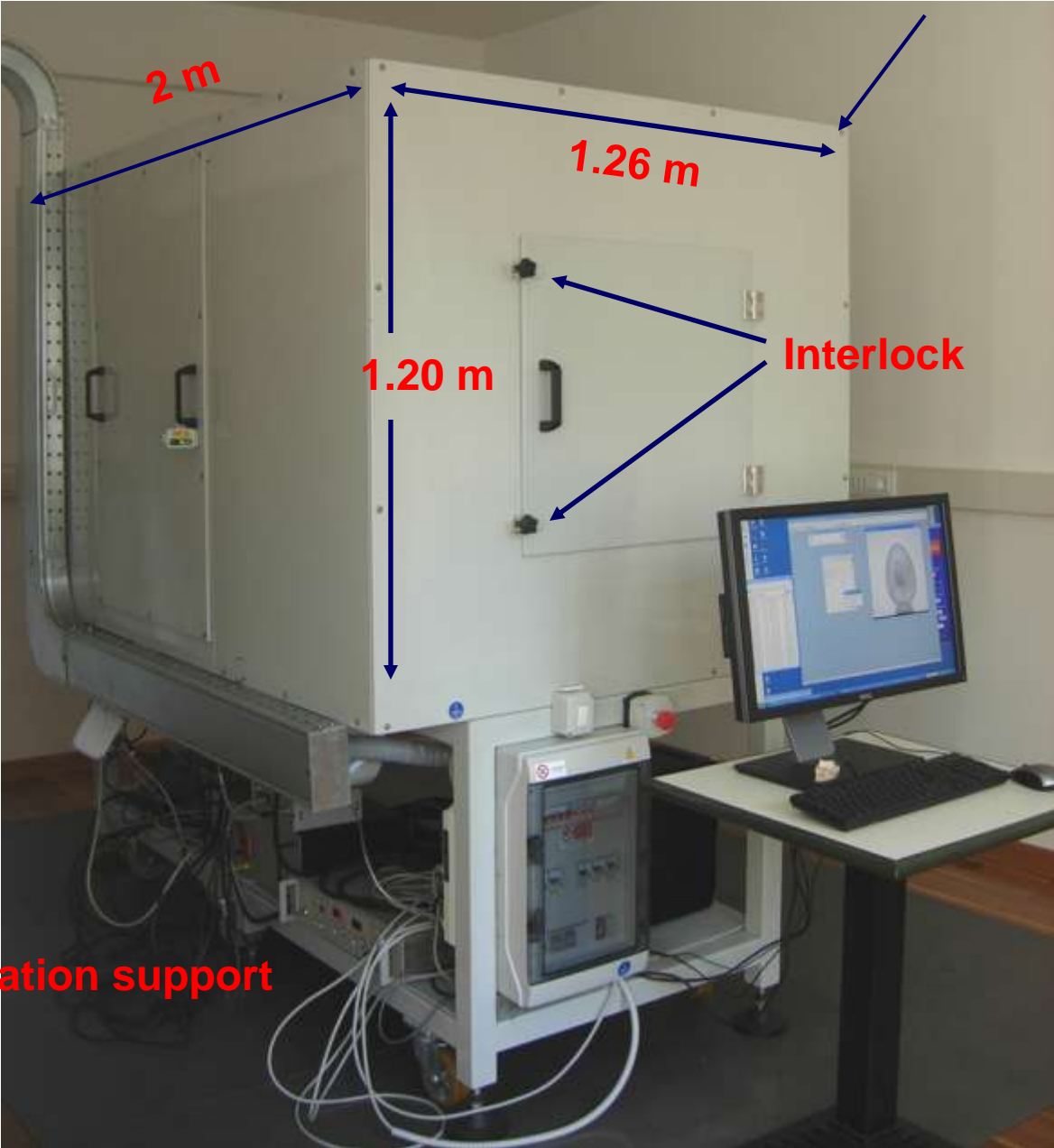
The **mCT** has been designed by **ICTP** and **Sincrotrone Trieste**.

This mCT system has been specifically designed for the investigation of large objects (with dimensions up to 20 cm and a weight up to 15 kg) at 40-50 micron resolution. Smaller objects can be also studied with spatial resolution of the order of 5-10 micron.

Main Components

- **Tube:** X-rays are produced by a Hamamatsu microfocus X-ray source (150 kV max. voltage, 500 μ A max. current, 5 μ m min. focal spot size).
- **Detector:** is a Hamamatsu flat panel sensor coupled to a fiber optic plate under the GOS scintillator. It is a large-area device with small pixel size (50x50 μ m) and high efficiency in the radiation conversion.
- **Sample positioning system:** Aerotech high-performance mechanical components with two linear translation axes and rotation stage.

Desktop mCT station



Pb cabinet

2 m

1.26 m

1.20 m

Interlock

Instrumentation support

Inside the facility

X-ray source

Sample

Flat Panel



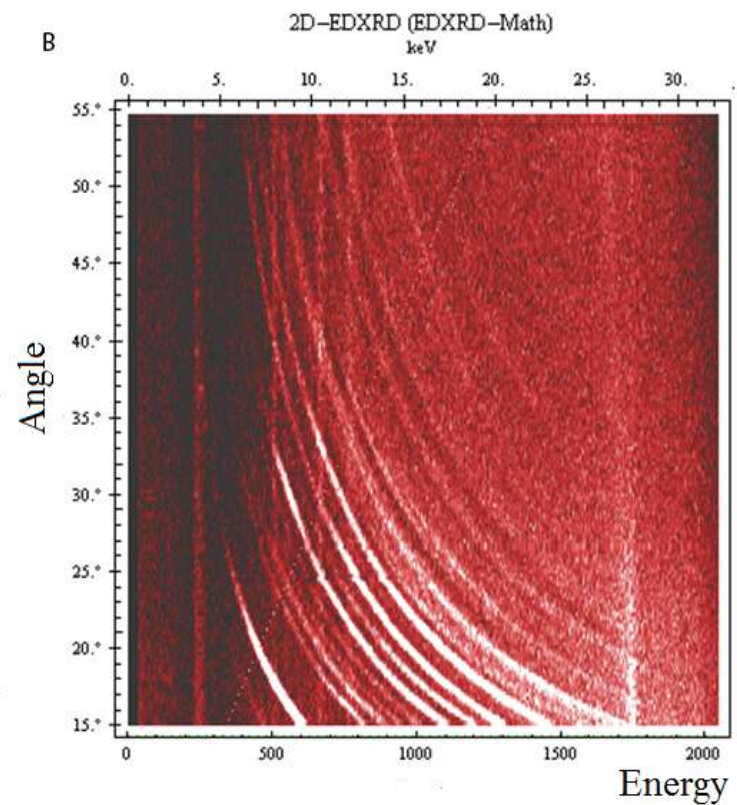
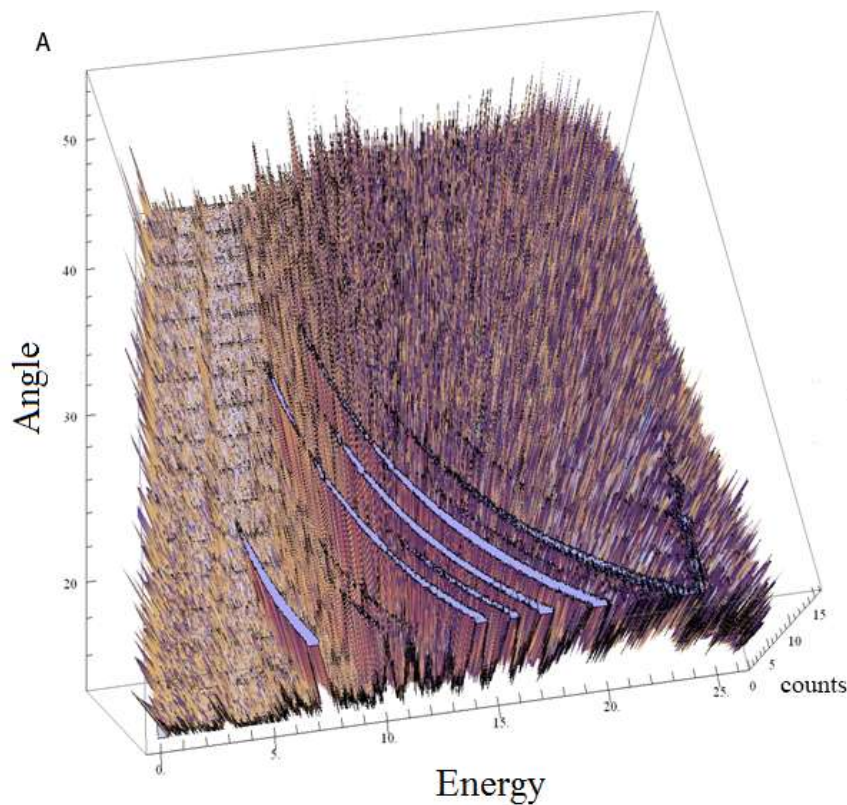
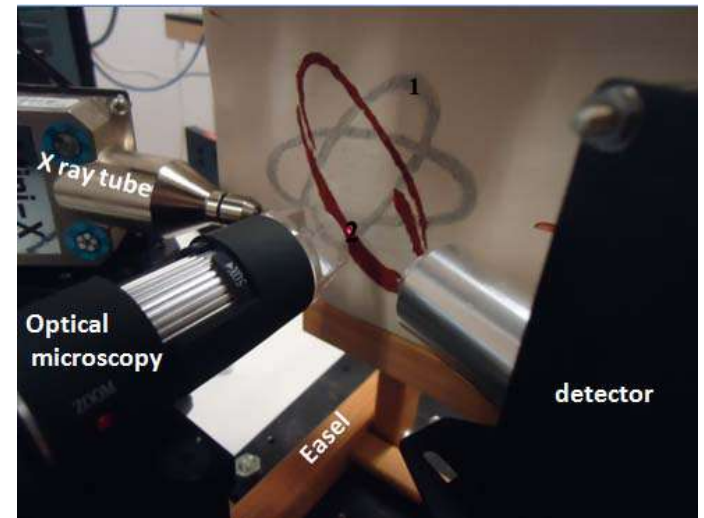
New flat panel Teledyne Dalsa

Shad-o-Box 6K HS



Energy dispersive X-ray diffraction and fluorescence portable system for cultural heritage applications

Ariadna Mendoza Cuevas, Federico Bernardini, Alessandra Gianoncelli and Claudio Tuniz





Paleontology

RESEARCH ARTICLE

A Reappraisal of the Purported Gastric Pellet with Pterosaurian Bones from the Upper Triassic of Italy

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Editor: Brian Lee Beatty, New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine, UNITED STATES

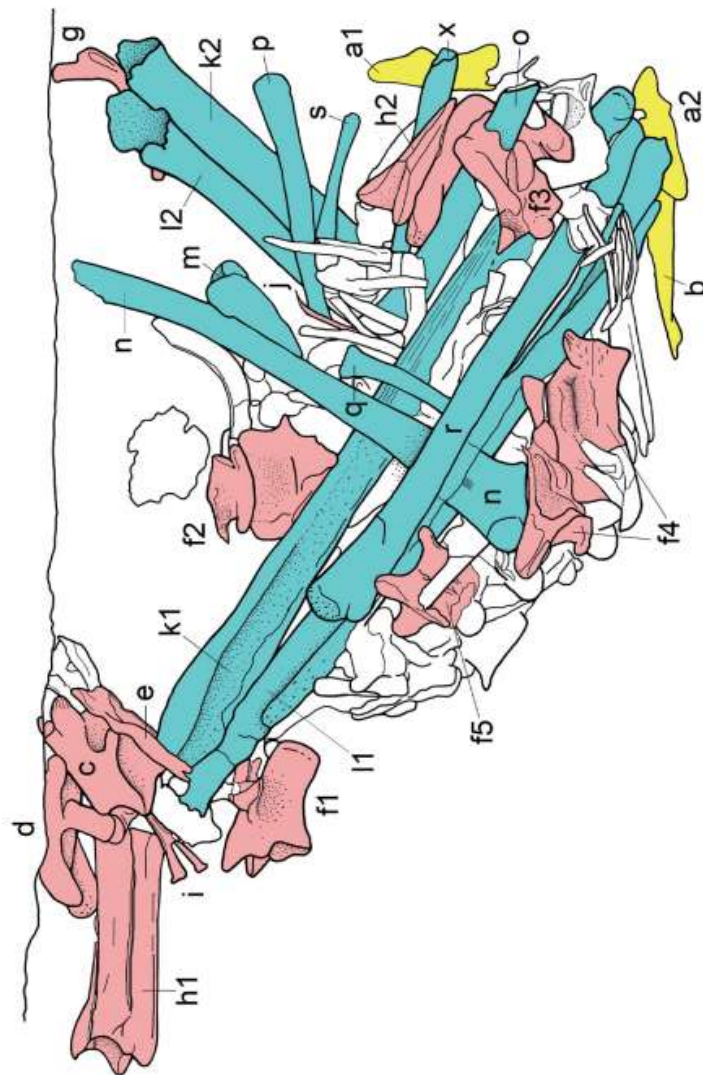
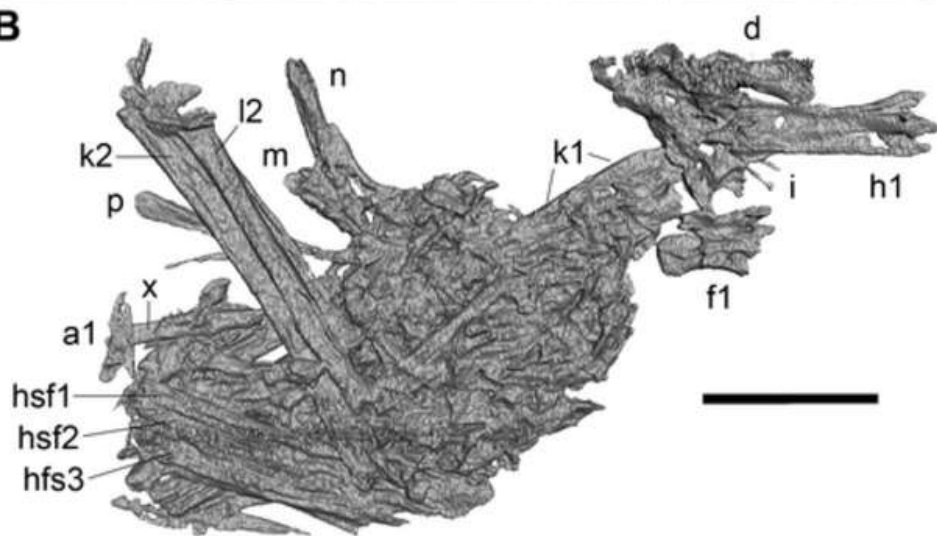
Received: June 25, 2015

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Abstract

A small accumulation of bones from the Norian (Upper Triassic) of the Seazza Brook Valley (Carnic Prealps, Northern Italy) was originally (1989) identified as a gastric pellet made of pterosaur skeletal elements. The specimen has been reported in literature as one of the very few cases of gastric ejecta containing pterosaur bones since then. However, the detailed analysis of the bones preserved in the pellet, their study by X-ray microCT, and the comparison with those of basal pterosaurs do not support a referral to the Pterosauria. Comparison with the osteology of a large sample of Middle-Late Triassic reptiles shows some affinity with the protorosaurians, mainly with *Langobardisaurus pandolfii* that was found in the same formation as the pellet. However, differences with this species suggest that the bones belong to a similar but distinct taxon. The interpretation as a gastric pellet is confirmed.

A**B**



General Palaeontology, Systematics and Evolution (Vertebrate Palaeontology)

New remains of *Diplocynodon* (Crocodylia: Diplocynodontidae) from the Early Miocene of the Iberian Peninsula

Nouveaux restes de Diplocynodon (Crocodylia : Diplocynodontidae) du Miocène inférieur de la péninsule Ibérique

José Luis Díaz Aráez^a, Massimo Delfino^{a,b}, Àngel H. Luján^a, Josep Fortuny^{a,c}, Federico Bernardini^{c,d}, David M. Alba^{a,*}

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Diplocynodon ratelii

Cranial anatomy

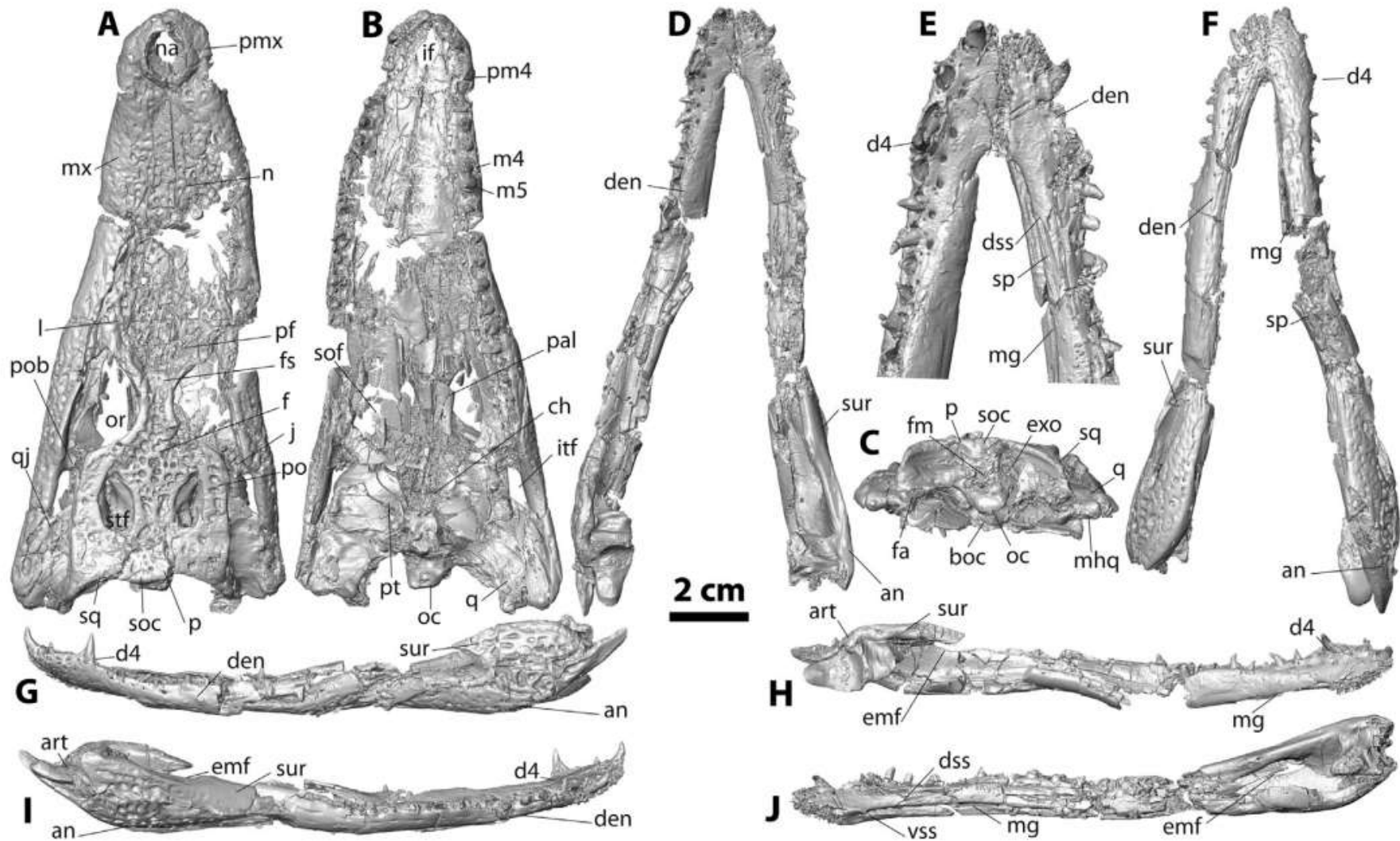
Catalonia

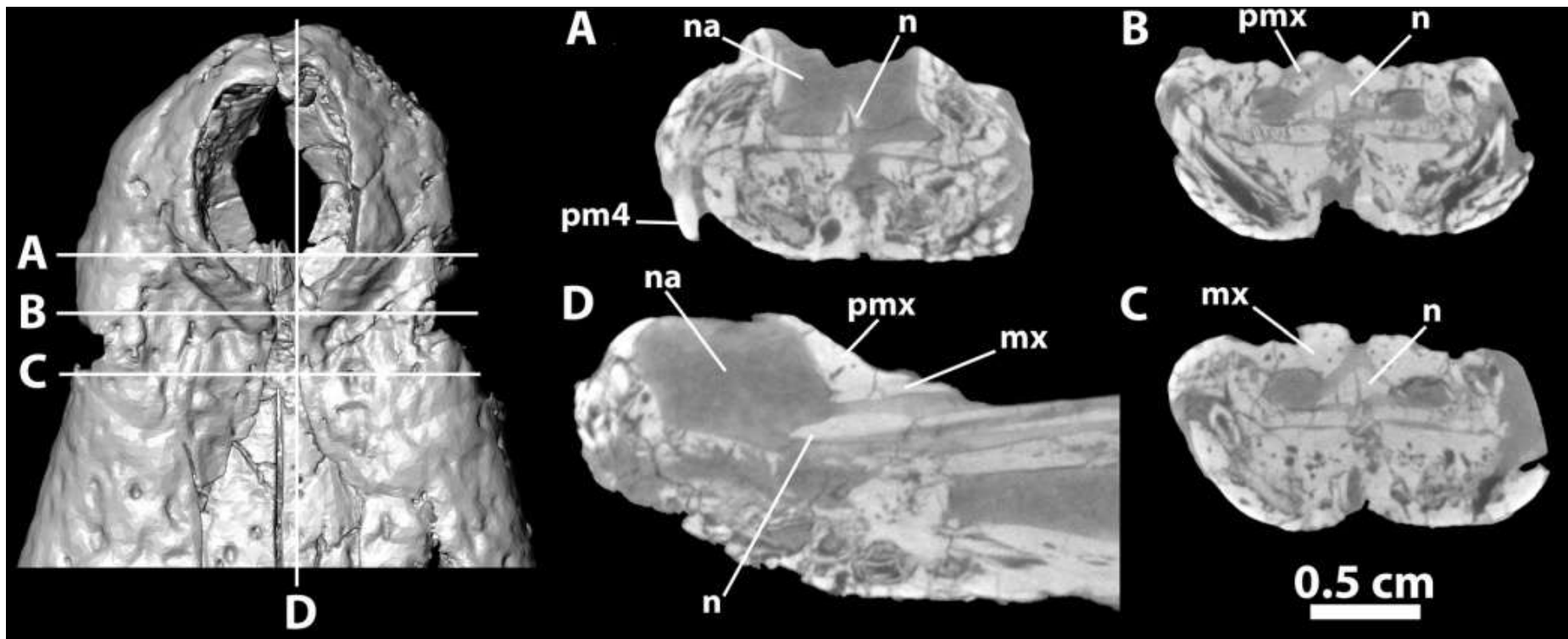
Spain

ABSTRACT

We describe crocodylian remains from the Early Miocene (MN4) site of Els Casots (Subirats, Vallès-Penedès Basin, NE of the Iberian Peninsula). Referral to *Diplocynodon* (Alligatoroidea: Diplocynodontidae) is justified by several cranial and postcranial features, including: (1) the subequal and confluent alveoli of the maxilla (fourth and fifth) and dentary (third and fourth); (2) the position of the foramen aëreum on the quadrate; (3) the small and ventrally reflected medial hemicondyle of the quadrate; (4) the distinct dorsoventral step on the frontal; and (5) the bipartite ventral osteoderms. Multiple morphological features are consistent with an attribution to *Diplocynodon ratelii*, previously known from the Early Miocene (MN2) of France, and discount an alternative attribution to other species of the genus, including *Diplocynodon ungeri* from the Middle Miocene (MN5) of Austria. The described material from Els Casots is smaller in size than the French material of *D. ratelii*, possibly reflecting an earlier ontogenetic stage. The described remains constitute the first report of *D. ratelii* and the youngest record of *Diplocynodon* in the Iberian Peninsula, where only *Diplocynodon muelleri* and *Diplocynodon tormis* have been previously reported. The presence of *Diplocynodon* further supports the lacustrine depositional environment previously inferred for Els Casots and also indicates a relatively high temperature.

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Paleoanthropology

The immature Neanderthal Archi mandible

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Museo Nazionale Preistorico Etnografico 'L. Pigorini', Roma, Italy (L. Bondioli)

Sincrotrone Trieste S.C.p.A, Trieste, Italy (L. Mancini, D. Dreossi)

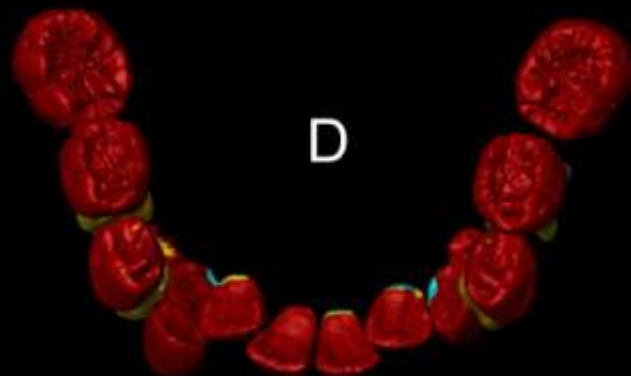
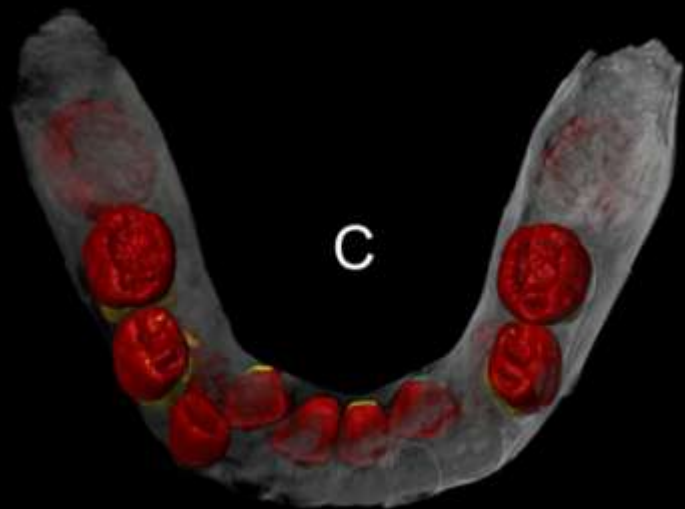
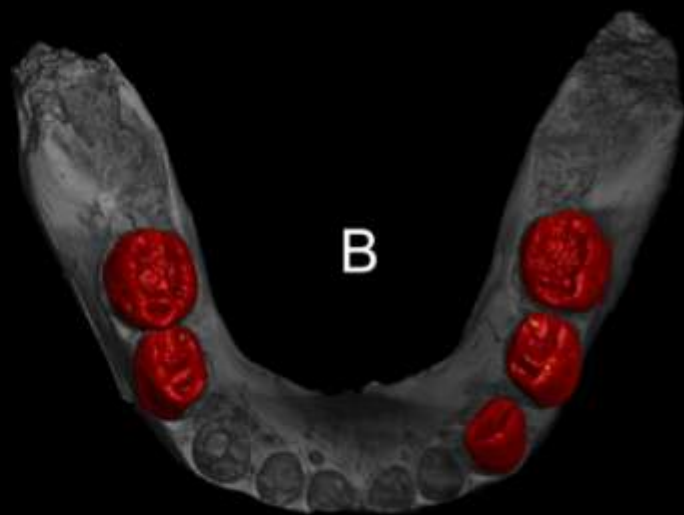
Dipartimento di Biologia Ambientale, Sapienza Università di Roma, Italy (A. Coppa)

Département Géosciences, Université de Poitiers, Poitiers, France (R. Macchiarelli)




In order to investigate its inner structural morphology, in 2012 Archi 1 Neanderthal mandible has been imaged using X-ray microtomography according to the following parameters: 120 kV voltage, 80 μ A current, 2400 projections over 360°. The final volume rendering was reconstructed using DigiXCT in 16-bit format, at an isotropic voxel size of 25 μ m.

Bernardini F. et al 2013, Microtomographic-based structural analysis of the Neanderthal child mandible from Archi, Southern Italy. *Proceedings of the European Society for Human Evolution* 2: 44.



1 cm

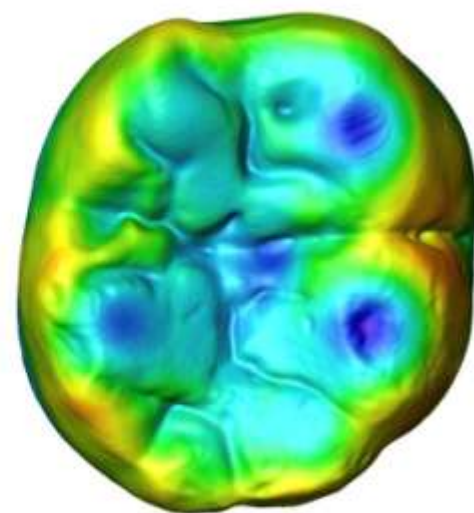
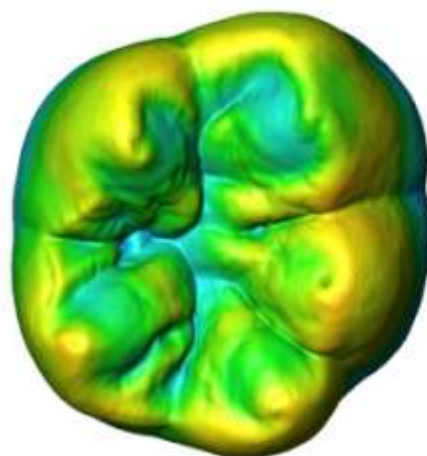
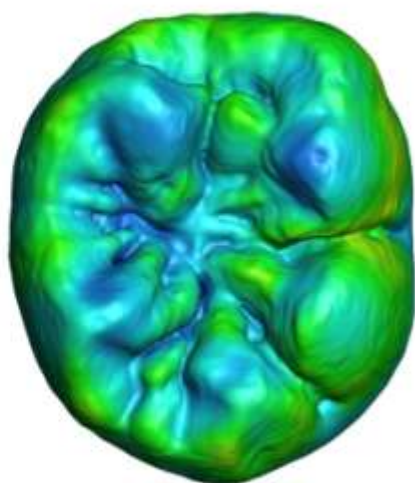
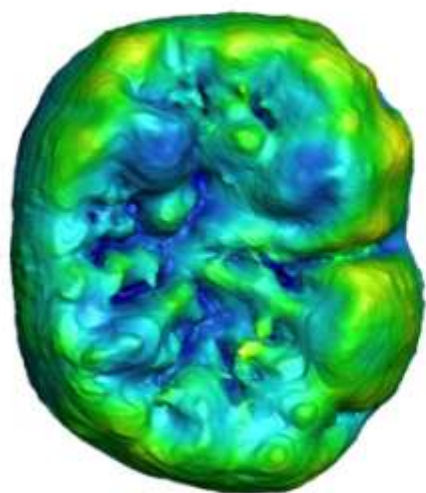


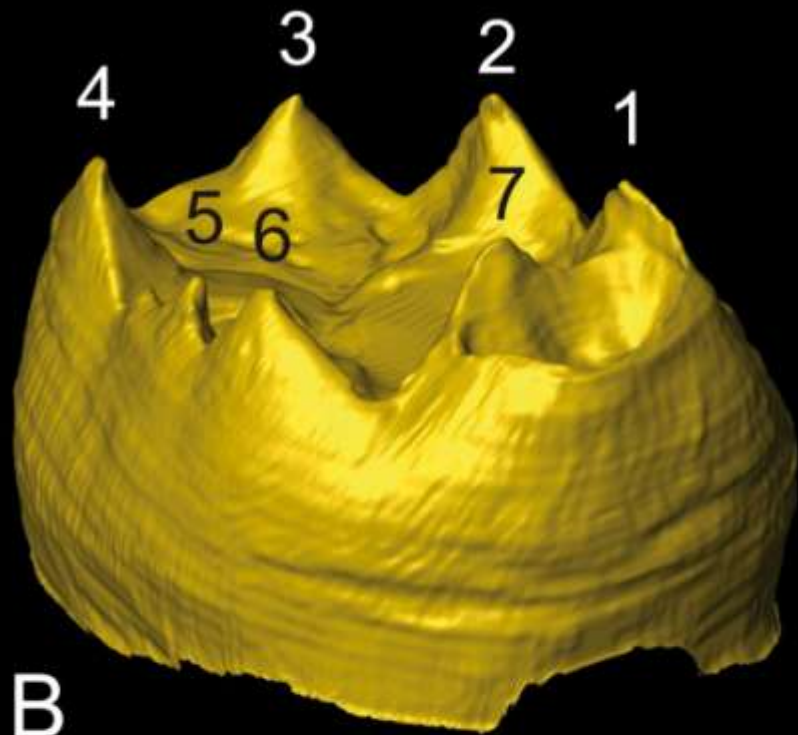
Archi 1

NEA

EUPH

EH





The Ceprano calvarium



The Ceprano calvarium was found in 1994 at Campogrande (southern Latium, Italy). At the time of its discovery and according to its stratigraphic position, an age of about 800-900 ky was suggested. However, recent studies point to a possible time range between 430 and 385 ky.

Dipartimento di Biologia Ambientale, Sapienza Università di Roma (G. Manzi, F. Di Vincenzo, A. Profico)

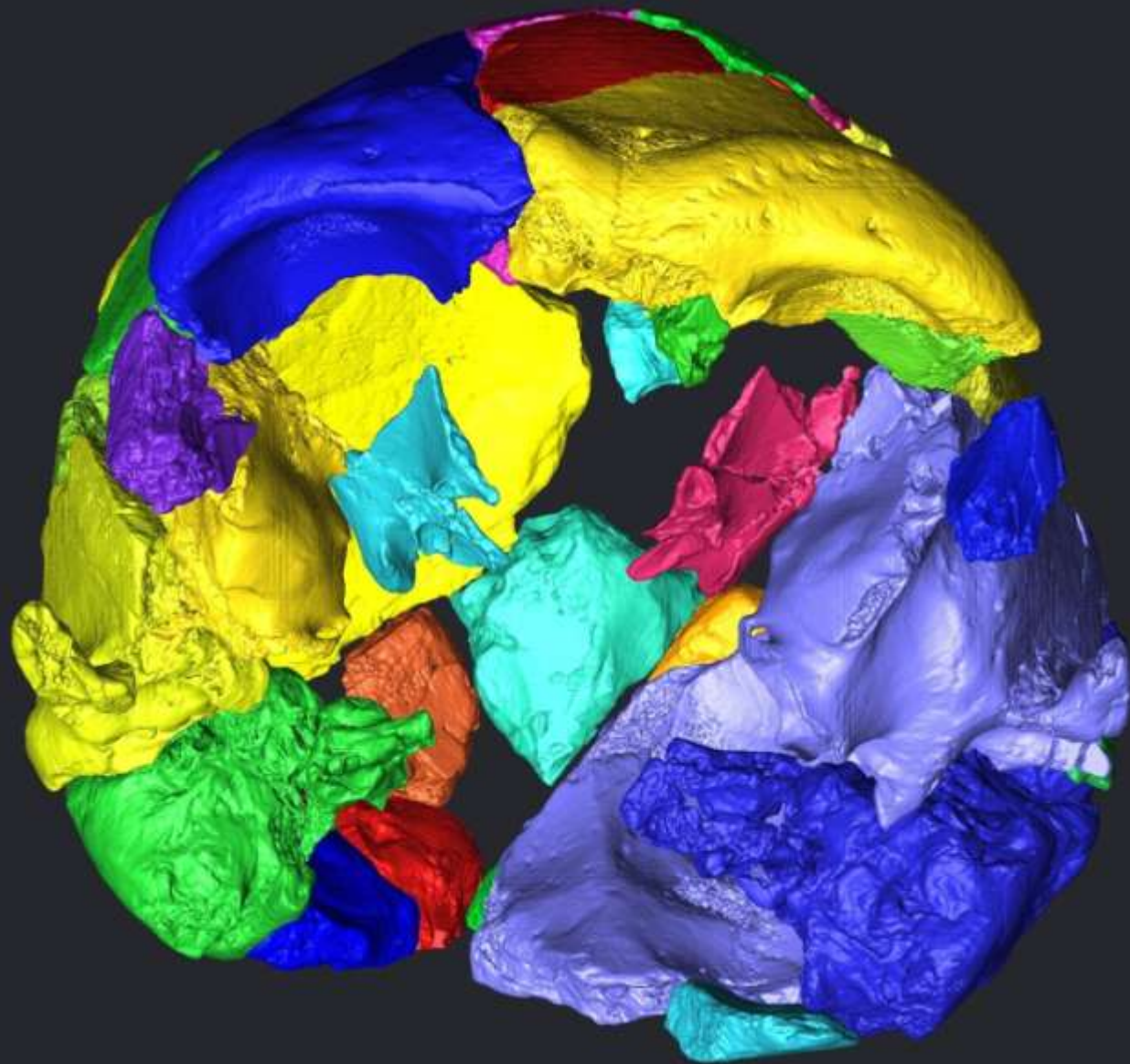
Istituto Italiano di Paleontologia Umana (IsIPU), Roma (I. Bidittu)

Soprintendenza Archeologica del Lazio, Roma (P. Zaio, M. Rubini)



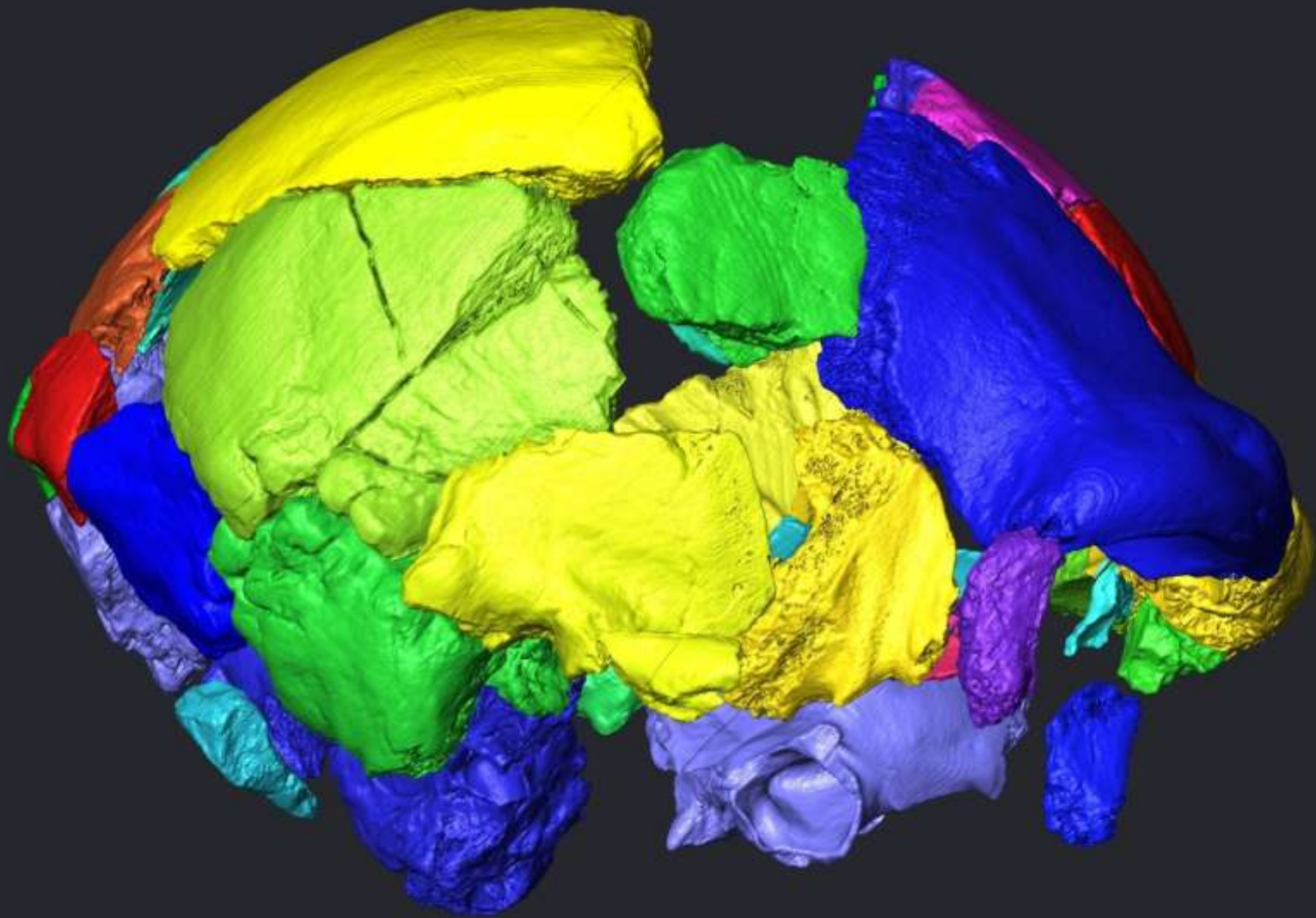
The calvarium was affected by diagenetic deformation, requiring an accurate restoration in view of more suitable comparative analysis. Several attempts to reassemble the puzzle of its original morphology were carried out over time. With the aim of digitally removing any plaster residuals from previous interventions, all the human material from Campogrande has been recorded by X-ray microtomography (μ CT) with an isotropic voxel size of 40 μ m.

Di Vincenzo F. et al 2014, The Ceprano calvarium, twenty years after. A new generation of (digital) studies. *Proceedings of the European Society for Human Evolution* 3: 61.

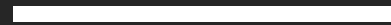


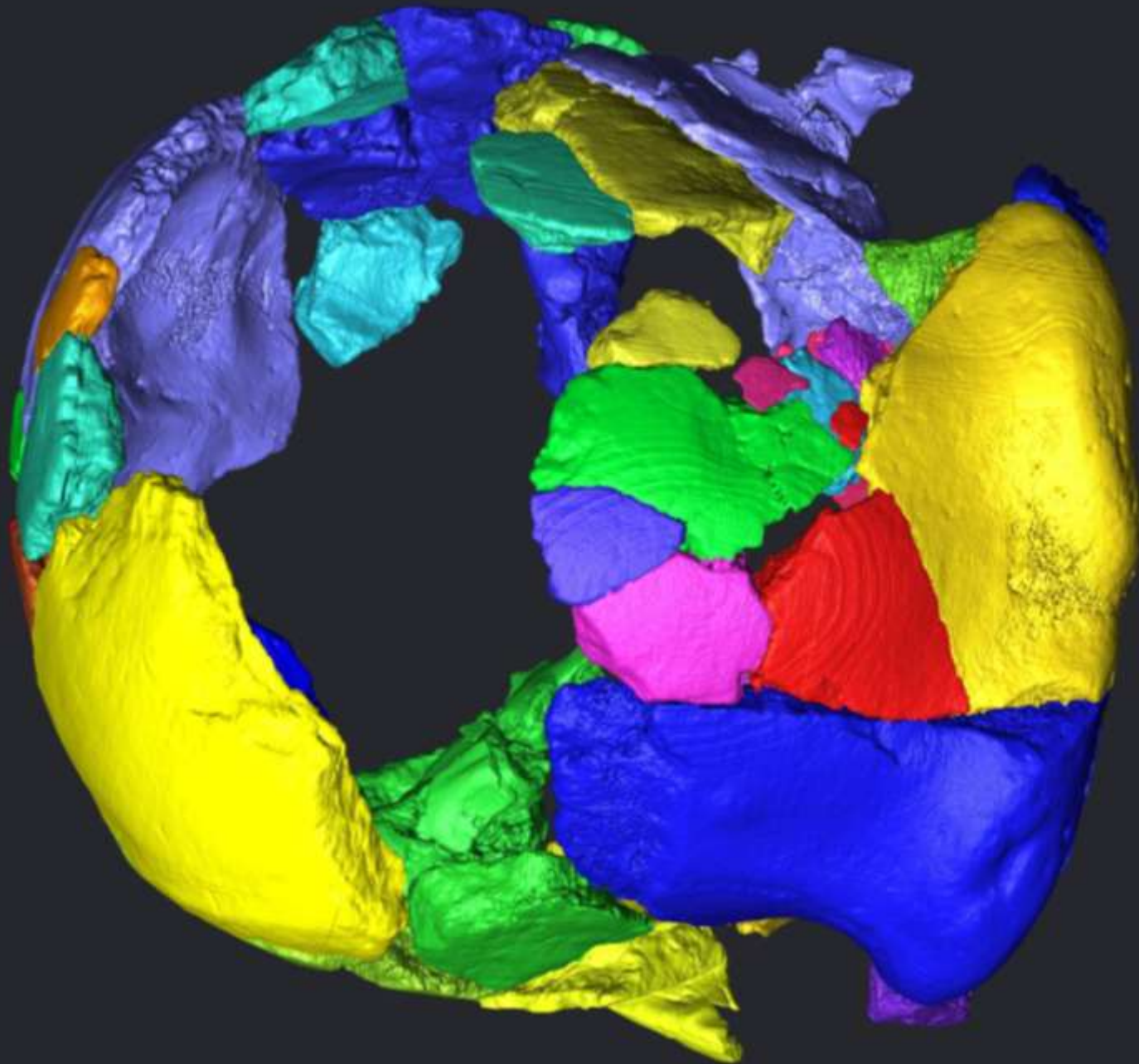
5 cm





5 cm





5 cm



The Romito 9 skull

The skull, dated to 17 ky, is part of a Epigravettian burial recently discovered in the famous Romito cave in Calabria.

In order to produce a virtual endocast, it has been recently imaged by X-ray microtomography (μ CT), according to the following parameters: 145 kV voltage, 200 μ A current, and a projection each 0.075° . The final volumes were reconstructed with an isotropic voxel size of 41 μ m.

Università di Firenze, Italy

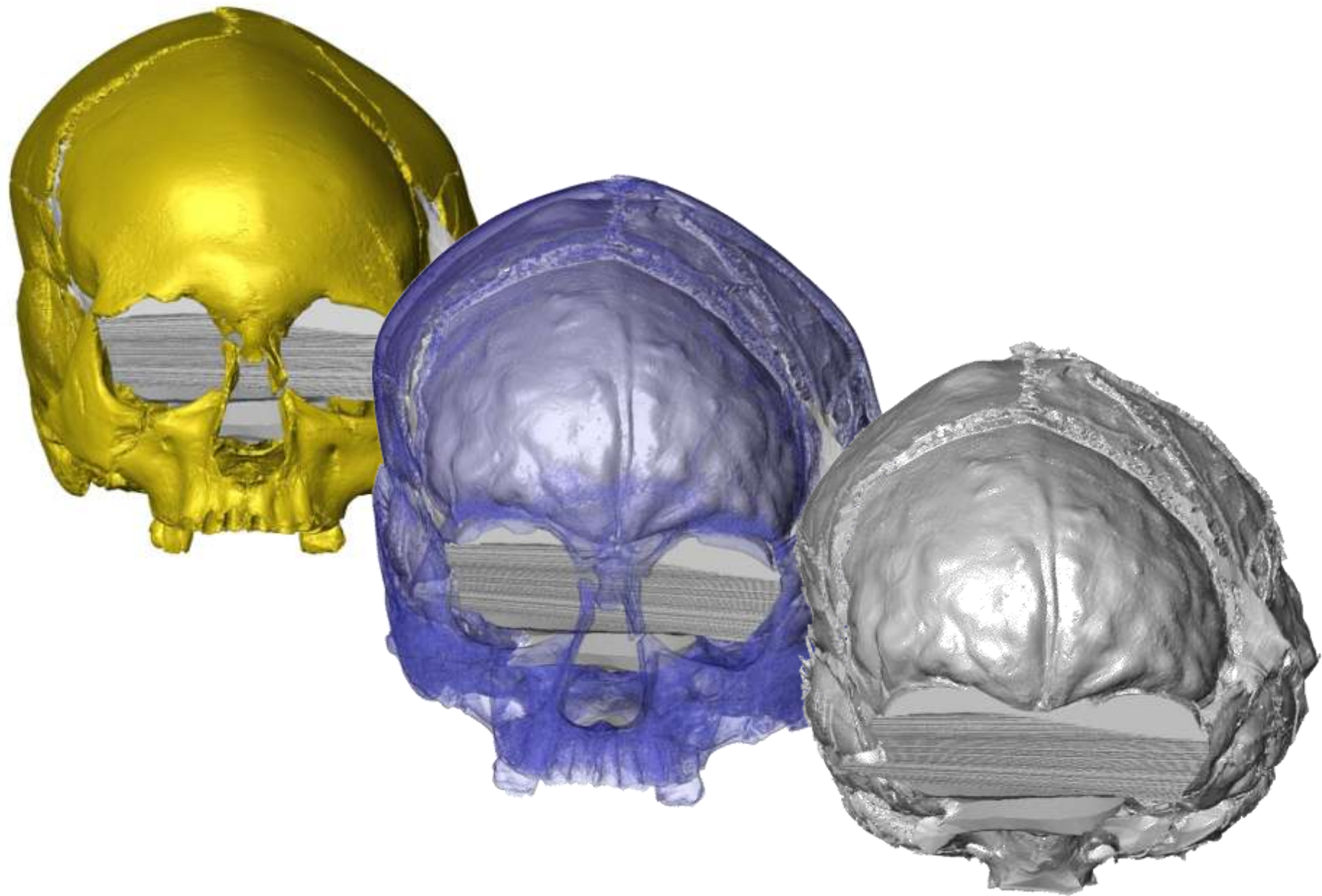
University of California, Irvine, USA

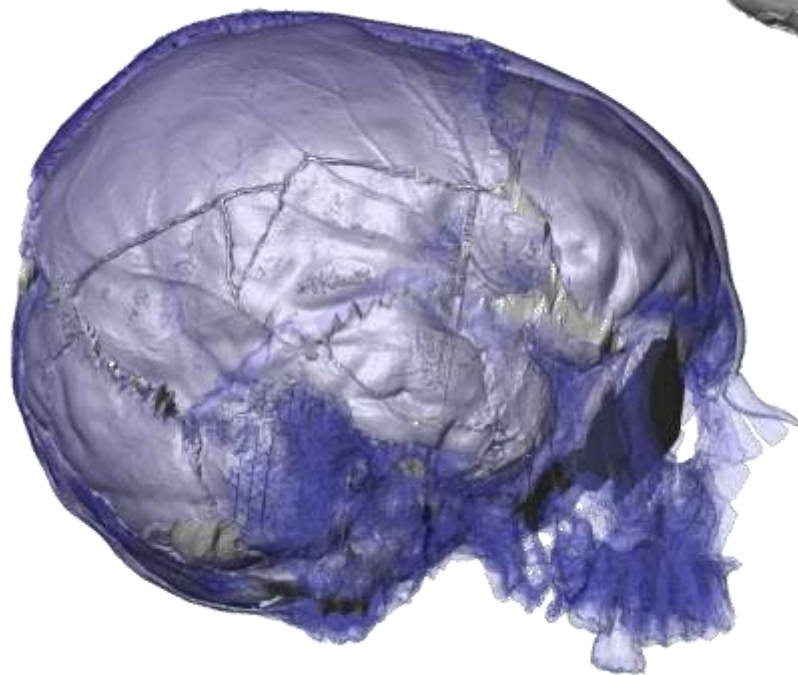
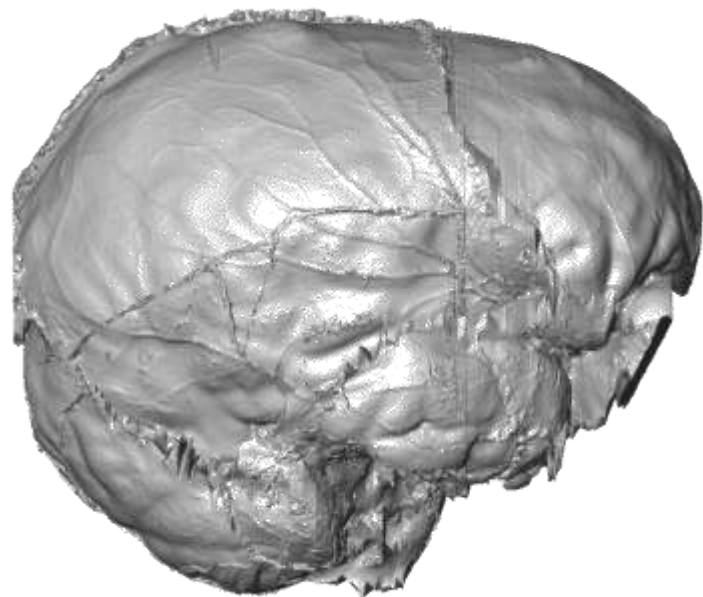
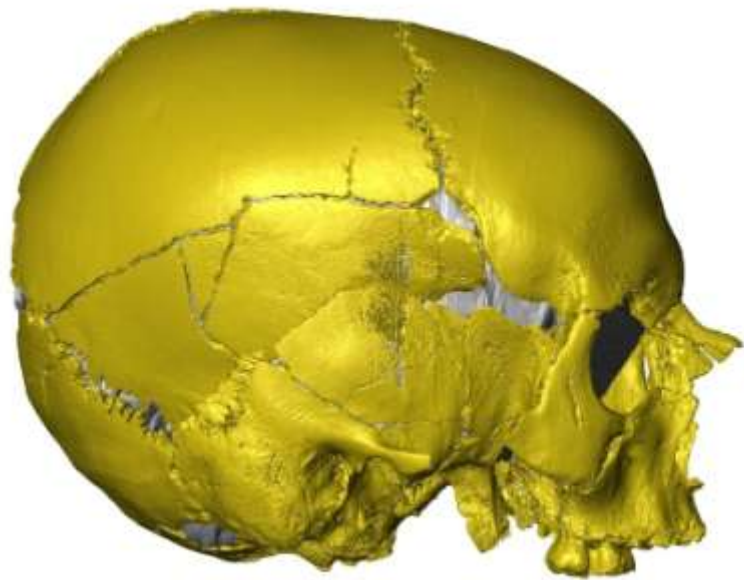
Università di Roma Tor Vergata, Italy

Università del Salento, Italy

Soprintendenza Archeologica della Calabria, Italy





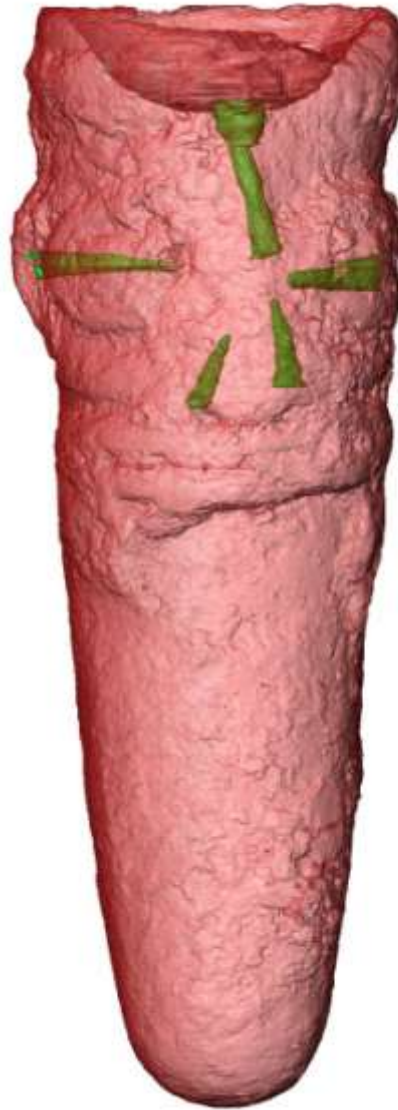


Archaeology

Ghana clay figurines (about 1ky BP)







microCT revealed hidden channels within the objects which could have a medicinal function, used for liquid ritual offerings.



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Neolithic pottery from the Trieste Karst (northeastern Italy): A multi-analytical study☆

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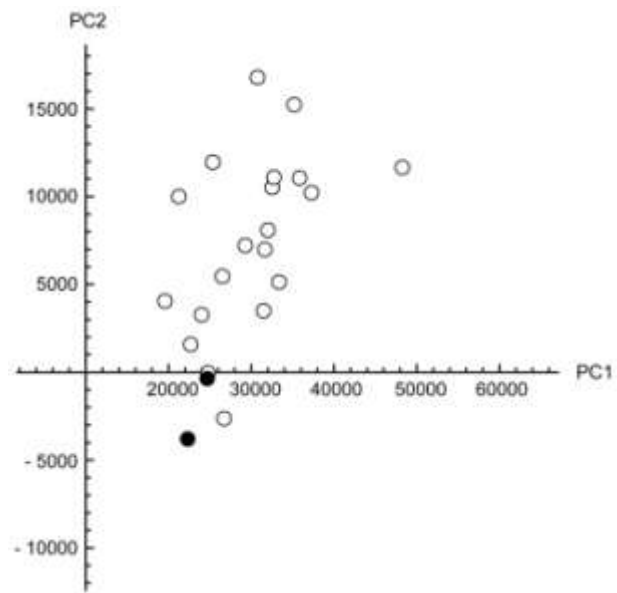
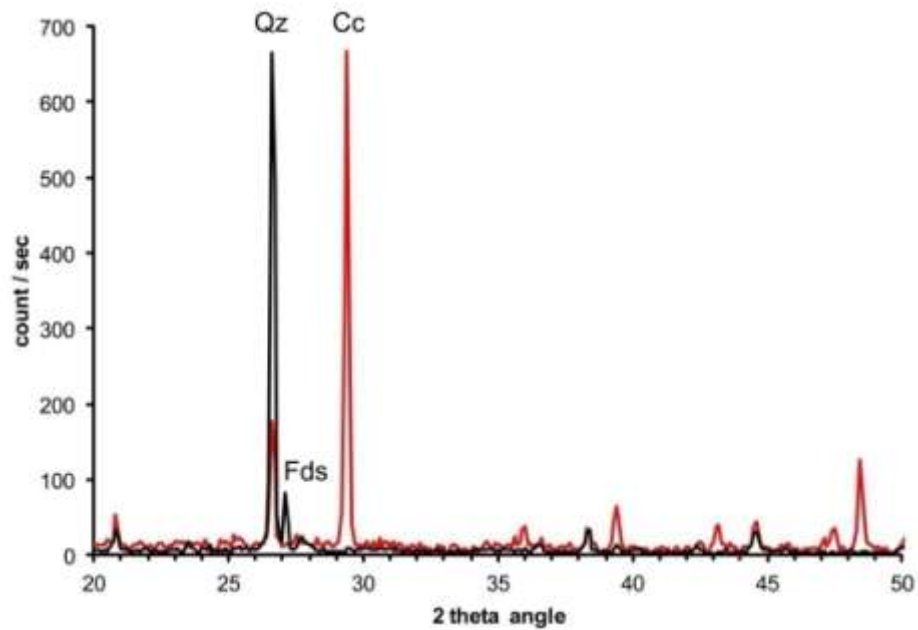
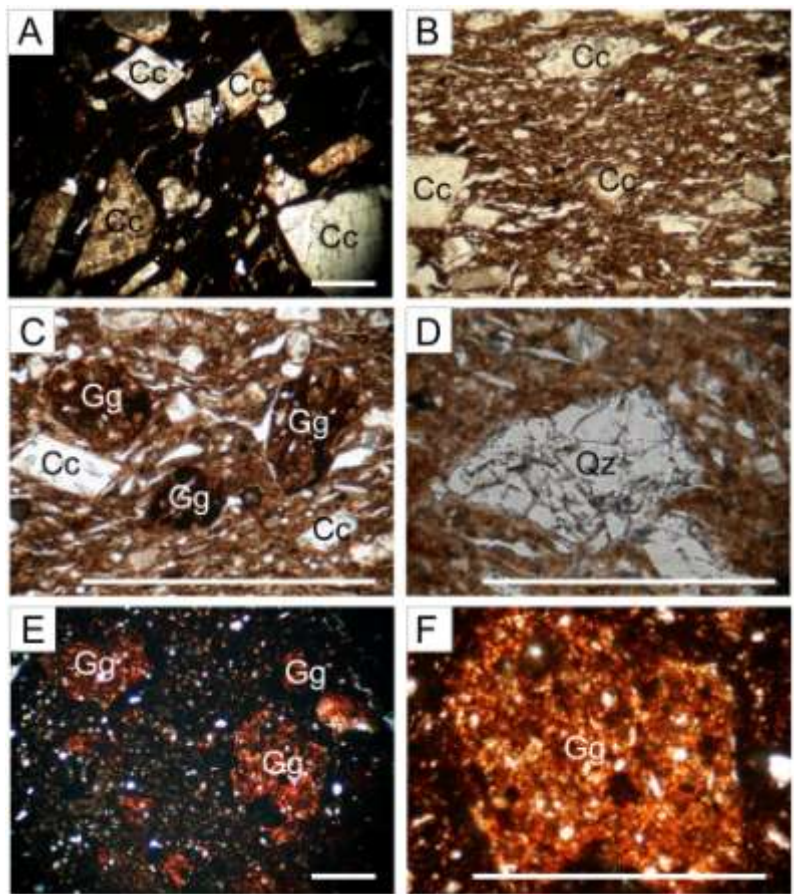
Multi-analytical approach

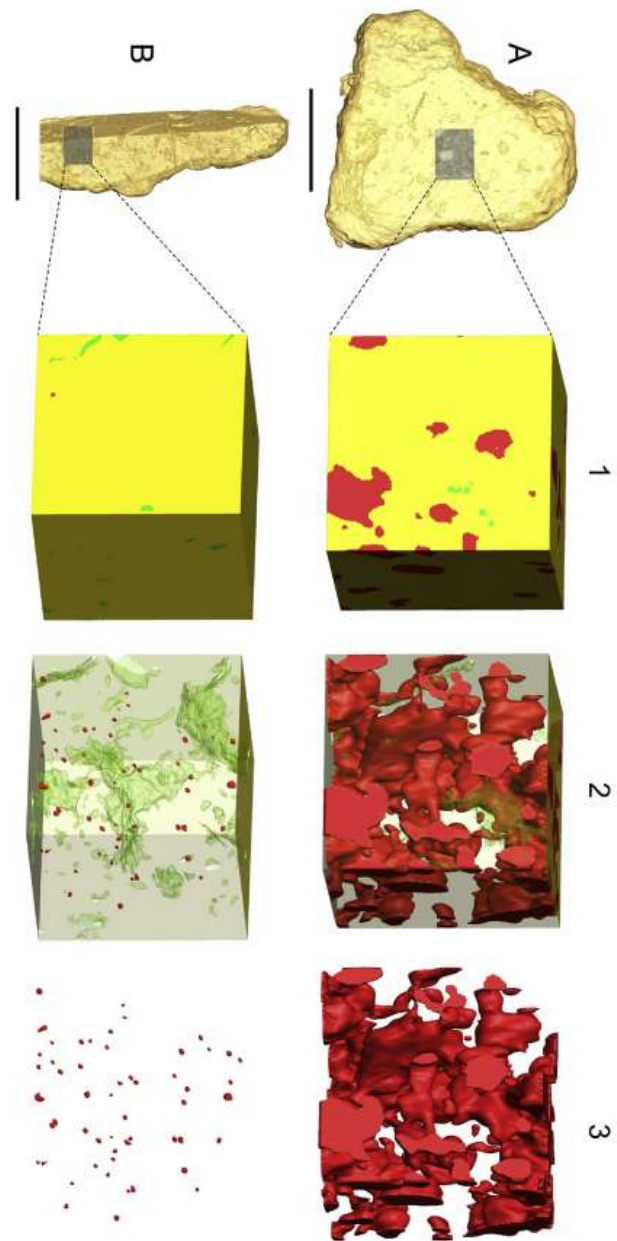
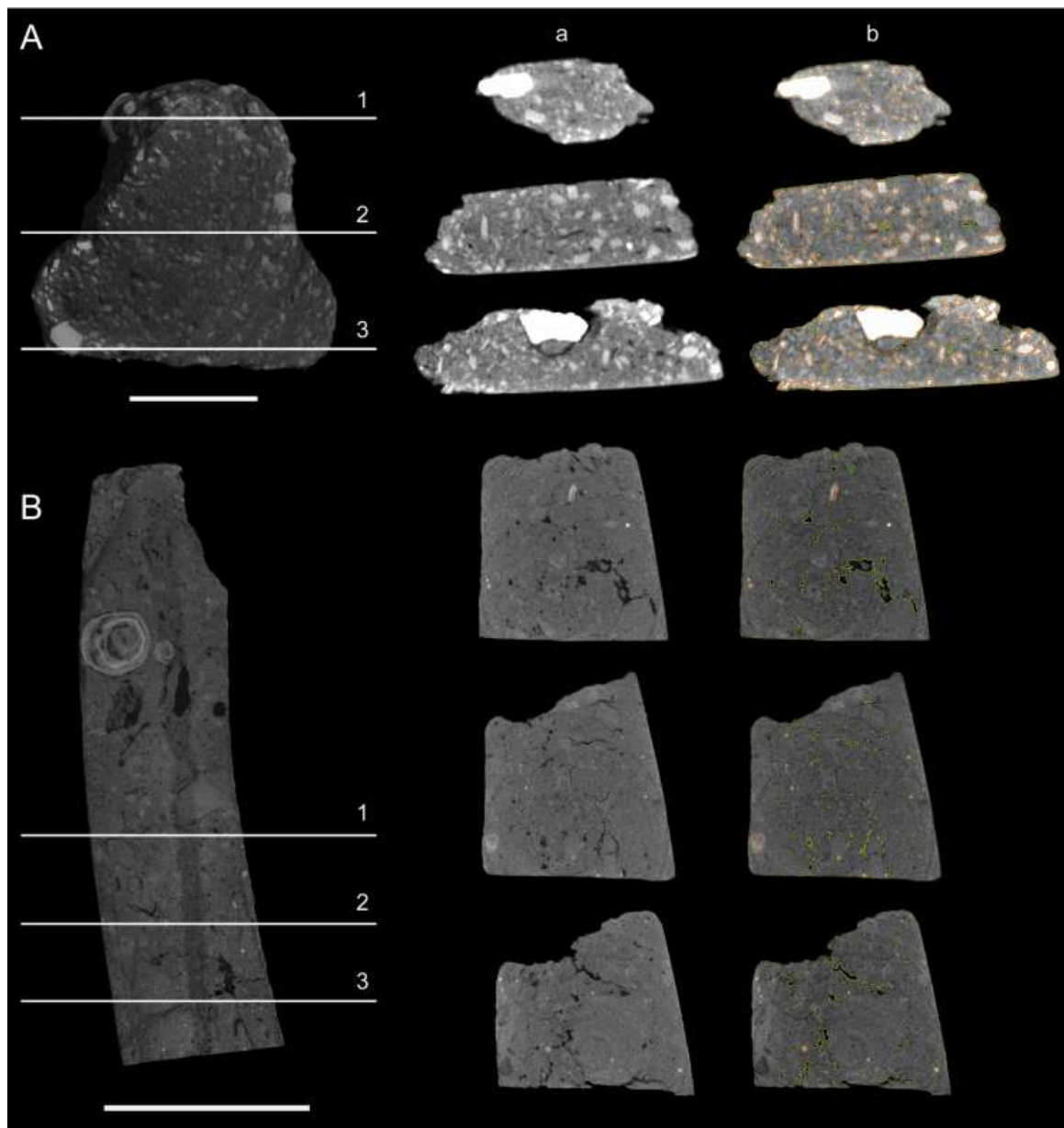
Production technology

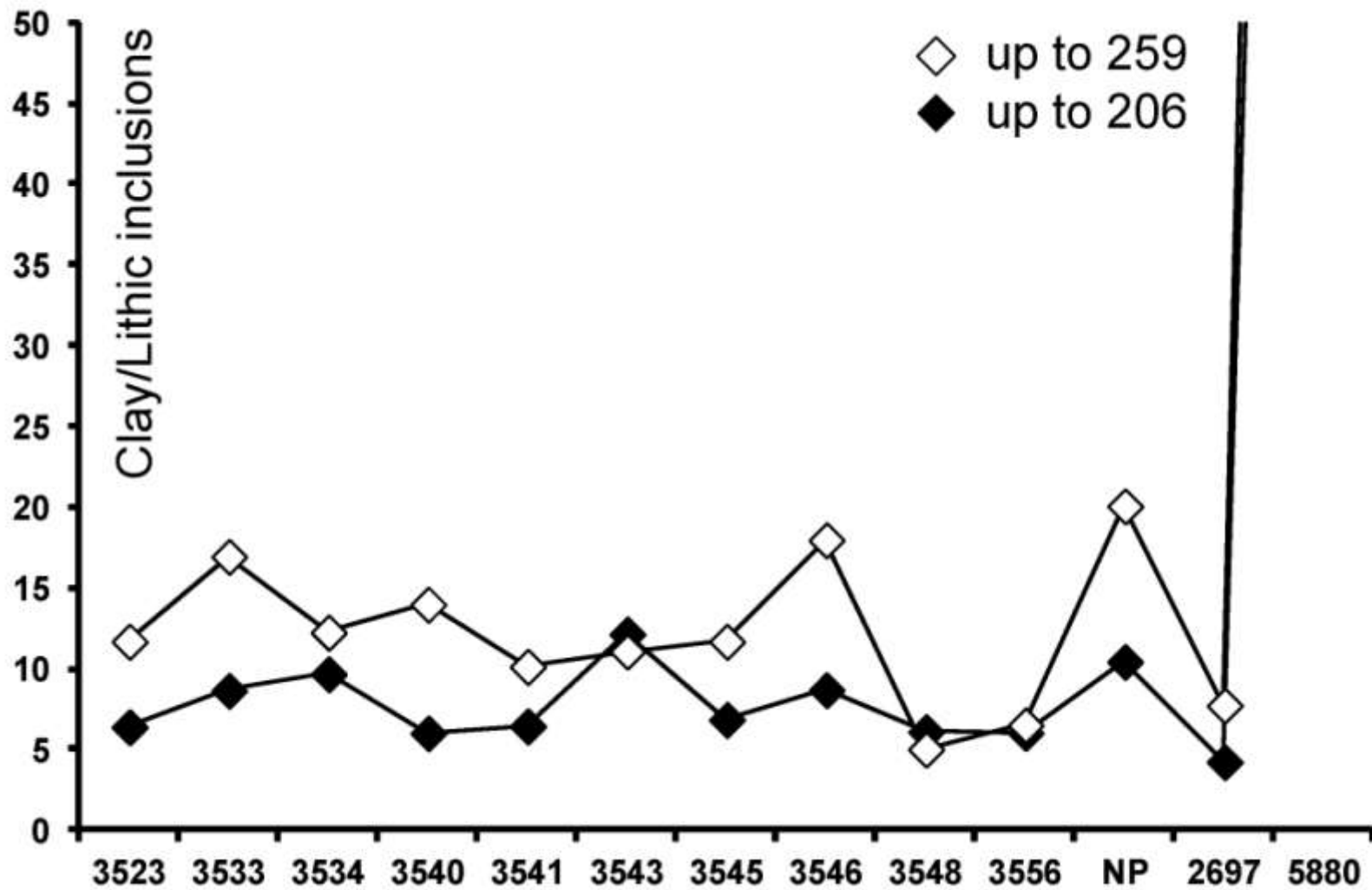
Provenance

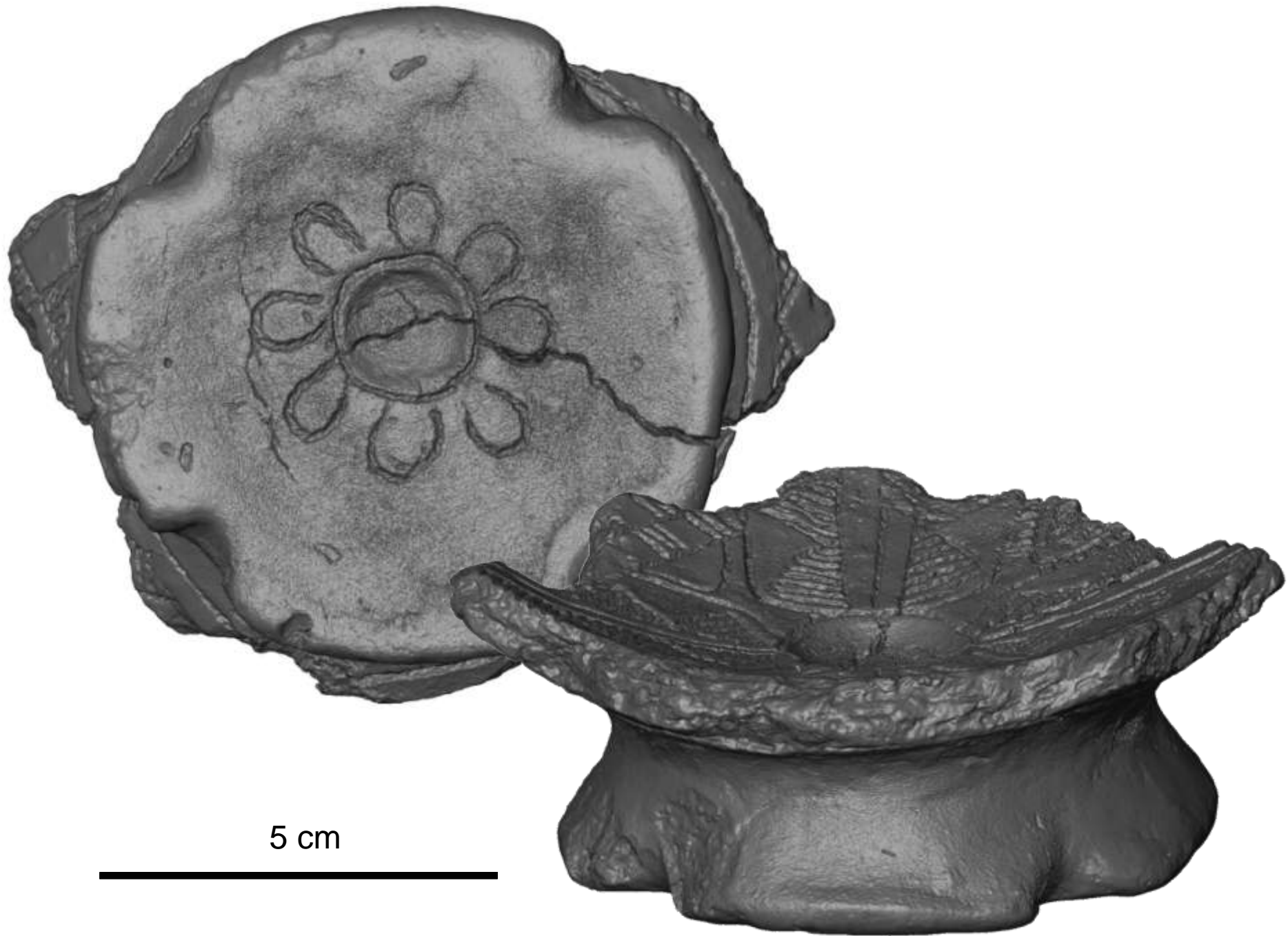
ABSTRACT

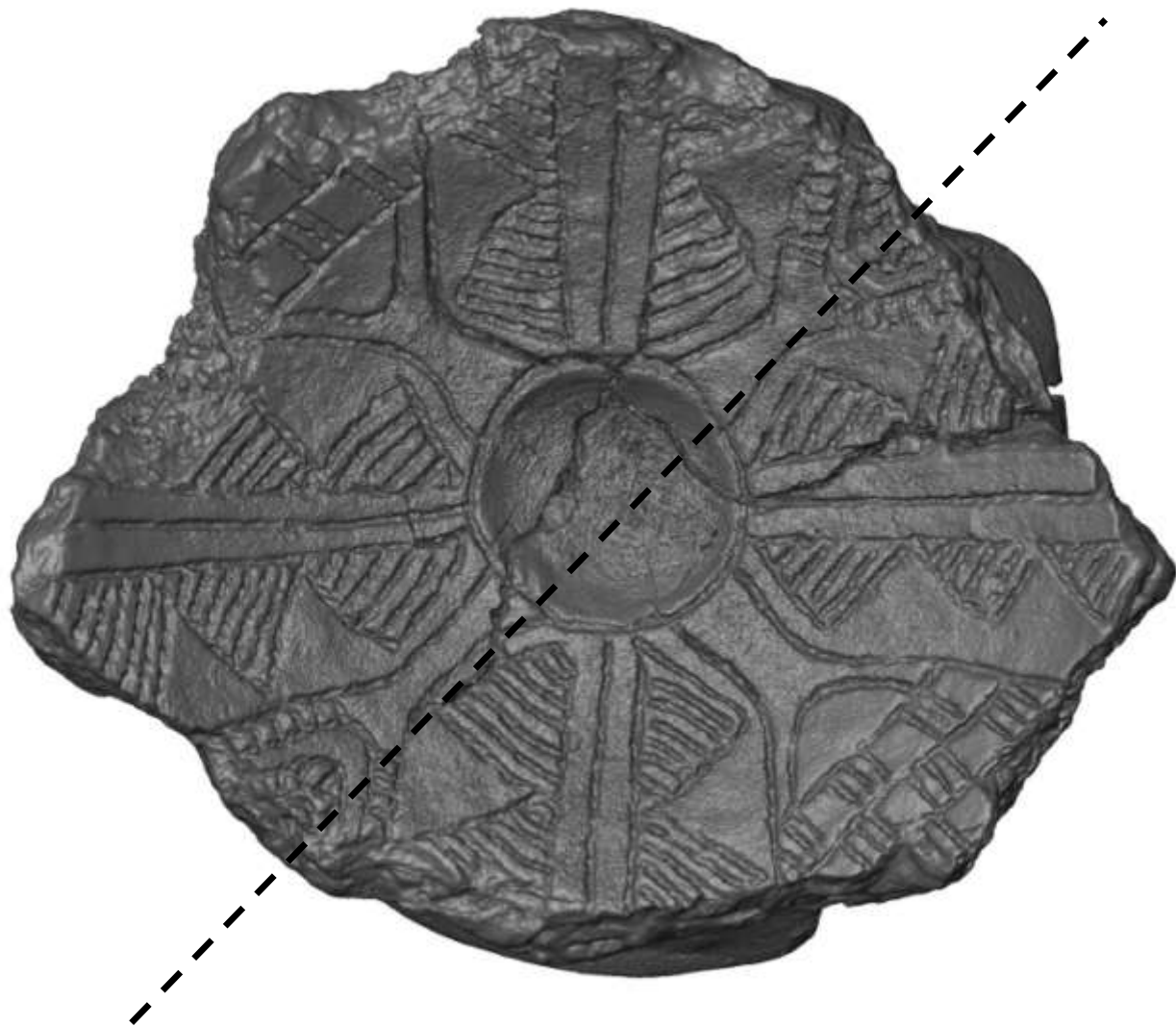
A group of Neolithic potsherds from caves of the Trieste Karst (northeastern Italy) belonging to the Vlaška Group has been studied through a multi-analytical approach mainly based on non-destructive X-ray computed microtomography (μ CT) and portable X-ray fluorescence (XRF), combined with X-ray diffraction (XRD) and optical microscopy (OM) to investigate both manufacture technology and provenance of the vases. Most samples, probably produced using a modelling technique, were made using clay-silt size paste containing quartz inclusions, tempered with the addition of abundant calcite and some limestone fragments. Calcite minerals, very common in the karstic environment, were probably obtained by grinding speleothems. This peculiar paste seems to be typical of the Karst area since prehistoric times. One single sample (5880), characterized by an unusual shape recalling those of the Fiorano culture (present in Emilia-Romagna and Veneto), shows a fine-grained fabric with numerous grog fragments, quartz, minor feldspar but without calcite. The 2D and 3D μ CT-derived fabric parameters, reflecting the manufacture technology, are also quite different from those of the local vases. These features suggest that sample 5880 was manufactured elsewhere and later reached the Karst, directly or indirectly. The combined use of conventional techniques and non-destructive XRF and μ CT, which allows the quantification of clay material, lithic inclusions and porosity, has proved to be an effective approach to investigate both technology and provenance of ceramic materials.



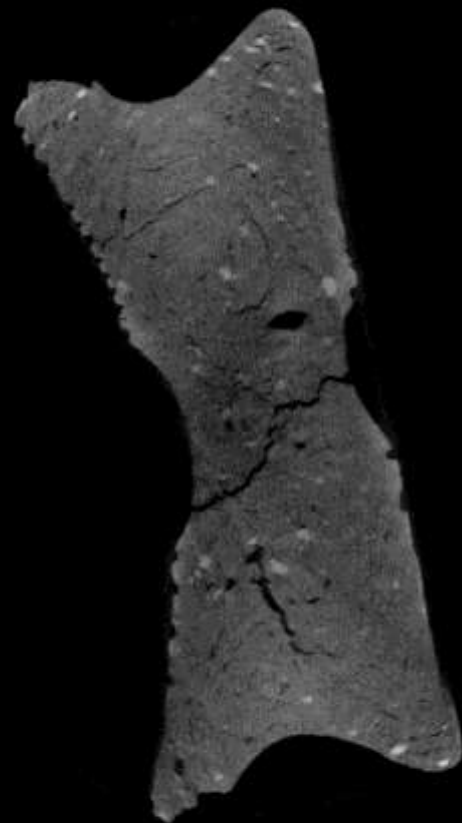








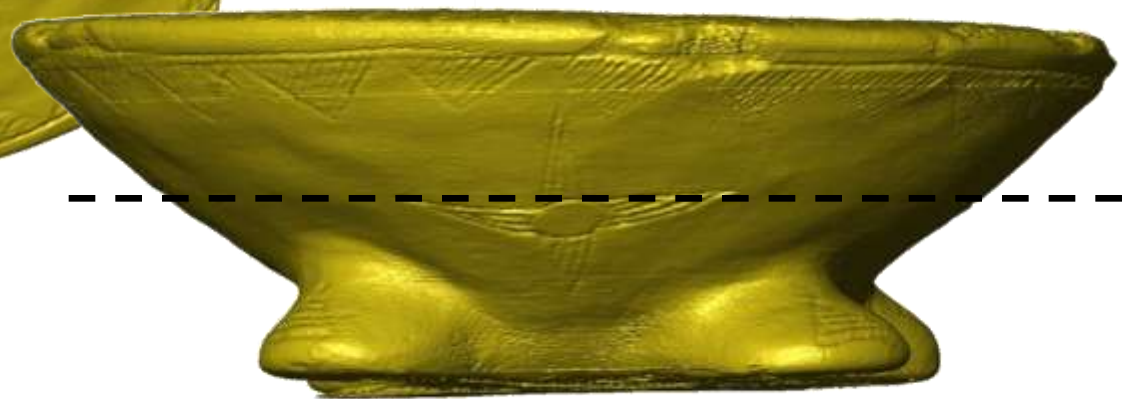
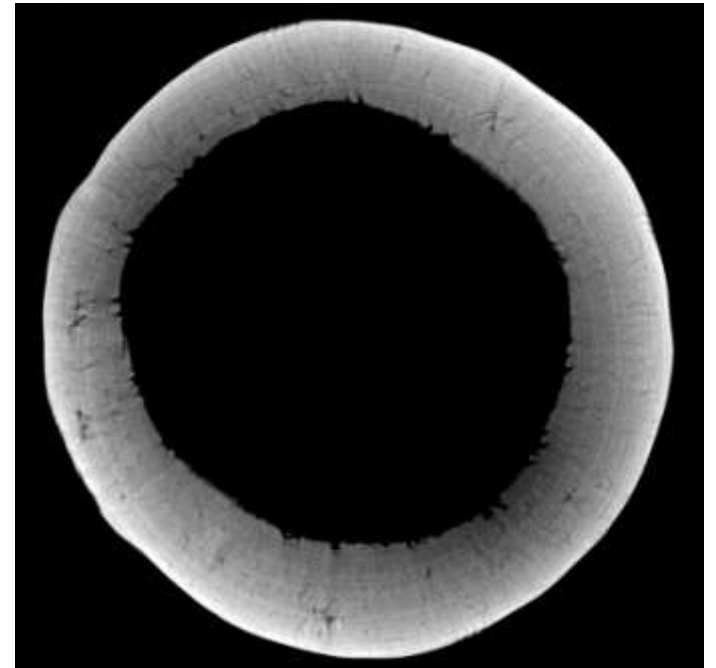
5 cm





5 cm



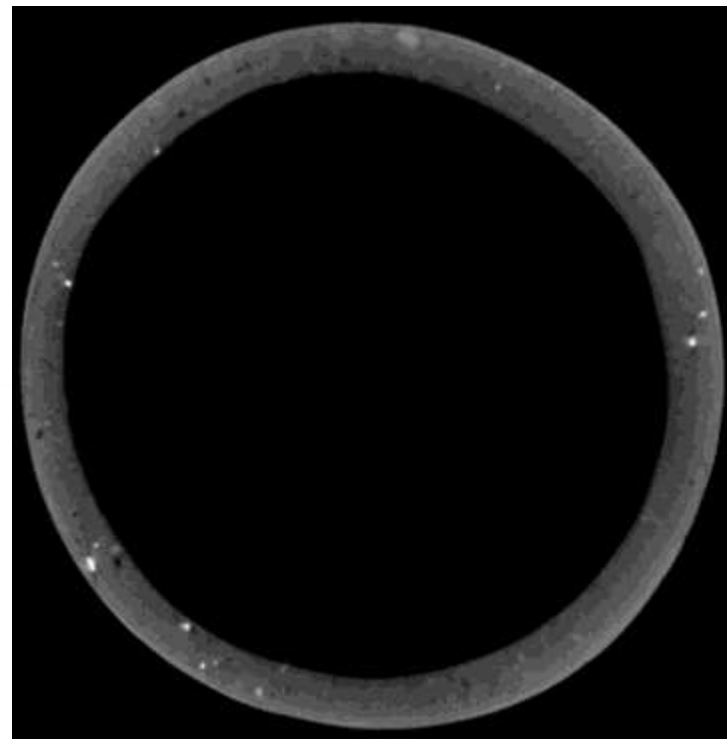


5 cm





3 cm

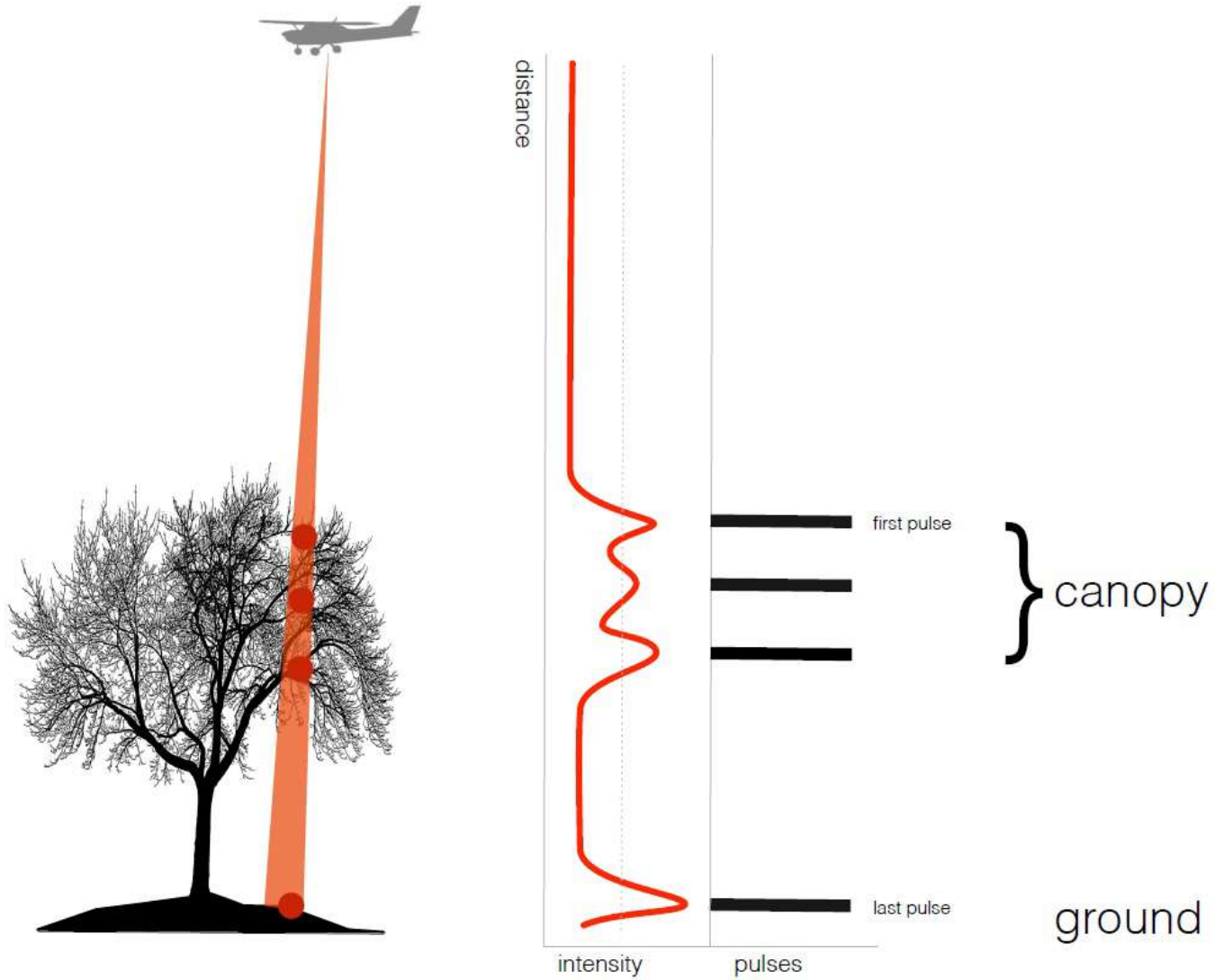


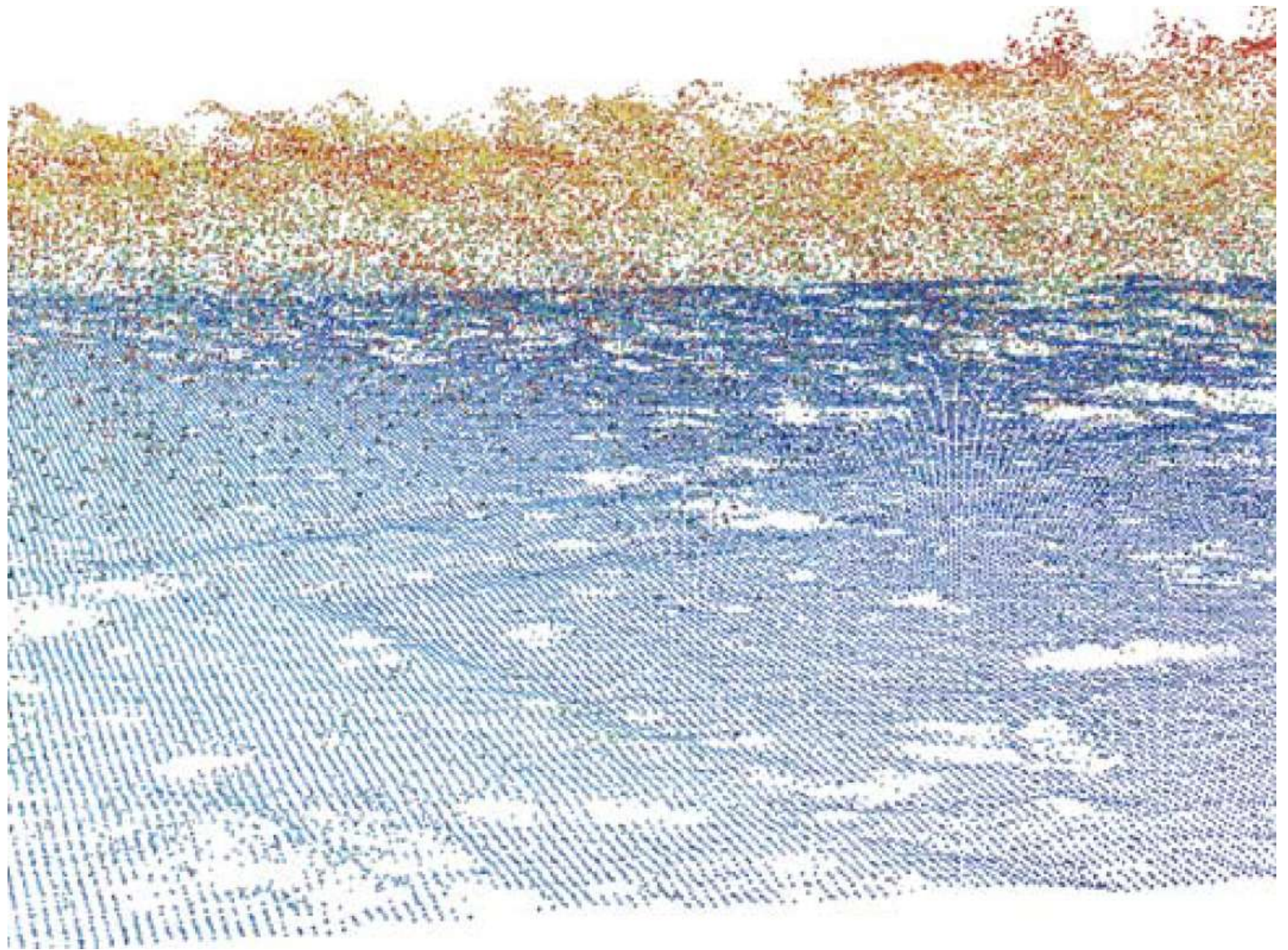


3 cm



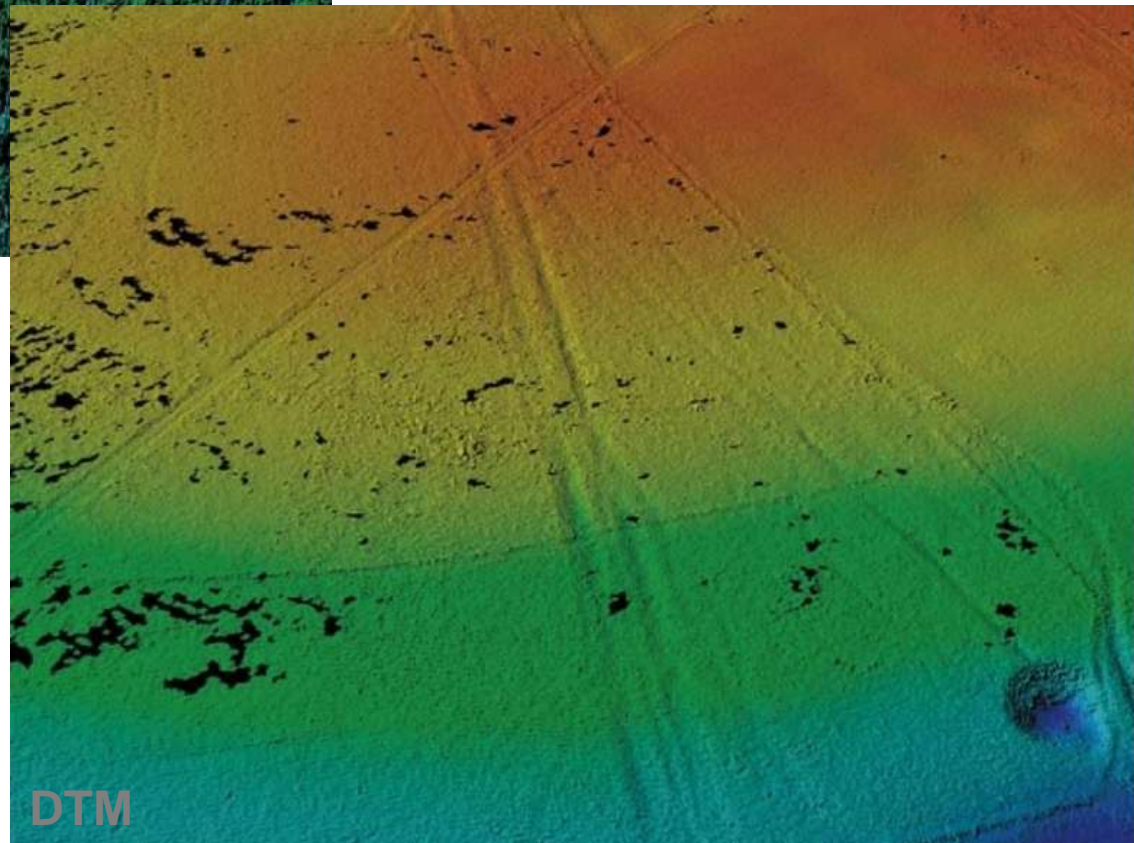
Airborne Laser Scanning



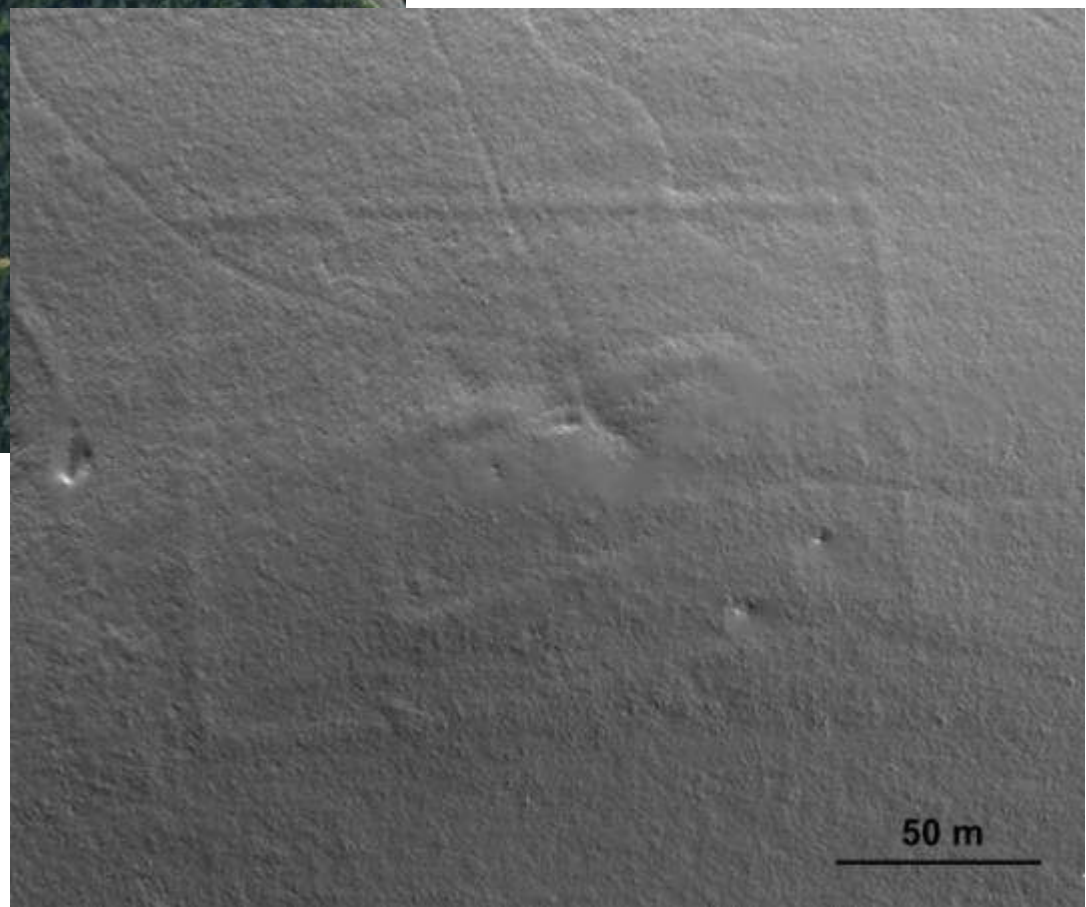




DSM



DTM

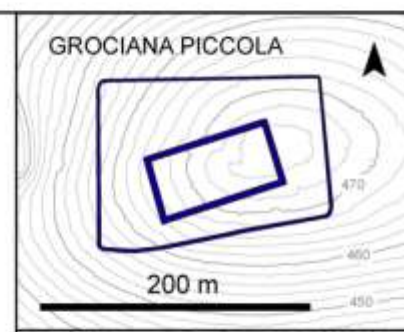
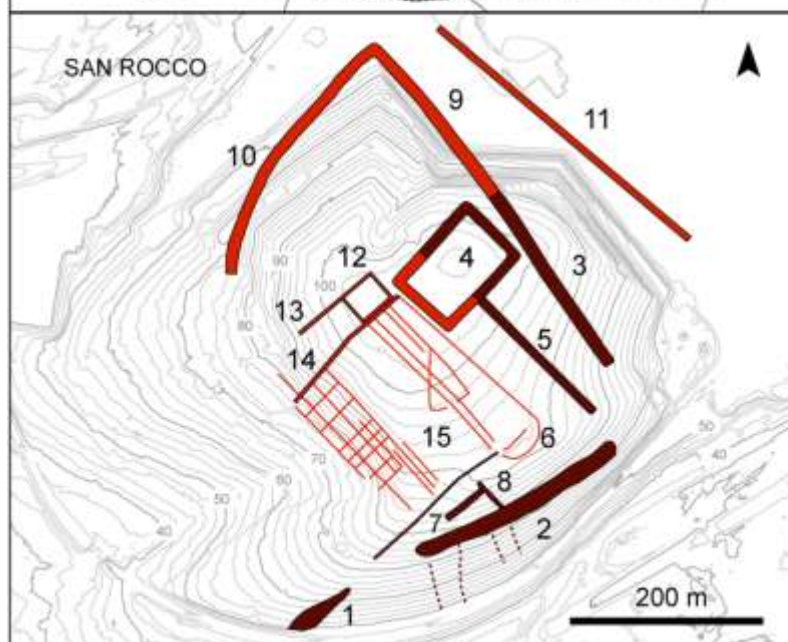
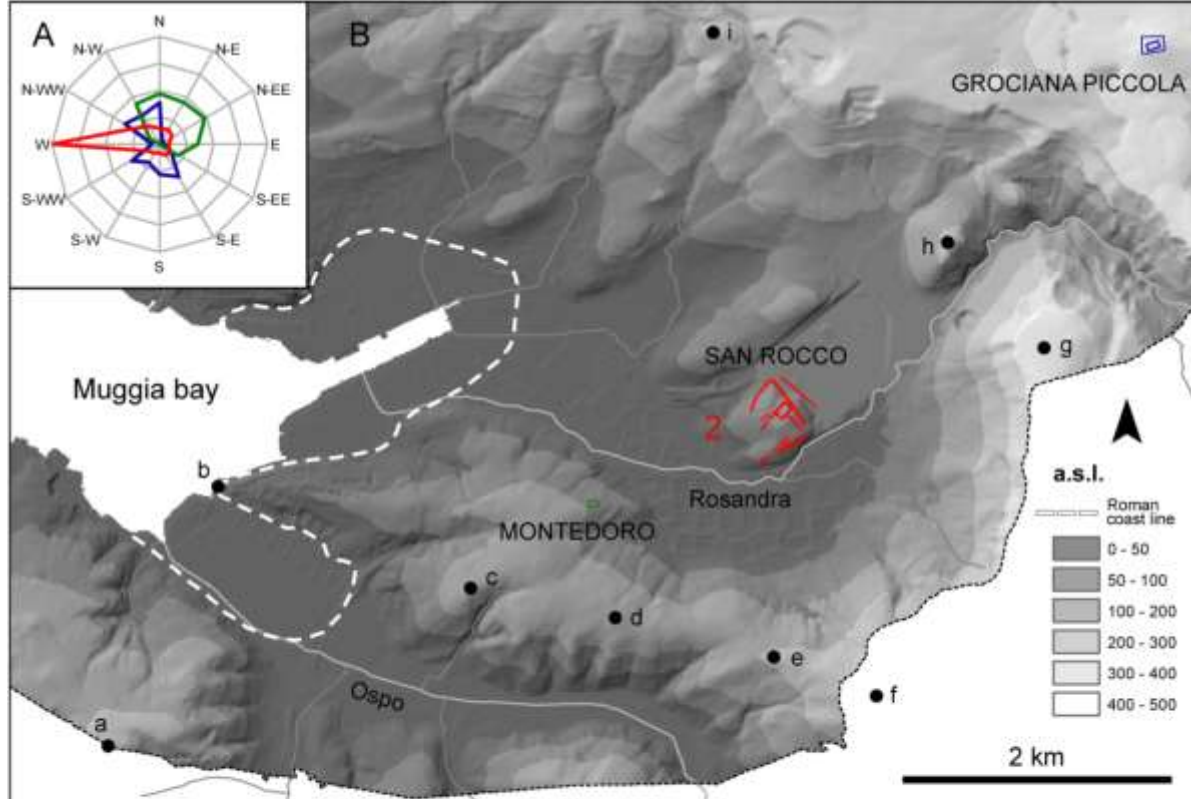


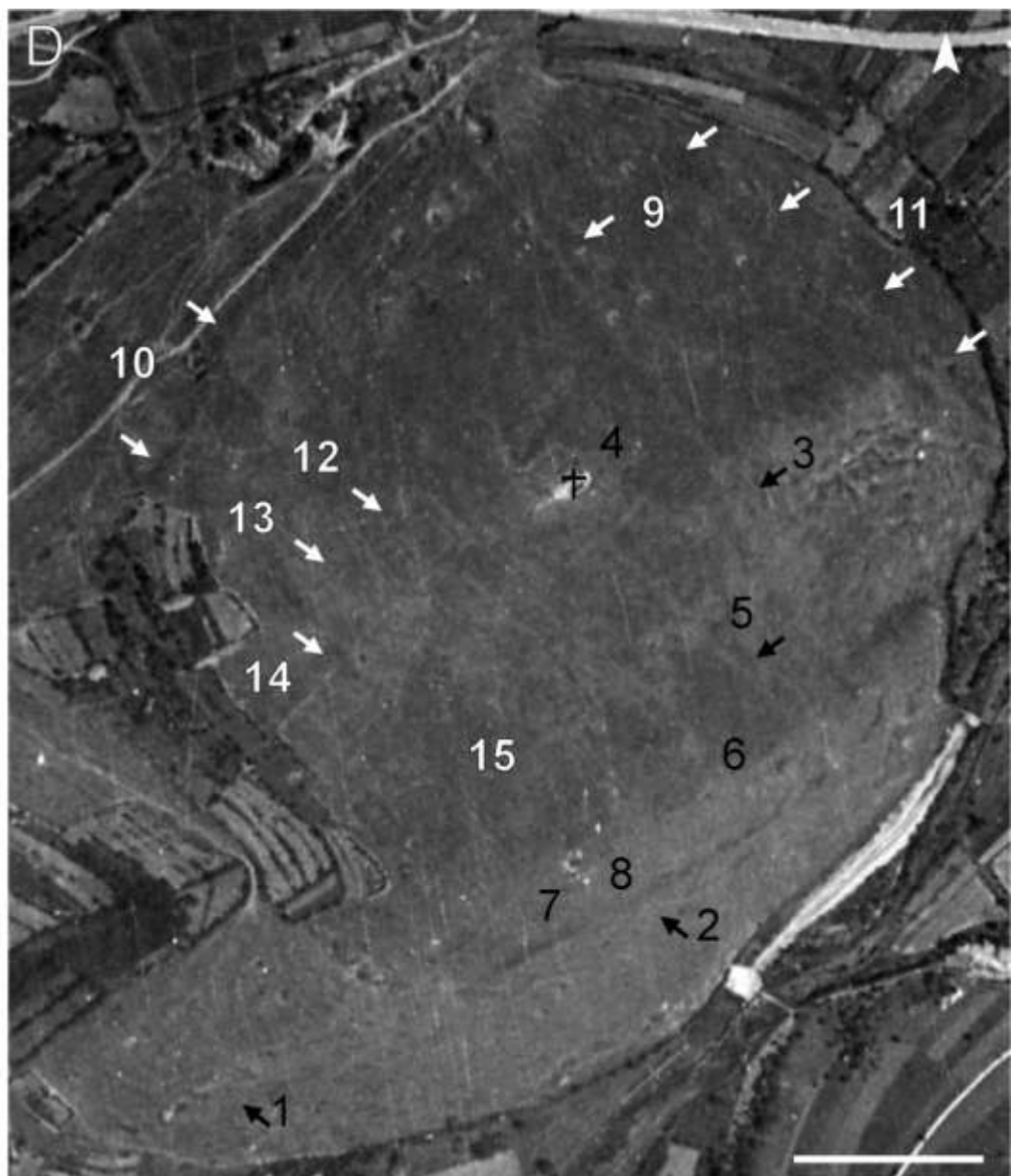
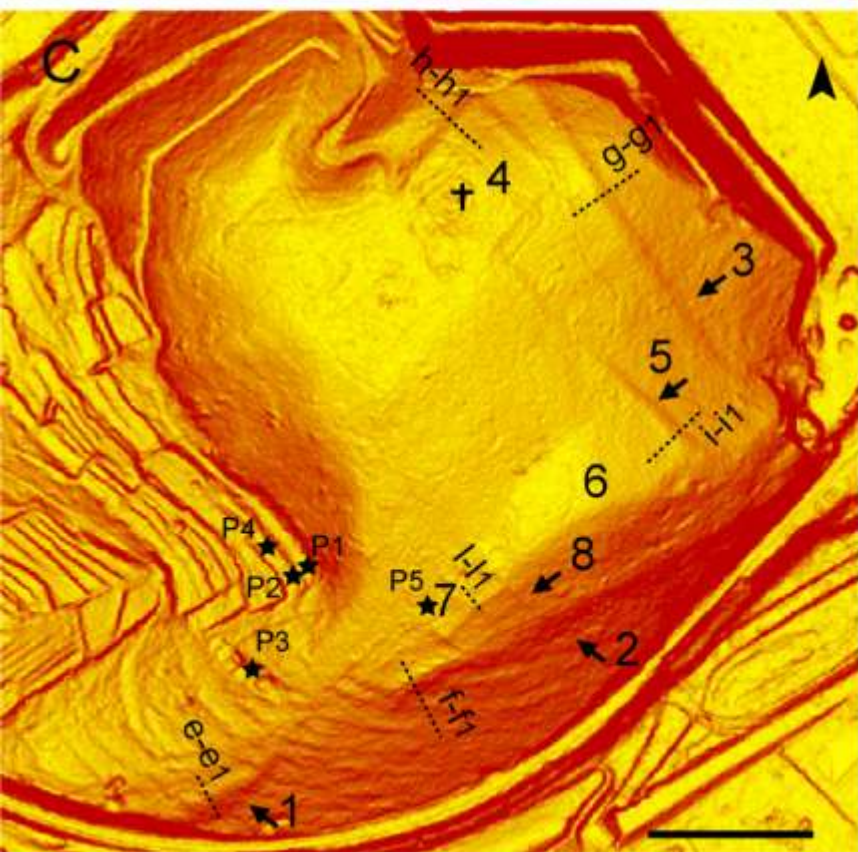
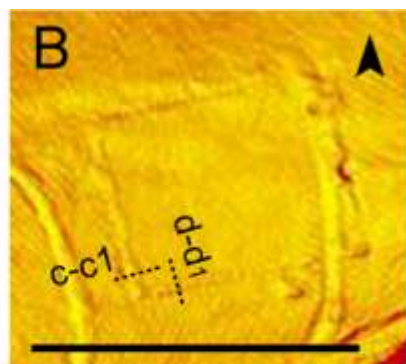
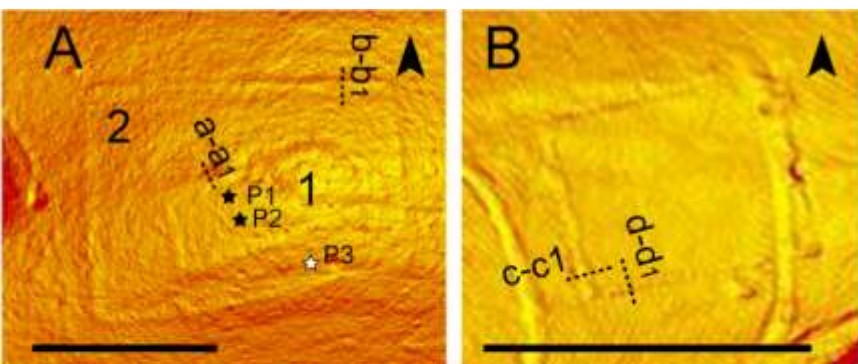
Bernardini F. et al 2013, Airborne LiDAR application to karstic areas: the example of Trieste province (north-eastern Italy) from prehistoric sites to Roman forts. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 40: 2152-2160.

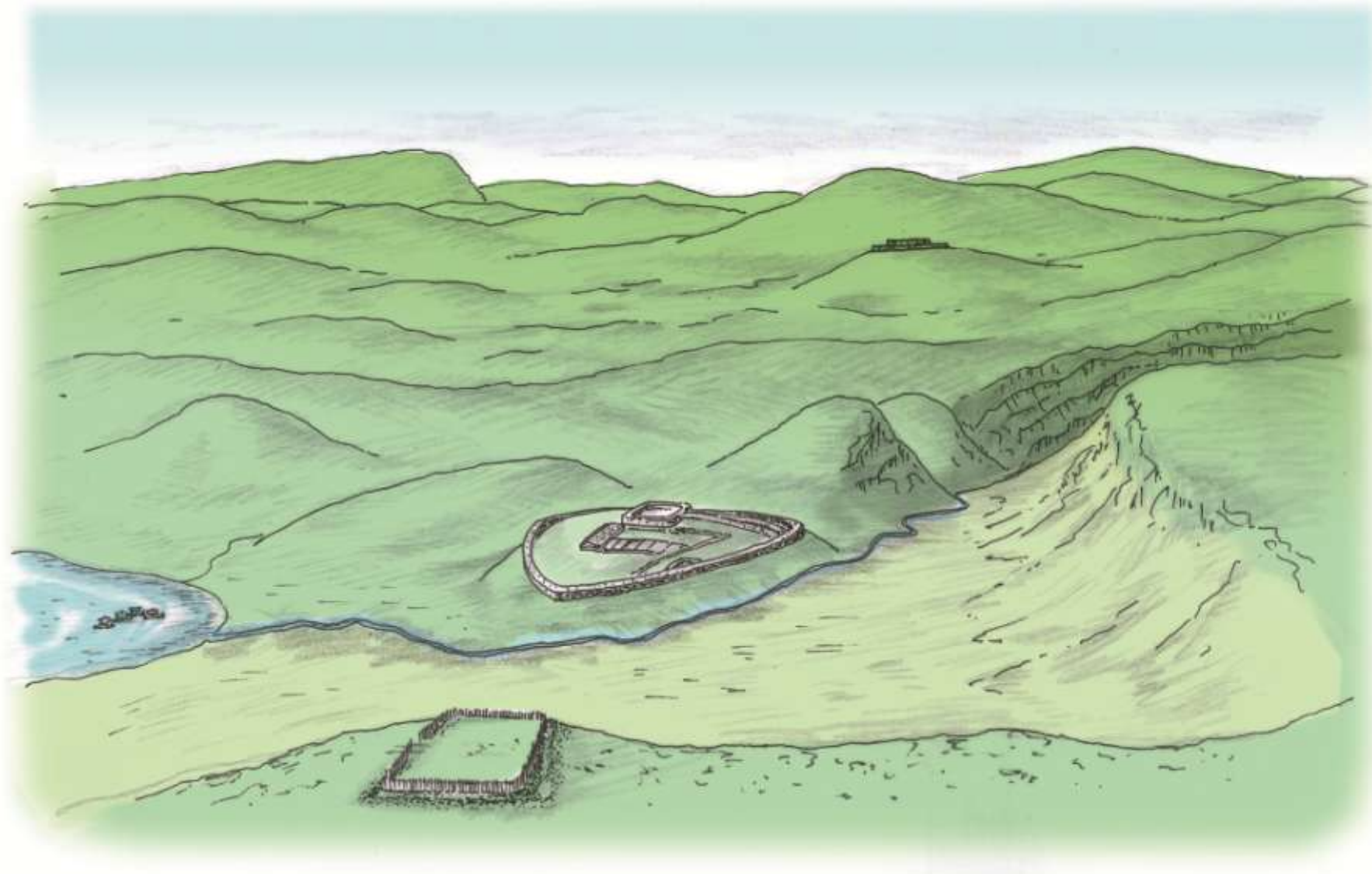


Roman shoe hobnail



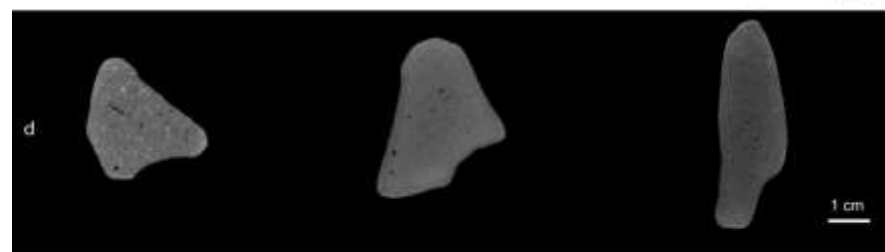
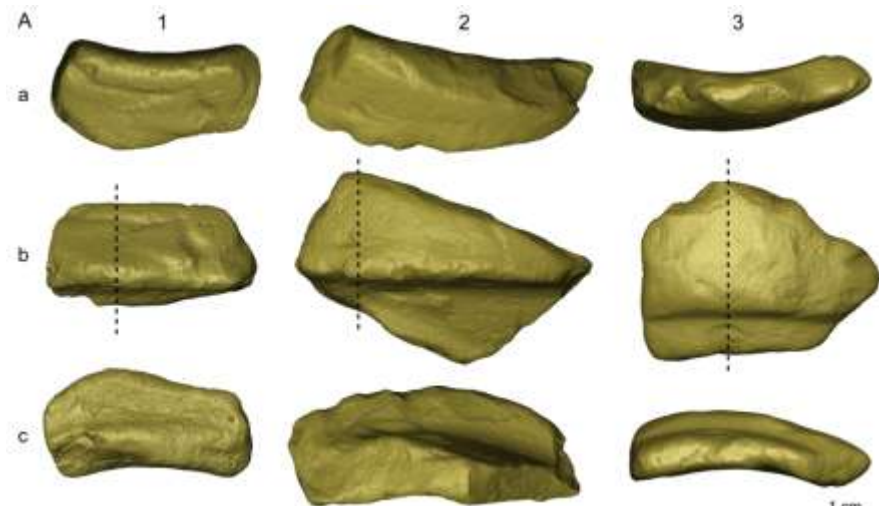
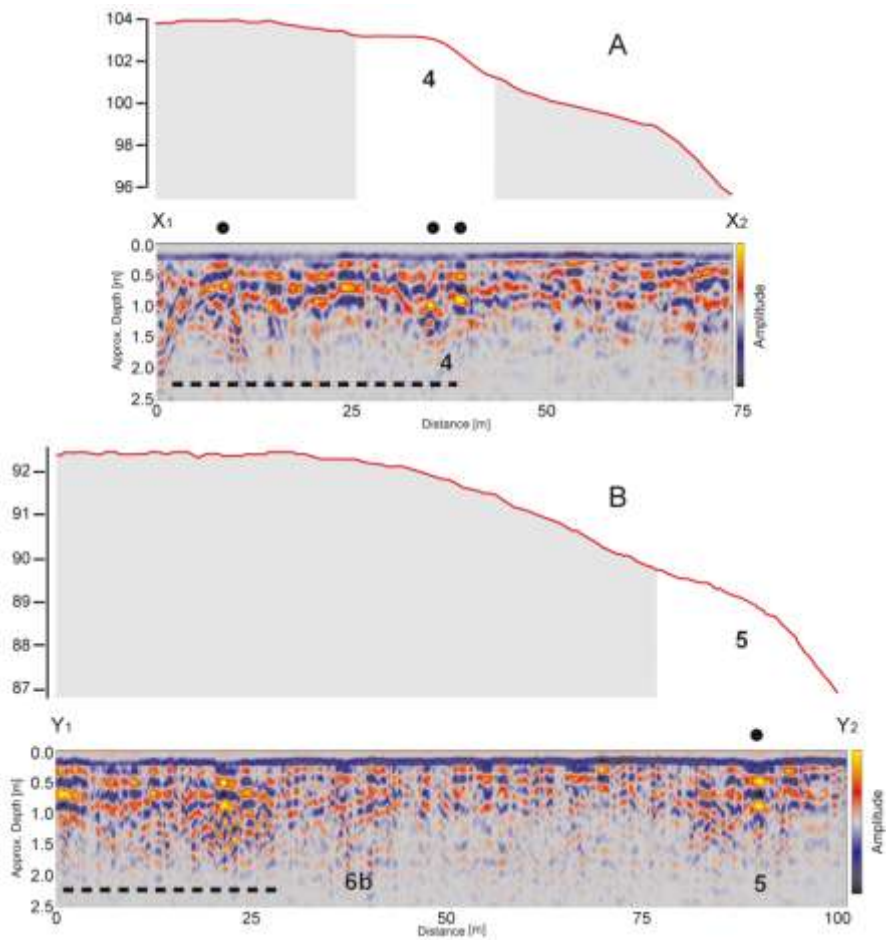


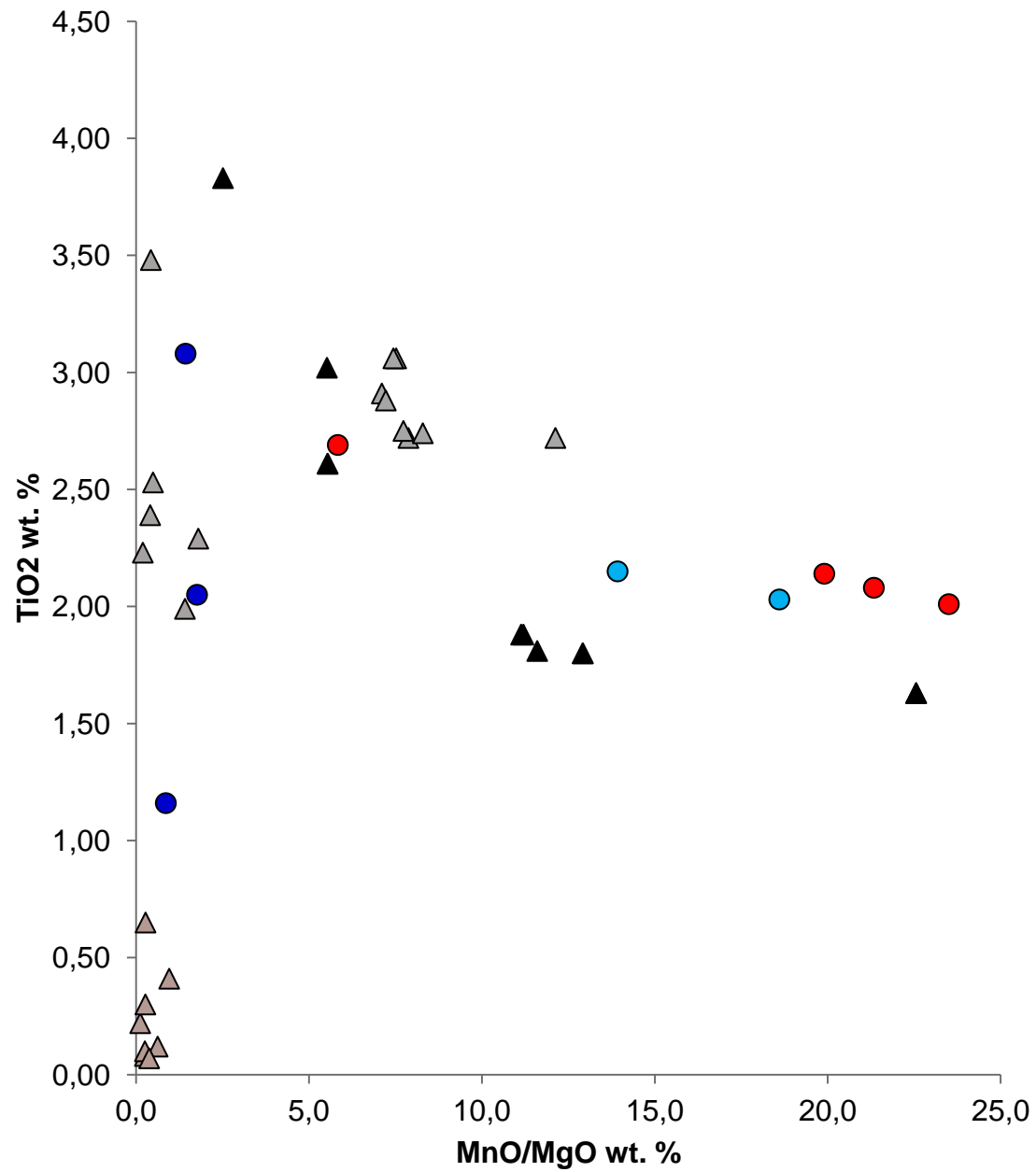




G. Zanettini







Beeswax as Dental Filling on a Neolithic Human Tooth

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Abstract

Evidence of prehistoric dentistry has been limited to a few cases, the most ancient dating back to the Neolithic. Here we report a 6500-year-old human mandible from Slovenia whose left canine crown bears the traces of a filling with beeswax. The use of different analytical techniques, including synchrotron radiation computed micro-tomography (micro-CT), Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) radiocarbon dating, Infrared (IR) Spectroscopy and Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM), has shown that the exposed area of dentine resulting from occlusal wear and the upper part of a vertical crack affecting enamel and dentin tissues were filled with beeswax shortly before or after the individual's death. If the filling was done when the person was still alive, the intervention was likely aimed to relieve tooth sensitivity derived from either exposed dentine and/or the pain resulting from chewing on a cracked tooth: this would provide the earliest known direct evidence of therapeutic-palliative dental filling.

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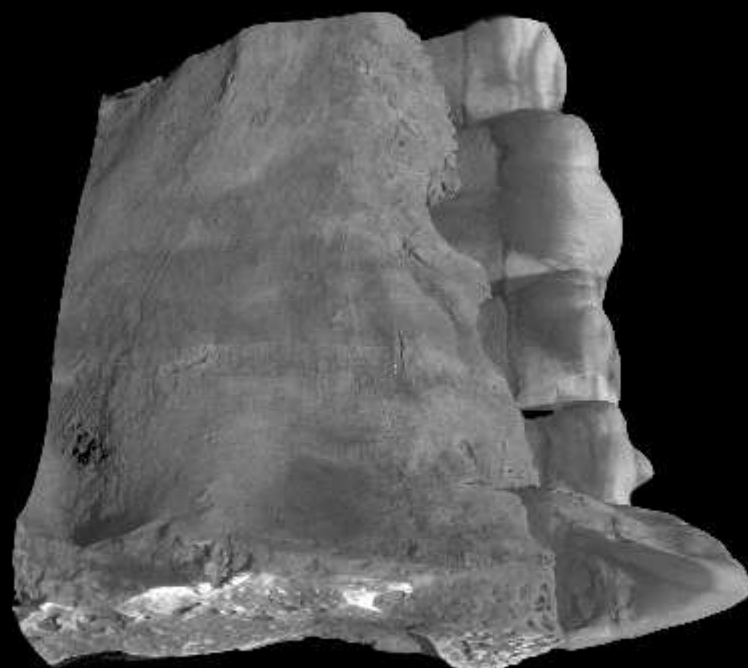
Competing Interests: The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

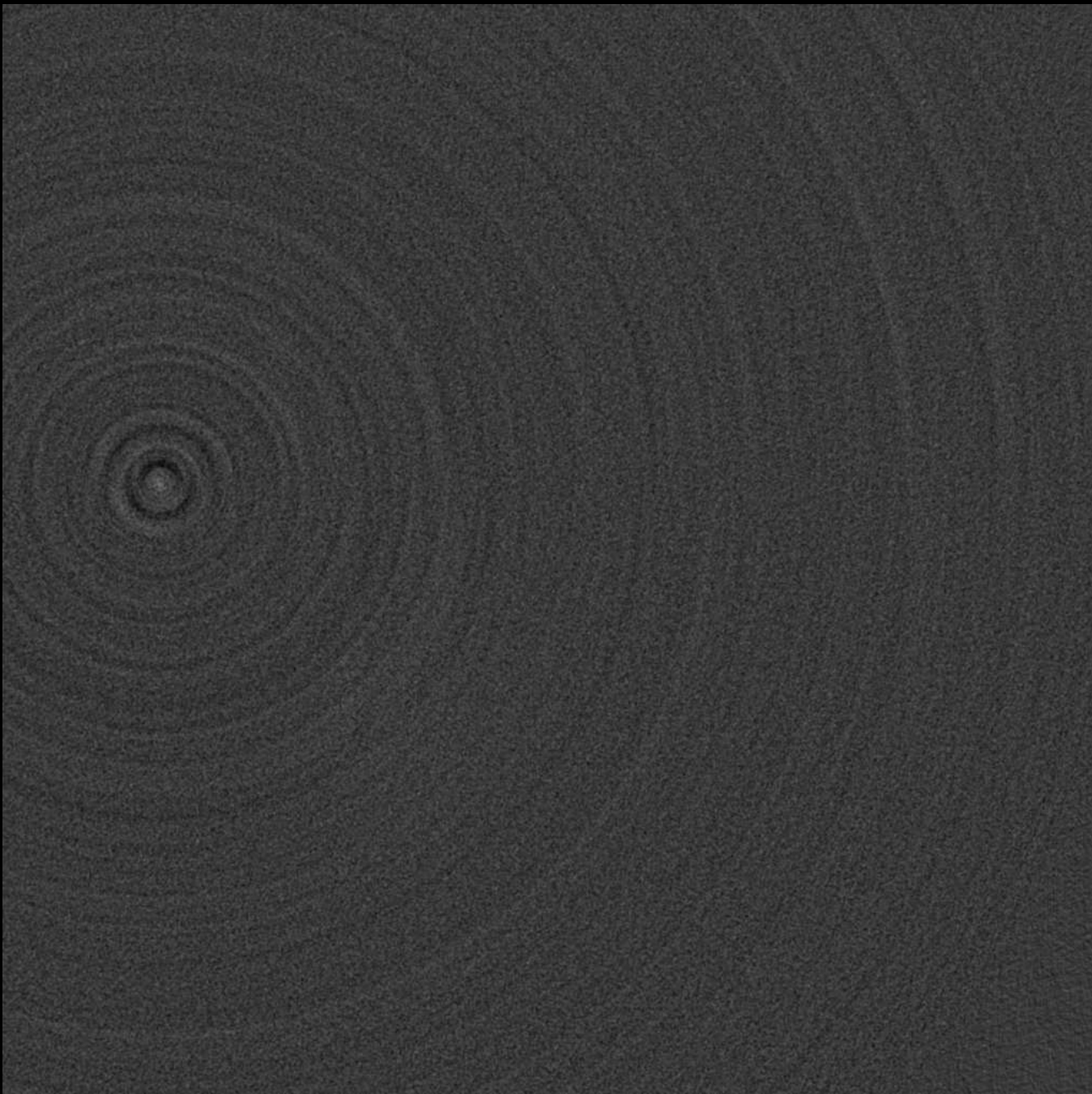
* E-mail: fbernard@ictp.it



Elettra - Trieste

Scene



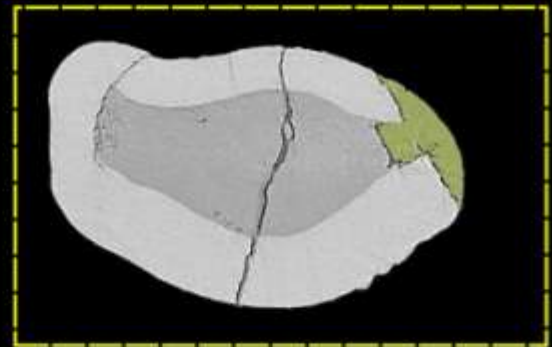
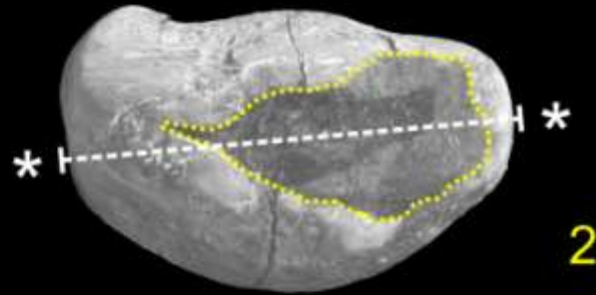
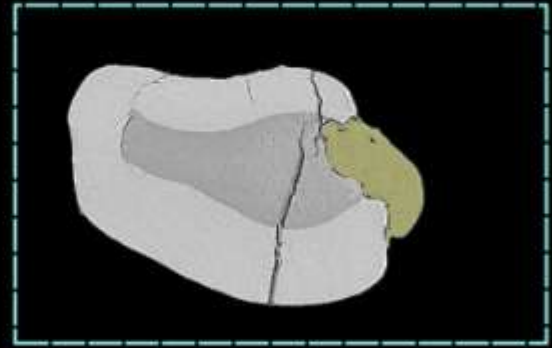
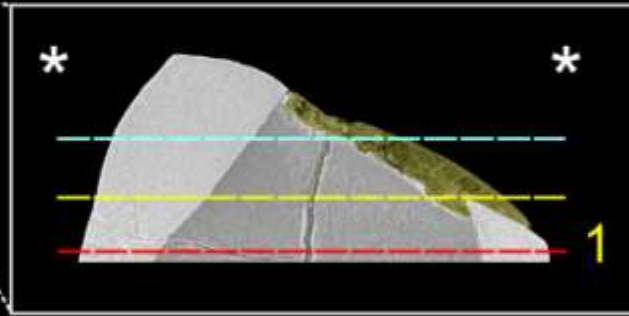
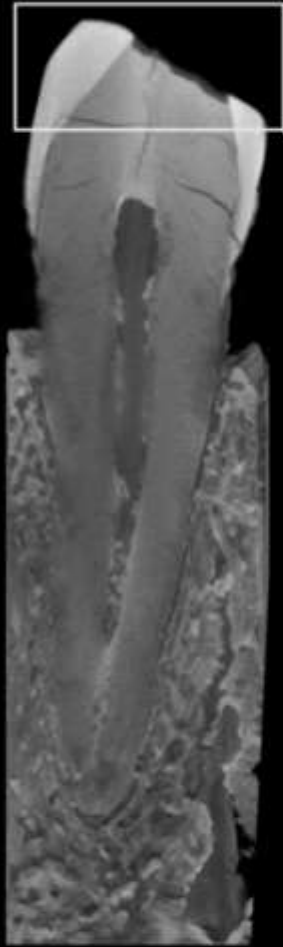


Lingual

A

B

C



Mesial

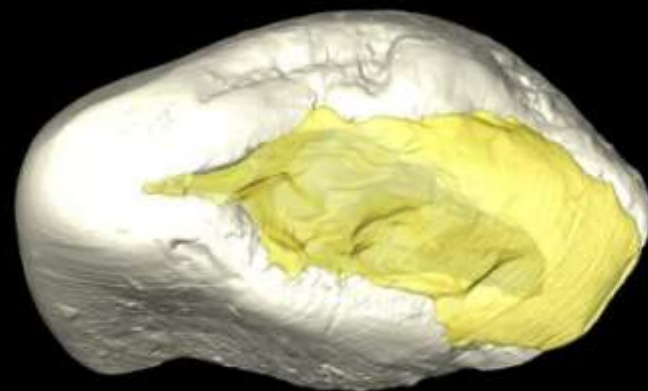
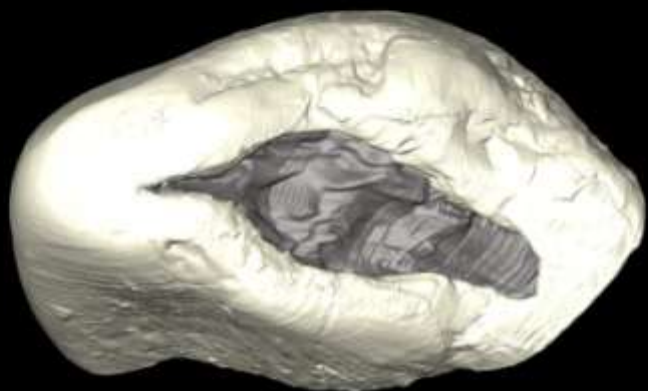
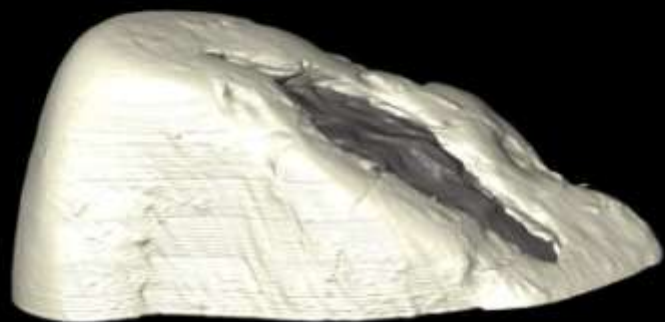
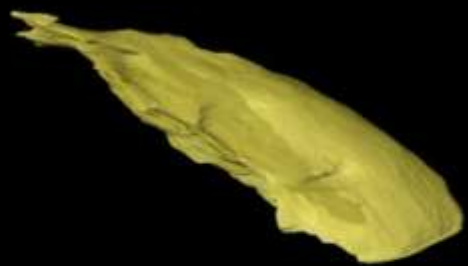
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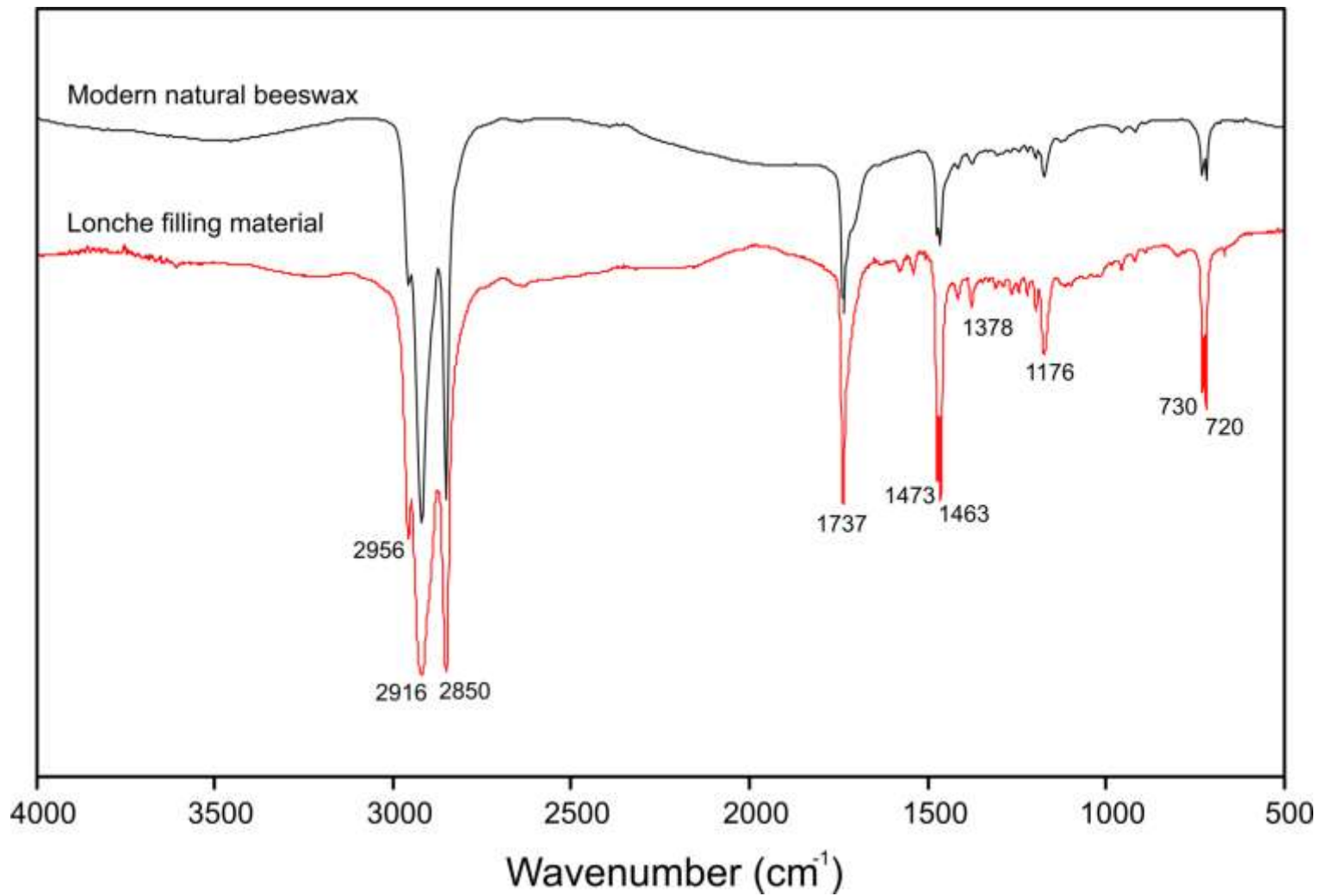
2 mm

2

3







Infrared spectroscopy



Center for **I**sotopic **R**esearch on **C**ultural and **E**nvironmental heritage

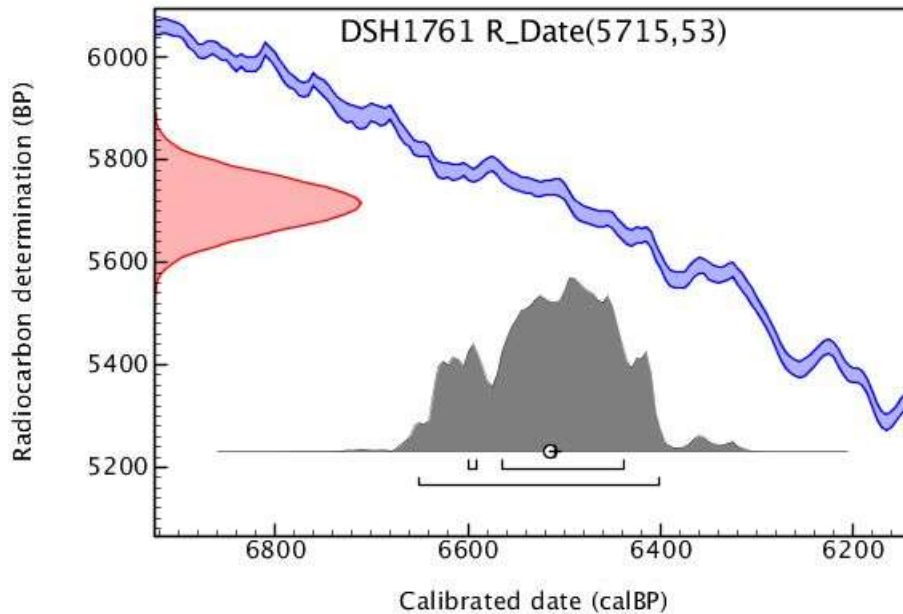
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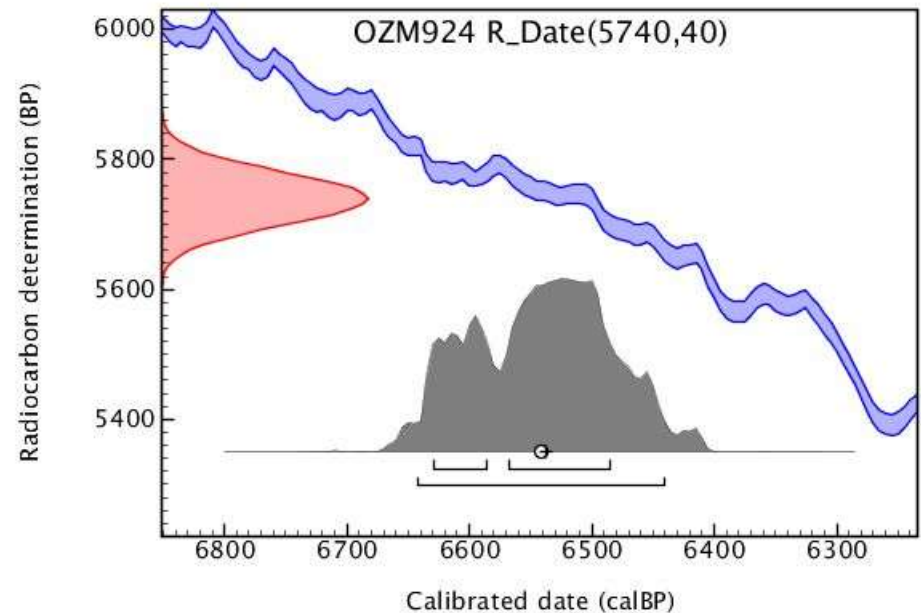


Beeswax:
4695-4453 BC (two sigma)

^{14}C measurements were performed using the STAR facility at ANSTO (Australia)

Mandible:
4688-4496 BC (two sigma)

^{14}C measurements were performed using the CIRCE AMS facility (Italy)



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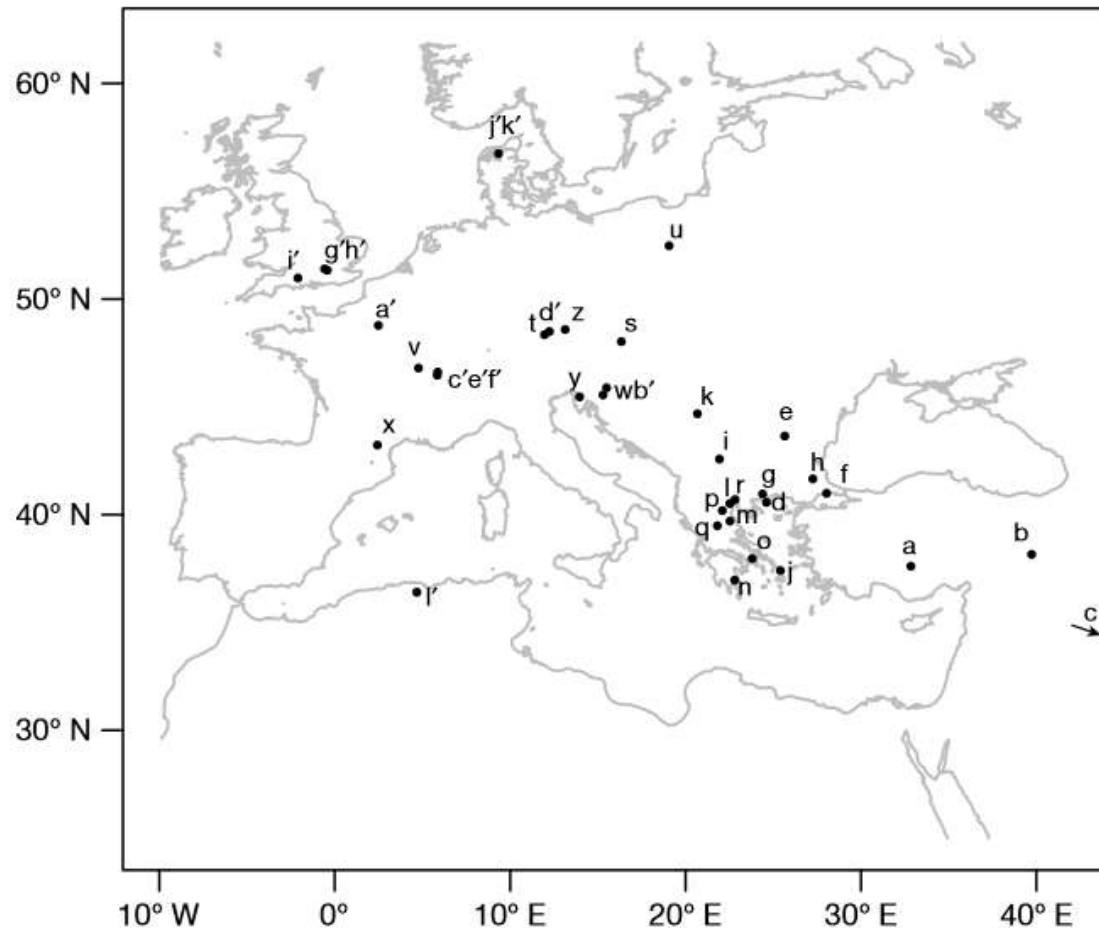
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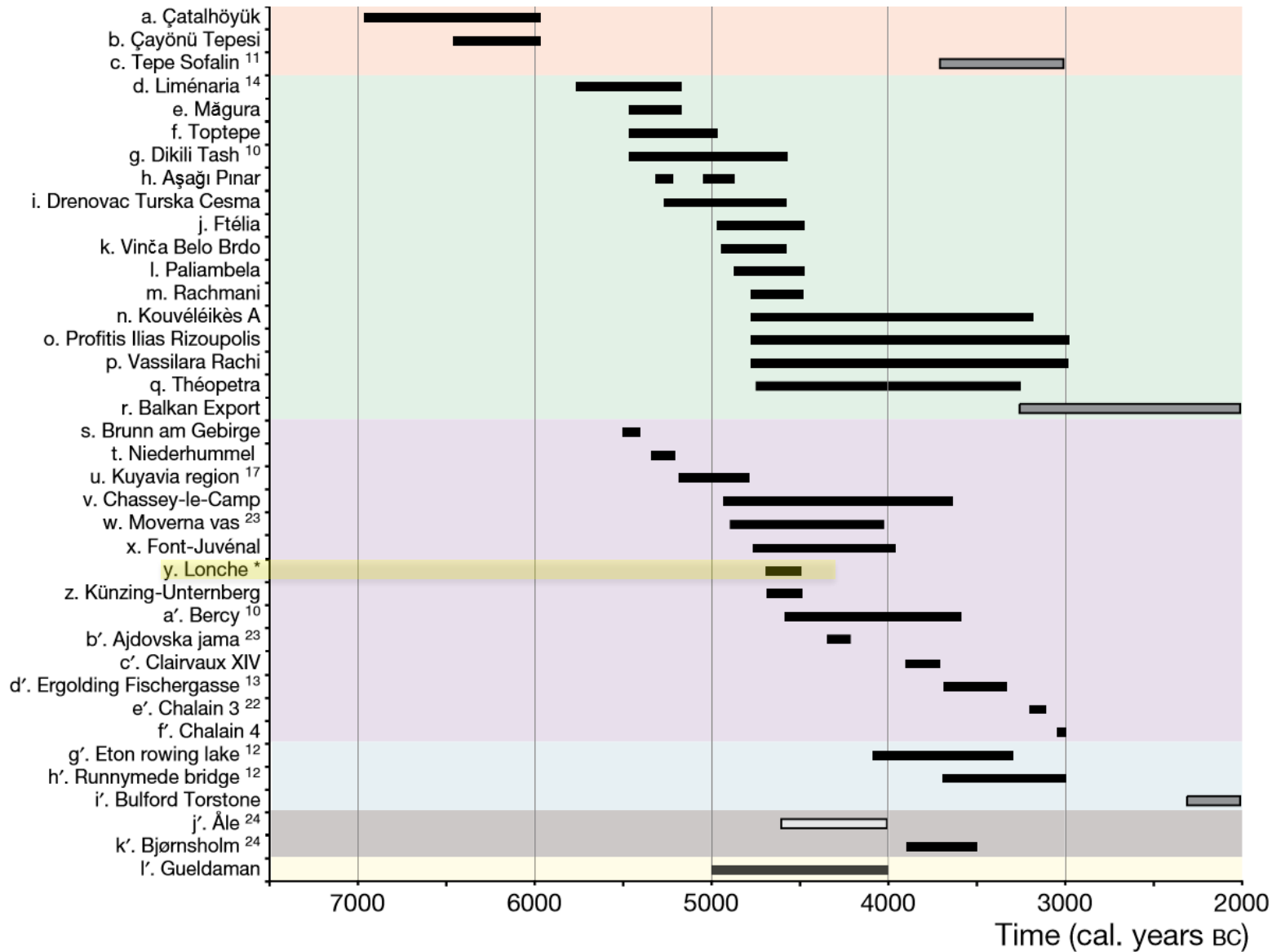
Widespread exploitation of the honeybee by early Neolithic farmers

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The pressures on honeybee (*Apis mellifera*) populations, resulting from threats by modern pesticides, parasites, predators and diseases, have raised awareness of the economic importance and critical role this insect plays in agricultural societies across the globe. However, the association of humans with *A. mellifera* predates post-industrial-revolution agriculture, as evidenced by the widespread presence of ancient Egyptian bee iconography dating to the Old Kingdom (approximately 2400 BC)¹. There are also indications of Stone Age people harvesting bee products; for example, honey hunting is interpreted from rock art² in a prehistoric Holocene context and a beeswax find in a pre-agriculturalist site³. However, when and where the regular association of *A. mellifera* with agriculturalists emerged is unknown⁴. One of the major products of *A. mellifera* is beeswax, which is composed of a complex suite of lipids including n-alkanes, n-alkanoic acids and fatty acyl wax esters. The composition is highly constant as it is determined genetically

through the insect's biochemistry. Thus, the chemical 'fingerprint' of beeswax provides a reliable basis for detecting this commodity in organic residues preserved at archaeological sites, which we now use to trace the exploitation by humans of *A. mellifera* temporally and spatially. Here we present secure identifications of beeswax in lipid residues preserved in pottery vessels of Neolithic Old World farmers. The geographical range of bee product exploitation is traced in Neolithic Europe, the Near East and North Africa, providing the palaeoecological range of honeybees during prehistory. Temporally, we demonstrate that bee products were exploited continuously, and probably extensively in some regions, at least from the seventh millennium cal BC, likely fulfilling a variety of technological and cultural functions. The close association of *A. mellifera* with Neolithic farming communities dates to the early onset of agriculture and may provide evidence for the beginnings of a domestication process.





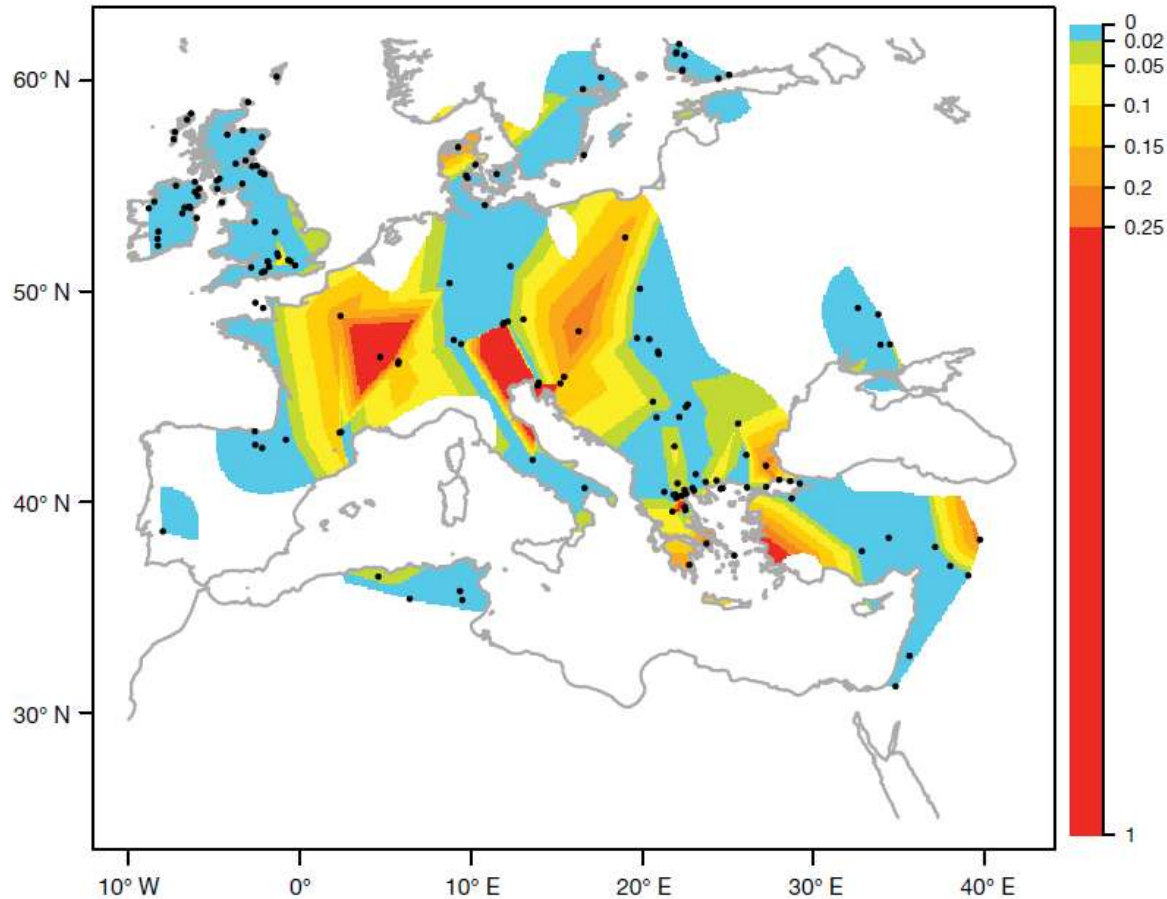


Figure 4 | Regional distribution of beeswax residues in potsherd lipid extracts. Interpolated map of Old World beeswax occurrences (proportion of beeswax residues per number of residues in pottery sherds, in percentages) during the Neolithic (including the Mesolithic sites available). Colours and colour key show the proportions of beeswax residues estimated by surface interpolation, where collection locations are represented by dots ($n = 154$).



Southern India



Thank you for your attention!