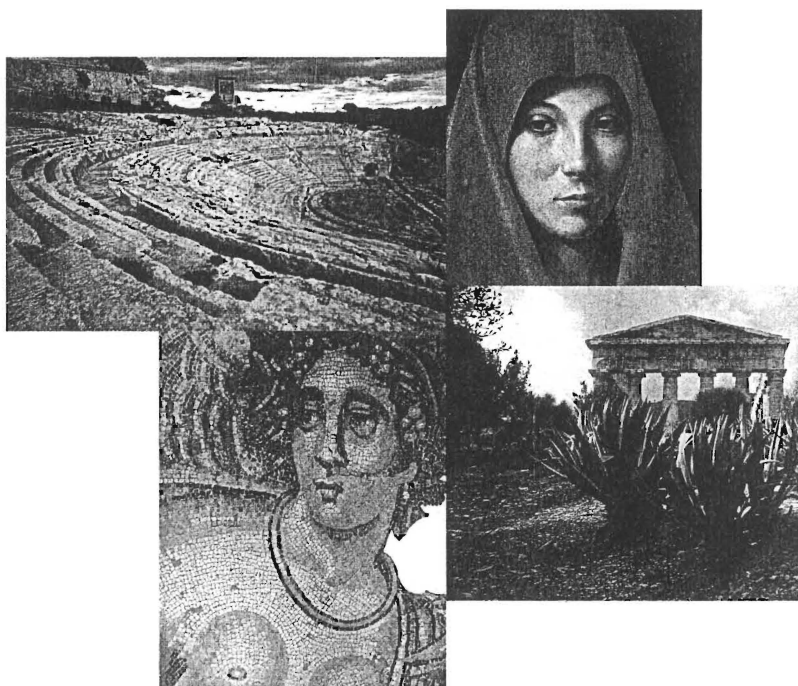


**1st INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON:
“SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR THE
SAFEGUARD OF CULTURAL HERITAGE IN
THE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN”**



**PROGRAM
and
ABSTRACTS**

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PALETHNOLOGICAL, PALYNOLOGICAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL DATA ON
THE GROTTA GRANDE CAVE OF SCARIO SALERNO (CAMPANIA SOUTHERN
ITALY, 40°02'21"N/15°28'31"E)

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Un. Siena-0577/298841

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"Dip. Geol.e Geodesia, c.so Tukory 131, Un.Palermo-091/6516070

The Grotta Grande Cave opens directly onto the Tyrrhenian Sea. Six test pits have been excavated: pit A, that will be the subject of our paper, is a lens of eroded deposit at the wall. It shows the stratigraphic series as follows (from the bottom): a) marine conglomerate probably related to isotopic stage 7; b) continental red sandy-silty deposit, densely laminated, sterile; c) stalagmite; d) red cemented breccia with alternating of concreted archaeological levels and hearth horizons (Middle Paleolithic). Between c) and d) there is a surface of erosion attributed, by the presence of *Strombus bubonius*, to the marine transgression of isotopic stage 5. The lithic industry consists of sidescrapers, followed by points and, to a lesser degree, denticulates. Pollen analysis was carried out on 29 samples taken from pits A, C, D, F, and on 18 surface samples along the cave. Pollen preservation was good but pollen content very low. Pit A diagram and surface transect are presented here. The pollen transect matches the vegetation of the area. Pit A diagram shows 3 main pollen zones: GGS I (units b and c) shows a forest vegetation dominated by conifers (*Cupressaceae*, *Pinus*) with some Mediterranean evergreens (*Quercus ilex*, *Olea*) and deciduous broadleaf trees (*Fagus*, *Quercus*, *Castanea*, *Carpinus*, *Fraxinus*), gradually increasing (stalagmite) in hygrophilous trees (*Alnus*, *Platanus*). In GGS II and GGS III zones (unit d) the landscape was not much different but in GGS III Mediterranean evergreens and lastly all woody plants decrease and a steppe-like vegetation (mostly *Cichorioideae* and *Gramineae*) begins, suggesting a cooler and drier climate. Some "Tertiary" taxa were found. A diversified faunal assemblage occurs in the archaeological levels (unit d) of pit A. Large mammals include abundant *Capra ibex* and *Dama dama*. Scarce remains indicate also the occurrence of *Bison priscus*, *Rupicapra pyrenaica* and *Stephanorhinus hemitoeus*. Small mammals include abundant *Apodemus sylvaticus* and *Microtus (Terricola)*, *Arvicola*, *Glis glis*, *Crocidura cf. leucodon* and *C. suaveolens*. The faunal assemblage indicates a forested environment with Mediterranean affinity. The association of taxa with temperate-Mediterranean characters and taxa indicative of a cooler climate as *Rupicapra* connects the deposit to a minor climatic oscillation evolving towards cooler conditions within an interstadial or a not particularly rigid stadial climatic phase that can be correlated with a temperate-cool oscillation of the ¹⁸O isotopic stage 5.