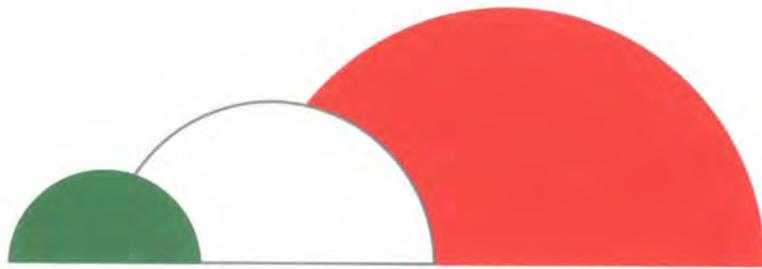




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## **TANELLA CAVE (MONTE BALDO - VERONA): ENVIRONMENTAL DATA FROM THE LAST GLACIAL, BASED ON HYDROGEOLOGY, STRATIGRAPHY, POLLEN AND MICRO-CHARCOALS**

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*Key terms: cave; hydrogeology; fluvioglacial sediments; pollen*

Since 2003, an extensive hydrogeological investigation has been carried out on Monte Baldo by researchers of the Civic Natural History Museum of Verona, in order to make the census of springs occurring along the west side of the mountain and to evaluate the quality of their water. The investigation included morphological and hydrogeological observations concerning the Tanella Cave and interdisciplinary investigations performed on the deposits found into the Cave.

The present paper presents the first data concerning the hydrogeology of the Cave as well as data on stratigraphy, pollen and micro-charcoals obtained from the analyses of a well preserved sequence located at ca. 80 m from the entrance (sequence A). Aim of the study was to reconstruct the environment of the area around the Cave along the time span testified by the sequence. The sequence is 60 cm thick and was built up by fluvioglacial sediments followed by lacustrine sediments. Five samples taken along the sequence plus three recent control samples (mosses), collected in places assumed as origins of the pollen input, were studied for pollen and micro-charcoals. Pollen preservation was good and concentration varied from 101 to 103 p/g. Pollen spectra from the Cave showed the evolution from a landscape of alpine grassland above the timberline, likely of glacial age, to a Holocene more forested landscape similar in flora to the current one testified by the control samples. Pollen probably arrived in the Cave by air, water and animals. Micro-charcoals suggested that fires were sometimes lit into the Cave.