
Stone tools production from the Mesolithic levels of Grotta del Romito (Calabria, Italy): new insights on the Sauveterrian of Southern Italy

Domenico Lo Vetro^{*†2,1}, Stefano Bertola¹, and Fabio Martini^{2,1}

²Museo e Istituto Fiorentino di Preistoria – Via S. Egidio, 21 50122 Firenze, Italy

¹Dipartimento SAGAS - Unità di Archeologia Preistorica, Università di Firenze – Via S. Egidio, 21 50121 Firenze, Italy

Abstract

Grotta del Romito (Cosenza, Calabria) is located at the southern margin of Pollino National Park, in the inner region of the Low-Tyrrhenian side of Italy. During the recent archaeological researches carried out by the University of Florence, new excavations performed in the rock-shelter area, brought to light a pre-Neolithic sequence which attests a human frequentation during the Early Holocene. The stratigraphic succession consists of several Early Mesolithic levels overlaying an Upper Palaeolithic (Late Epigravettian) deposit. Mesolithic stone assemblages show "typical" Sauveterrian techno-typological features; some elements seem to be rooted in the local Late Epigravettian tradition.

At Romito the uninterrupted sequence from Palaeolithic to Mesolithic, supported by several AMS radiocarbon dates (from ~13,3 to ~11 Ky cal. BP), allows us to follow the evolution of the chipped stone productions (tools typology, technical systems, raw materials procurement) at the Late Epigravettian-Sauveterrian transition.

New data from Romito provide new insights on both the emergence of Sauveterrian techno-complex in Southern Italy and the role, in its formational process, of the local Epigravettian tradition, also in order to reconsider the model of a North to South diffusion of Sauveterrian in Italy

Keywords: Early Mesolithic, Sauveterrian, stone tools assemblages, Southern Italy

*Speaker

†Corresponding author: dlovetro@unifi.it