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From the Roman Empire to the present: Two millennia of pollen-based environmental changes and climate-human interactions in the Po Delta area (NE Italy)

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1 From the Roman Empire to the Present: two millennia of pollen-based environmental changes and climate- 2 human interactions in the Po Delta area

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11
12 Keywords: prodelta, Po Plain, wetlands, river floods, Late Antiquity, pollen, Little Ice Age

13 14 15 ABSTRACT

16 Holocene prodelta lobes are key sedimentary archives of environmental change that can be used effectively
17 for high-resolution palynological investigations, as they: *i*) consist almost entirely of mud, *ii*) represent
18 stratigraphically expanded successions, and *iii*) are strictly related to river dynamics, thus reflecting
19 vegetation changes in river catchments. In this study, we focused on the ~20 m-thick prodelta succession of
20 the modern Po Delta (NE Italy), fed by two river branches (Volano and Goro) that were mostly active during
21 the past two millennia, a period of rapid acceleration of natural resources' exploitation and climate
22 variability. Forty-eight samples with mean temporal resolution of 50 years were analysed. Eleven ecological
23 groups and four pollen zones were identified, with distinct peaks of the secondary-primary pollen ratio
24 marking major floods during the Volano-Goro lobe switching and the Little Ice Age. Five vegetation phases
25 were detected since the 1st century AD. In the framework of a patchy natural-cultural landscape, patterns of
26 wetland expansion/contraction reflect the combined effect of cool-wet oscillations (LALIA – Late Antique
27 Little Ice Age), land management (reclamations) and river avulsion. Forest dynamics document warm
28 conditions during the so-called “Roman Climate Optimum” and “Medieval Warm Period”, although minor
29 cool-wet episodes occurred in tune with solar minima, and bipartite climate conditions (cool-moist followed
30 by cool-dry) characterized the LALIA. Since the 14th century, despite human-induced forest shrinking, peaks
31 of montane vegetation followed a centennial-scale cyclicity likely influenced by solar minima and major
32 plagues.

33 34 35 Introduction

36
37 Decoding the dynamic interactions between environmental variability, climate oscillations and human
38 activities through the last millennia is fundamental for the development of landscape conservation and
39 restoration strategies. This fascinating, but challenging, task requires a multi-proxy approach, a firm
40 chronological framework and appropriate stratigraphic archives (eg, Dearing, 2006; Zanchetta, 2013; Dubois
41 et al., 2018; Roberts et al., 2019).

42 As a hotspot of the world civilization, the Mediterranean region hosts a myriad of archaeological sites that
43 preserve the record of an enduring relationship among environment, climate and societal evolution. Several
44 in-site or site-proximal (*sensu* Mayoral et al., 2020) sedimentary successions have been studied through the
45 geoarchaeological analysis of cores and trenches, searching for evidence of the natural-to-cultural landscape
46 shift. These studies (eg, Marriner et al., 2008; Goiran et al., 2010; Kaniewski et al., 2013, 2022; Pepe et al.,
47 2013; Pint et al., 2015; Sarti et al., 2015; Shumilovskikh et al., 2016; Ghilardi et al., 2018) benefitted from a
48 multivariate dataset, including lithological (eg, grain-size, geochemistry, magnetic susceptibility) and
49 palaeobiological (eg, molluscs, meiofauna, palynomorphs, diatoms) data, as well as manufactured materials
50 and historical documents. However, off-site archives accumulated in inland and coastal wetlands (ie, lakes,
51 marshlands and peatlands, lagoons) have commonly furnished a longer and relatively continuous record of
52 landscape changes, ensuring the documentation of “pre-impact” conditions and the earliest advent of the
53 anthropogenic forcing (eg, Di Rita and Magri, 2012; Vittori et al., 2015; Di Rita et al., 2022; Susini et al., 2023).
54 Within these mud-dominated successions, well-preserved palaeobiological proxies enable the reconstruction

55 of ecosystems (“one physical systems” *sensu* Tansley, 1935; Richter and Billings, 2015) variability and drivers
56 at millennial to sub-millennial timescales (eg, Bellotti et al., 2016; Ejarque et al., 2016; Melis et al., 2018;
57 D’Orefice et al., 2020; Rossi et al., 2021). Pollen and spores, in particular, are considered key indicators, as
58 their stratigraphic distribution tracks changes in past vegetation communities in relation to changes in natural
59 conditions (eg, drainage patterns, coastline configuration, precipitation, temperature) and/or land-use (eg,
60 Di Rita and Magri, 2012; Mercuri and Sadori, 2013; Mercuri et al., 2013; Sadori, 2013).
61 Moreover, the environmental-facies signal, which is particularly strong within paludal (Cacciari et al., 2020;
62 Amorosi et al., 2021), alluvial (Marchesini et al., 2010) and lake margin (Sadori et al., 2004) settings, is strongly
63 influenced by local conditions (eg, water-table level, degree of humidity, salinity), possibly shadowing climate
64 and anthropic footprints. By contrast, marine records from the shelf or in proximity of river mouths proved
65 effective in investigating environmental dynamics in relation to climatic fluctuations and human activities (Di
66 Rita et al., 2018; Michelangeli et al., 2022).
67 In this regard, following a source-to-sink perspective, prodelta lobes can represent promising sedimentary
68 archives for a comprehensive landscape reconstruction, as they preserve palynomorphs that reflect the
69 palaeovegetation of the river basin (or, at least, of its distal portion) with no need to weigh the facies signal
70 of the hosting deposit. Although rather underexplored, Mid-Late Holocene prodelta successions also
71 guarantee a good preservation of palynomorphs and a high-resolution record, owing to the fine-grained
72 nature of their deposits and high accumulation rates (up to cm/yr). The high potential of prodelta pollen
73 assemblages and the predominant role played by river courses as vectors for pollen grains onto river-
74 influenced shelves have been documented by Beaudouin et al. (2005, 2007) from the subaqueous portion of
75 the Rhône Delta (Gulf of Lions, W Mediterranean).
76 In this study, we examine the historical record of the Po Delta (N Adriatic Sea; Figure 1), one of the largest
77 Mediterranean deltaic systems, which also proved to be sensitive to changing human land-use in its
78 catchment (Maselli and Trincardi, 2013; Stefani, 2017; Ninfo et al., 2018). Specifically, we focus on the last
79 two millennia, which have seen an increasing intermixture of human activities and climate variability on the
80 landscape, and the transition from a state of nature-domination to one of human-domination (Zanchetta,
81 2013 and references herein) associated with a lengthy and intense settlement since proto-historic times
82 (Anthony et al., 2014). Our main objective is to foster knowledge of the long-term processes that determined
83 the present landscape configuration by exploiting the palynological record of a prodelta succession
84 accumulated in the Po Delta (Figure 1A). With the support of a robust stratigraphic and geomorphological
85 framework furnished by previous works (eg, Stefani and Vincenzi, 2005; Correggiari et al., 2015; Amorosi et
86 al., 2017, 2019a), we specifically aim to: *i*) explore the potential of delta lobes to preserve relatively
87 continuous palynological archives and *ii*) investigate the interaction among vegetation patterns, river
88 dynamics, climate and human activities during the last ~2000 years.

89
90

91 **Study area**

92

93 ***Geological and stratigraphic setting***

94

95 [insert Figure 1]

96

97 The ~650 km-long Po River flows from West to East across the wide alluvial Po Plain (watershed of ~74,500
98 km²) and empties into the Adriatic Sea, a narrow (~200 x 800 km), microtidal (tidal range currently < 1 m;
99 Sedrati et al., 2011) basin elongated between the Italian and the Balkan peninsulas (Figure 1A). The Po Delta
100 is part of a broad coastal area bounded by the Adige River Delta and the Venice Lagoon to the north and by
101 the Northern Apennines to the south. Its delta plain, located below the mean sea level for about half of its
102 extension, outstretches up to ~30 km inland of the present coastline and includes several wetlands, partly
103 reclaimed, ancient river branches and beach ridges (Correggiari et al., 2005; Figure 1A).
104 The Quaternary sedimentary fill of the Po Basin consists of vertically stacked transgressive-regressive cycles
105 composed of alternating shallow-marine and continental deposits developed under a Milankovitch-scale
106 forcing (ie, 100 kyr oscillations; Amorosi et al., 2004). A weakly developed palaeosol formed during the

107 Younger Dryas and overlain by backstepping estuarine deposits demarcates the Holocene transgressive
108 surface (Amorosi et al., 2017; Figure 1B).
109 Following the relative sea-level (RSL) stabilisation around 8-7 kyrs BP (Vacchi et al., 2016), a complex pattern
110 of delta outbuilding and shoreline progradation characterised the coastal system (Figure 1B). The activation
111 and abandonment of delta lobes, testified by geological data and historical sources, reflect repeated episodes
112 of channel avulsion and shifting along a > 70 km wide coastal stretch under the influence of subsidence,
113 climate fluctuations and human land-use (eg, Correggiari et al., 2005; Stefani, 2017; Cremonini, 2021).
114 Specifically, a three-fold delta progradation was reconstructed (Amorosi et al., 2019b). After the filling of the
115 Po estuary through bay-head delta progradation (Bruno et al., 2017) around 7000 yrs BP, a shallow, wave-
116 dominated deltaic-coastal system with extensive inter-distributary wetlands weakly prograded (~2.5 m/yr)
117 south of the modern Po Delta under the combined influence of fluvial avulsions and longshore drift. During
118 this period, several Po River branches were alternately active (eg, Po di Adria, Po di Spina, Po di Primaro).
119 Since about 2000 yrs BP, a rapidly prograding (up to ~15 m/yr) set of lobes has accumulated into ~30 m-deep
120 waters (Amorosi et al., 2019b; Figure 1A-B). The oldest delta lobe of the Roman Republican Age is ascribed
121 to the Po di Ariano (the present-day Po di Goro), while the Po di Volano lobe mostly prograded from the Late
122 Roman to the Early Middle Age (Ciabatti, 1967; Correggiari et al., 2005; Figure 1A). This fluvial network
123 remained stable until the 12th century AD (~800 yrs BP), when a strong hydraulic reorganization promoted
124 by a major avulsion (known as “Ficarolo avulsion”) ultimately placed the Po River system into its present-day
125 position. This event led to: *i*) the abandonment of the Volano lobe at the advantage of the Goro lobe and *ii*)
126 the activation of the Po di Fornaci outlet in a northern position. The subsequent, increasing sediment supply
127 towards the Venice Lagoon forced the Senate of the Venice Republic to operate the Porto Viro diversion
128 (1600-1604 AD), marking the onset of the Modern Age delta (Stefani, 2017). From the 17th to the first
129 decades of the 20th century, the strongest period of delta building took place largely due to enhanced human-
130 induced sediment production in the river catchment (Maselli and Trincardi, 2013). At present, the highest
131 mass accumulation rates on the N Adriatic shelf are recorded close to the active Po outlets (up to 3.3
132 g/cm²/yr, Frignani et al., 2005; Figure 1A), among which the Pila branch shows the highest water (~60% of
133 the total) and sediment discharge values (~75%).

134

135 ***Present-day vegetation and climate***

136 The study area (Figure 1A) is characterised by a sub-Mediterranean climate with a certain degree of
137 continentality. The maximum annual precipitation is 778 mm/yr (minimum values in July and August) and
138 the mean annual temperature is ~13.2 °C, with a thermal excursion of ~22 °C between July–January (Ubaldi,
139 2003). The vegetation is mainly composed of cultivated fields, mostly wheat (*Triticum*) and chard (*Beta*
140 *vulgaris* L.), with poplar (*Populus*) and willow (*Salix*) woods along river channels. Exceptions to this
141 monotonous landscape are: *i*) many exotic taxa, mainly spreading from railways, roads and gardens
142 (Alessandrini et al., 2011), and *ii*) the Mesola Great Wood, a remnant of the former coastal meso-
143 Mediterranean holm oak forest historically extended along the N Adriatic coastline (Cortesi, 2005). From a
144 broad perspective, the Po Plain falls into the Central European phytogeographic region. However, because
145 of the proximity to the Mediterranean region, the local vegetation shares intermediate features, as the sub-
146 Mediterranean climate allows for the mixing of continental elements from the alluvial plain with
147 Mediterranean taxa typical of the coastal vegetation (Piccoli et al., 1983; Corbetta et al., 1984; Ferrari et al.,
148 1985; Bassi, 2004). As a whole, three main vegetation belts occur (Pignatti, 1979; Ferrari, 1997): *i*) ericaceous
149 dwarf shrublands above the timberline (~1800 m above sea level), *ii*) beech woods, and *iii*) mixed mesic oak
150 woods.

151

152 ***Late Holocene vegetation patterns***

153 According to Accorsi et al. (1999, 2004), a general increase in anthropic exploitation of natural habitats took
154 place in the Po Plain around the Middle-Late Holocene (Northgrippian-Meghalayan stages *sensu* Walker et
155 al., 2018) boundary, roughly corresponding to the Eneolithic-Bronze Age transition (~4000 yrs BP). At that
156 time, the relative homogeneity of the mixed oak-holm oak forest, typical of the climate optimum (~10000-
157 5000 yrs BP – Marcott et al., 2013), was replaced by a gradually patchier landscape, with open areas
158 spreading from the main settlements and mainly devoted to cultivation of chestnut (*Castanea*), walnut
159 (*Juglans*), vine (*Vitis*), olive (*Olea*) and cereals. Pollen data from the central Adriatic and from an

160 archaeological site of the Po Plain (Terramara di Montale) document that this process was triggered by an
161 aridification trend dated to the VI millennium BP (Mercuri et al., 2012) and fostered by Bronze Age societies
162 (Cardarelli, 1992; Cremaschi, 2014). After several cycles of settlement flourishing and abandonment, these
163 ancient societies maintained a general trend of forest depletion (Brown 2003). The decline of the forest cover
164 continued up until the Bronze-Iron Age transition when, around the limit between Subboreal and Subatlantic
165 (~2.8 kyrs BP, coincident with the ~2.8 ka Event *sensu* Bond et al., 1998), the Oroboreal Conifer vegetation
166 belt in the Northern Apennines disappeared, with the exception of a few remnant populations (Chiarugi,
167 1958). During the Subatlantic, the regional vegetation landscape became even more open, with the lowland
168 mixed-oak forest continuously shrinking mainly depending on cultivation of the drained soils of the alluvial
169 plain, where mesic forests preferably grew (Accorsi et al., 1999), and on the Apennines (Vescovi et al., 2010).
170 Wet environments spread as well, with willow substituting black alder (*Alnus glutinosa* (L.) Gaertn.) as the
171 main component of hygrophilous woods. The anthropisation continued during the last two millennia, as land
172 reclamation became one of the most prominent human activities, both in the plain and on the mountains,
173 from the Roman Age onwards (Marchesini and Marvelli, 2009; Vescovi et al., 2010).
174
175

176 **Material and methods**

177
178 To explore the Late Holocene landscape dynamics of the Po Delta and their related forcing factors,
179 palynological analyses were undertaken on a tens m-thick shallow-marine succession, mostly composed of
180 fine-grained (silty clay to sandy silt) prodelta deposits (core EM13; Figure 1) and well-constrained into a
181 regional stratigraphic framework (Figure 1B; Amorosi et al., 2017, 2019a, b). The 35 m-long core EM13 was
182 recovered in the southern portion of the modern delta plain, few kilometres inland from the present coastline
183 (Figure 1A; 44°51'50" N, 12°17'05" E). Meiofauna analyses (benthic foraminifers and ostracods; Barbieri et
184 al., 2021) have refined facies characterization, allowing to identify a retrogradational-progradational stacking
185 pattern of shallow-marine deposits above poorly drained floodplain-swamp muds of Early Holocene age.
186 Transgressive barrier sands are overlain by a thin (few centimetres thick) offshore interval passing up-section
187 to a ~20 m-thick prodelta succession typified by the superposition of two distinct lobes fed by the Volano
188 and the Goro river branches during the last ~2000 years (Amorosi et al., 2019a; Barbieri et al., 2021). Prodelta
189 muds grade upward into delta front sands (~3 m-thick) and delta plain deposits, 2 m-thick, cap the cored
190 succession (Figures 1B, 2).
191

192 **Palynological analysis**

193 Forty-eight samples were collected from the 27 m-thick shallow-marine succession, generally avoiding coarse
194 (sandy) layers and intervals. As sampling spacing in prodelta muds was about 50 cm, only the finest fractions
195 of transgressive barrier and delta front sands were sampled in order to collect the best-preserved pollen
196 assemblages. Samples were prepared and analysed at "Centro Agricoltura e Ambiente – CAA Giorgio Nicoli",
197 San Giovanni in Persiceto (Italy) following the standard extraction technique of Lowe et al. (1996): about 8 g
198 of dry sediment were weighed; a *Lycopodium* tablet was added to calculate palynomorphs concentrations;
199 after a mechanical disruption in a 10% Na-pyrophosphate solution, samples were filtered through a 0.5 mm
200 sieve and a 5 µm nylon filter, then chemically treated (HCl, acetolysis, Na-metatungstate heavy liquid, HF,
201 ethanol). Following evaporation at 60°C in a stove, microscope slides were prepared with glycerine jelly and
202 paraffin.

203 On average, 300 pollen grains were counted for each sample and recognised under an optical microscope at
204 400x magnification (1000x when needed) using general morphological keys (Faegri et al., 1989; Moore et al.,
205 1991), pollen atlases (Reille, 1992, 1995, 1998) and a huge pollen keys miscellanea stored at the CAA
206 laboratory. Pollen percentages were calculated on the total pollen sum. Monilophyta/Lycopodiophyta (ferns)
207 spores were recognised using the same references for pollen grains, while Bryophyte spores were identified
208 following Boros et al. (1993). Algal (*Pseudoschizaea*) and fungal (*Glomus*) remains were also recognised using
209 CAA's miscellanea, while dinocysts were considered as a single group. Palynomorphs percentages are
210 reported in Supplemental Table 1, available online.

211 Percentages of non-pollen palynomorphs (NPPs) were counted on the total pollen sum plus themselves,
212 allowing for a correct down-weighting of their presence (Berglund and Ralska-Jasiewiczowa, 1986).

213 Differently, secondary (II) grains (ie, reworked pollen) were recognised *via* taxonomical determination, when
214 possible, mainly using Tschudy and Scott (1969) as a general reference, and because of their enhanced
215 reddening due to acetolysis, when their determination was not possible. Their percentages were calculated
216 with respect to the sole total pollen sum and the ratio against primary (I) pollen deposition (ie, pollen
217 production coeval to sedimentation) was determined. Despite their use as palaeobiogeographic and
218 palaeotectonic proxies (Streel and Bless, 1980; Strother et al., 2017; Korasidis et al., 2022), secondary grains
219 are generally neglected in Quaternary studies. Nevertheless, peaks in the II-I ratio can reflect periods of
220 enhanced erosion and transport within the drainage basin (López-Merino et al., 2017).

221

222 **Ecological characterisation and pollen spectra**

223 Pollen and spore taxa were assigned to one or more ecological groups (EGs), taking into account
224 autoecological features and the present-day regional vegetation physiognomy (Cacciari et al., 2020 and
225 reference herein; Supplemental Table 1). Ecological groups are summarised in Table 1.

226

227 [Insert Table 1]

228

229 The relative abundance of individual groups was stratigraphically plotted to track vegetation dynamics
230 through time and to support inferences about wetlands expansion/contraction, climate conditions and
231 human land-use. Other EGs, as DT (Deciduous Trees), including broadleaves not strictly representative of the
232 mixed-oak forest, and the physiognomic groups T (trees), sh (shrubs), L (lianas) and H (herbs), were not used
233 for the elaboration of pollen spectra.

234

235 **Cluster analysis**

236 To improve the identification of pollen zones (PZs), a stratigraphically constrained cluster analysis (CONISS,
237 Figure 2) was performed on a matrix composed of EGs relative percentages plus the secondary grains, as this
238 technique is considered the best suited to highlight even subtle vegetation changes within uniform
239 sedimentary successions (Grimm, 1987). To streamline the dataset, Q+M and hyg+hel+hyd were put together
240 into two groups. The former group (Q+M) is broadly indicative of broadleaves forests, while the latter better
241 reflects the general presence of humid environments on land (Table 1). By contrast, Ac was split in three
242 components, corresponding to distinct human practices: chestnut (signal of anthropisation on hillslopes),
243 cereals (the main signal of strong human footprint in the plain) and all other cultivated taxa (mainly
244 arboriculture). Two samples out of 48 were excluded because too scarce (pollen sum < 100 grains). The
245 Unweighted paired-group method with arithmetic averaging (UPGMA) as root Correlation as similarity index
246 (Gosgens et al., 2021) was applied, similar to other palynological studies (eg, Kaniewski et al., 2012).
247 Correlation was chosen because of the temporal proximity of samples and, thus, of the strong relationship
248 between subsequent pollen assemblages. Cluster analysis was carried out using PAST v. 4.05 (Hammer et al.,
249 2001).

250

251 **Dating**

252

253 [Insert Table 2]

254

255 Four AMS ¹⁴C dates, obtained from mollusc shells and wood fragments, are available from the studied
256 succession (Table 2). Conventional ages were calibrated using the IntCal20 (wood) and Mixed Marine NoHem
257 (shell) curves (Reimer et al., 2020). The age-depth model was performed with RStudio in R 4.1.3 using the
258 package rBacon v2.3.9.1 (Blaauw and Christen, 2011) by running millions of Markov Chain Monte Carlo
259 iterations to generate weighted mean age estimates every 5 cm. To better constrain the model, calendar
260 ages BP with a 2-sigma error were used and changes in accumulation rates were based on the core
261 stratigraphy (Supplemental Figure 1, available online). Additional stratigraphic data supported the
262 chronology in the uppermost 10 meters (Figure 2): *i*) the record of *Zea mays* pollen at ~6.5 m core depth
263 (post-16th century AD; Cazzola, 1988) and *ii*) the subaerial exposure of the sand ridge, corresponding to the
264 delta front – delta plain boundary (estimated age: half 18th century AD; Ciabatti, 1967). The integrated
265 chronology is reported as centuries AD (Figure 2) to examine the linkage between vegetation changes and

266 historical events, also exploiting the rich archaeobotanical literature available for the study area (see section
267 Study area).

268
269

270 **Results**

271

272 ***Chronology and accumulation rates***

273

274 [insert Figure 2]

275

276 Above transgressive marine deposits (beach sands + offshore muds), the age-depth model indicates that the
277 prograding deltaic succession covers a time-interval spanning from about the 1st century AD up to the
278 Contemporary Age (Figure 2). Radiocarbon dates are stratigraphically coherent (Figure 2; Table 2) and no
279 major hiatuses were identified within the sequence of vertically stacked delta lobes, as also previously
280 highlighted by the meiofauna (Barbieri et al., 2021). At the core site, the oldest lobe fed by the Volano branch
281 remained active for about one millennium since the Imperial Age to the Early-Late Middle Ages transition,
282 leading to the deposition of a 10 m-thick prodelta muddy interval. An accumulation rate of ~0.8 cm/yr typified
283 the Imperial-Late Roman period (*sensu* Cremonini et al., 2013). Since the 5th century AD (Late Roman-Late
284 Antiquity transition), the accumulation rate rapidly increased for the main portion of the prodelta (upper
285 Volano and Goro lobes, ~1.3 cm/yr in Figure 2). A net accumulation rate of ~7.1 cm/yr is estimated for the
286 Goro delta front transition + delta front, which developed between the 17th-18th centuries (Figure 2). The
287 delta plain, generally placed post-18th century (Figure 2), was significantly subject to human interventions
288 (eg, reclamation, embankment reinforcement).

289

290 ***Palynology***

291

292 A total of 18258 palynomorphs belonging to 235 taxa were recognised (13501 pollen grains - 165 taxa, 700
293 fern spores – 11 taxa, 308 Bryophyte spores – 17 taxa, 3278 secondary grains – 42 taxa and 471 NPPs). We
294 chose to group genera and/or species with the same ecology in a single taxon to better highlight the
295 (palaeo)ecological role of each Family. As a result, 108 Tracheophyte, 11 Monilophyte/Lycopodiophyte and
296 13 Bryophyte agglomerated taxa (referred to as “taxa” from here onwards, Supplemental Table 1) define the
297 primary palynomorph deposition. Across the studied succession, the vegetation is quite homogeneous and
298 can be generally ascribed to a meso-hygrophilous woodland (mean ~34%) patchily alternating with partially
299 or totally submerged wetlands, mesophilous grasslands and cultivated areas. A CONISS cut at the 0.75 value
300 of similarity allows to identify four PZs numbered in stratigraphic order. The CA-derived subdivisions of PZs
301 4 and 2 further testify a certain amount of variability, in terms of both ecology and taxonomical composition
302 (Figures 3-6). The PZs, inclusive of any sub-zones, are reported as follows. According to the age-depth model
303 (Figure 2), pollen associations are showed along a continuous time scale in Supplemental Figure 2 (available
304 online).

305

306 [insert Figure 3]

307

308 ***PZ 4 (26.20–23 m)***

309 This zone encompasses a variety of facies associations, including transgressive barrier sands, offshore muds
310 and prodelta muds related to the earliest phase of the Volano lobe progradation. This variability is reflected
311 by: *i*) remarkable fluctuations in pollen concentrations, though remaining fairly high (I grains around 9k
312 grains/g, II grains around 1.5k grains/g), and *ii*) the occurrence of three sub-zones (PZ 4c-a; Figure 3). The II-I
313 ratio is constantly low throughout the zone, which encompasses the Imperial-Late Roman period (1st-5th
314 centuries AD) with the exception of the transgressive barrier whose age is poorly defined (~9000-8000 cal.
315 yrs BP; Amorosi et al., 2017).

316 – PZ 4c: the woody component is dominated by mesophilous and thermophilous trees (Q+M: ~23-26%),
317 with a significant amount of montane (~15-18%) and hygrophilous (around 10%) taxa. Herbs are mainly
318 represented by hygro-helo-hydrophytes (~18-21%) and pasture-meadow taxa (~15-22%), with a peak

319 (~6%) of halophytes in the lowermost sample. Cultivated taxa (mainly *Hordeum* group) are scarce,
320 although an increasing trend from ~1% to ~5% is evident. This sub-zone is mostly representative of a sub-
321 Mediterranean mesic (holm oak/mixed-oak/alder) forest with a strong montane component. High
322 amounts of hygro-helo-hydrophytes suggest a widespread occurrence of wetlands, whereas the
323 halophytes peak is consistent with the proximity to back-barrier environments (transgressive barrier
324 sands). The anthropic influence is low, but rising up in the sample dated to the 1st century AD.

325 – 4b and 4a: the Q+M and hyg+hel+hyd groups show distinct vertical trends, the former increasing (up to
326 ~30%) upwards, while the latter decreasing (down to ~18%). This co-variance is different in magnitude
327 between the sub-zones, as in PZ 4a the wetland herbaceous community reaches the second highest peak
328 (~40%) of the whole succession. Comparable amounts of Hyg (mean ~7.5%), Mt (mean ~13%) and pm
329 (mean ~21%) are also encountered, although the Mt taxonomical composition differs, as alders are
330 partially substituted by *Abies*, *Pinus mugo/sylvestris*, other Pinaceae and *Fagus* (~6%, 2%, 10% and 2%,
331 respectively) within PZ 4a (Figure 4). The Ac group, fluctuating around 7-8%, shows remarkable
332 compositional differences between the sub-zones (Figures 3, 6). Within PZ 4b, high values of *Castanea* (5-
333 7%) point to a strong development of chestnut arboriculture on the hills and mountains; moreover, the
334 concomitant appearance of *Avena-Triticum* group, *Juglans regia* (L.), *Morus alba* and *Vitis* suggests
335 lowland cultivations (~1-2% each). Upwards, (PZ 4a) the cultural landscape shows a higher differentiation,
336 as *Vitis* peaks at its highest (5%, suggesting a wide diffusion since its scarce pollen productivity), while
337 *Cannabis sativa* (L.) and *Panicum miliaceum* (L.) appear (Figure 6). These sub-zones document centennial
338 phases of sub-Mediterranean oak forest contraction at the advantage of wetlands and a widespread
339 human exploitation at first (4b – Imperial period) on the reliefs, then (4a – Late Roman period) on the
340 plain.

341
342 [insert Figure 4]

343
344 *PZ 3 (23–19 m)*

345 This zone includes prodelta muds supplied by the Volano branch over ~300 years, between the Late Roman-
346 Late Antiquity transition and the beginning of the Early Middle Ages (~5th-8th centuries AD). PZ 3, with low
347 values of both pollen concentrations (I grains around 6k and II ~0.5k) and II-I ratio, is characterised by an
348 upward contraction of the woody component. Q+M abundances strongly decrease (up to 8%) and a similar,
349 but less pronounced, trend typifies the Mt and Hyg groups (Figure 3). However, montane vegetation remains
350 rather high, commonly around 15%, with the lower portion of PZ 3 typified by montane alders and, to a lesser
351 extent, *Fagus*, *Betula* and *Abies*, whereas the upper portion mainly contains pines, with *Pinus mugo* (Turra)
352 in small proportion (Figure 4). By contrast, high amounts of hyg+hel+hyd (~20-30%) and pm (~21-33%) are
353 encountered throughout the interval, the latter increasing upwards, prevalently with Cichorioideae and wild
354 Poaceae (Figures 3, 5). Cultivated taxa, mainly represented by cereals (eg, *Hordeum* group; Figure 6) and
355 chestnut, are relatively scarce (~1.5-4%), but clearly increase upwards (~7.5-9.5%). The palynological content
356 points to an expansion of wetlands and anthropised areas, mainly crop fields and associated pastures (eg,
357 Cichorioideae), at the expenses of mesic forests.

358
359 [insert Figure 5]

360
361 *PZ 2 (19–1.3 m)*

362 PZ 2 encompasses the latest stages of the Volano activity (8th-11th century) and the subsequent progradation
363 of the Goro lobe up to its emersion, occurred at the beginning of the 19th century (Figures 2-3). Pollen
364 concentrations are highly variable (I grains ~0.1-19.5k and II ~0.1-3.4k) as well as the II-I ratio; this latter
365 shows a high mean value (~35%) accompanied by a series of distinct peaks (> 50%) throughout the interval.
366 Five sub-zones are identified (PZs 2e-a; Figure 3).

367 – PZ 2e: this sub-zone, chronologically ascribed to the Early Middle Ages (8th-10th century), shows a
368 decreasing-increasing trend of meso-thermophilous trees (mainly *Corylus avellana* and *Quercus ilex*),
369 hygrophilous trees (mainly *A. glutinosa* (L.) Gaertn. and *Salix*), and cultivated taxa (ie, *Cannabis*, *Juglans*,
370 *Vitis*, cereals and *Castanea*) (Figures 4, 6). This trend is roughly mirrored by the abundance of pasture-
371 meadow herbs. The hyg+hel+hyd group is well-represented (around 15-20%), although it drops toward

372 the top. Montane taxa stabilise around 7-10%, with the exception of a peak (~15% made of *Fagus*, *Abies*
373 and *Pinus*) towards the bottom of the sub-zone (around the 9th century) coincident with the highest
374 amount of hygro-helo-hydrophytes. *Salix*, typically thriving in fluvial environments, ranges high (~5-7%).
375 Secondary grains are abundant (around 25%), with an increasing trend towards the top, where a
376 pronounced peak (48%) occurs. This sub-zone highlights the establishment of an open, meso-hygrophilous
377 wood during a period of intense fluvial activity.

- 378 – PZ 2d: this sub-zone, spanning the 11th-13th centuries, is characterised by low pollen concentrations (~5k
379 and 2k, respectively) and generally high secondary grains (around 30%, peaking atop alongside
380 dinoflagellates; Figure 6) with many reversals between concentrations and ratio, suggesting repeated
381 fluctuations in sediment delivery to the basin. The EGs are also highly variable. Montane taxa, despite
382 ranging around 12%, show a single peak towards the bottom (16%) mainly made of *Alnus incana* (L.)
383 Moench. (7-8%), *A. viridis* (Chaix) and *Fagus* (3% each); upwards, these taxa are partially substituted by
384 *Betula* and, subordinately, pines (Figure 4). In the lower part of the sub-zone, M+Q ranges around 20%
385 and then declines; this trend is mirrored by hyg+hel+hyd (from 12% to 28%). Woody hygrophytes remain
386 around low values (~5-9%). Cultivated taxa are also highly fluctuating, as chestnut is nearly absent at the
387 bottom, whereas *Cannabis* (5% peak), *Juglans* and lesser cereals are significantly present. Then, a chestnut
388 peak is recorded in parallel with a decrease of lowland cultivated taxa, after which a decreasing trend of
389 Ac mirrors the increase of hyg+hel+hyd. A semi-sterile sample, mainly composed of secondary grains
390 (~150%), caps the sequence. This sub-zone documents complex vegetation dynamics depicting a meso-
391 hygrophilous woodland with open, cultivated areas shifting to a scarcely anthropised landscape strongly
392 occupied by wetlands.
- 393 – PZ 2c: this sub-zone, spanning more than half of the Goro prodelta lobe, is chronologically ascribable to
394 the Middle Ages-Modern Age transition (13th-17th centuries). Low pollen concentrations (~3-6k) are
395 paralleled by high amounts of secondary grains (~1-2.2k) and high values of the II-I ratio (mean ~35%, with
396 several peaks around ~45-55%). The Mt group invariably shows relatively low percentages (~7-8%),
397 although a series of poorly pronounced peaks (9-10%), alternatively composed of montane alders and
398 Pinaceae, occur. The M+Q group (~16-20%) and Hyg (~7-11%, mainly *Salix*) are well represented and co-
399 vary synchronously. Hygro-helo-hydrophytes show an increasing trend in the lower half of the sub-zone
400 (17-25%) and then decrease. The pm group ranges high, though fluctuating (mean 28%), with
401 Cichorioideae making up one third of its composition (Figure 5). After a near-disappearance of cultivations
402 at the bottom, an opposite trend of chestnut growth and cereal drop is recorded up to the half of the
403 subzone, above which a widespread increase of cultivated trees (both on the mountains and in the
404 lowlands) is recorded (up to ~10%); cereals remain scarce, instead. The pollen content points to a
405 vegetation landscape shaped by a meso-hygrophilous forest with recurring dry and/or damp clearances.
406 An overall, intense fluvial activity is suggested by the abundance of *Salix* and of secondary grains.
- 407 – PZ 2b: this sub-zone records a major step in the Goro lobe progradation, tracked by the transition to delta
408 front sands dated around the 17th-18th centuries. Owing to the coarser grain-size, pollen concentrations
409 are persistently low (I around 3k, II around 1k), whereas the II-I ratio is high (around 30%). Among the EGs,
410 pm shows a high mean value (28%). Montane taxa (alders, beech and shrubby pines) range around 12%
411 in the lower portion and decrease around 7% upwards. The M+Q and Hyg groups are also relatively low
412 (mean values 23% and 7%, respectively), but both make a peak atop (30% and 10%, respectively), as well
413 as the hygro-helo-hydrophytes that range around 19%. Cultivated taxa altogether remain scarce (~4%),
414 with the exception of one peak (10%) in the upper portion, mainly due to lesser cereals (*Panicum*
415 dominating over *Hordeum* group, *Secale cereale* (L.) and *Avena-Triticum*; Figure 6). This sub-zone depicts
416 a meso-hygrophilous, open woodland with predominant prairies and damp areas.
- 417 – PZ 2a: this sub-zone corresponds to delta front sands deposited during the 18th-19th centuries. Pollen
418 concentrations are low (I ~6k, II < 1k, except for a single peak at 3.4k), especially at the uppermost
419 boundary, where concentrations drop to near zero and the II-I ratio reaches very high percentages
420 (~160%). Indicators of disturbed environments dominate, oscillating around 10-25%. Cultivated plants are
421 also well-represented (5-12%), especially with lesser cereals (2-4%; *Hordeum* group and *Panicum*) in the
422 lower portion, though *Cannabis* and *Juglans* are also present. Montane taxa show remarkable
423 percentages only at the base (~13%) and within the semi-sterile sample atop (36%). Lowland trees are
424 significantly low (M+Q ~6-13%, Hyg ~3-6%), whereas hyg+hel+hyd and pm range ~19-23% and ~17-26%,

425 respectively. This sub-zone corresponds to an open prairie, with crop fields and orchards plus a few
426 scattered wood remnants.

427

428 [insert Figure 6]

429

430 *PZ 1 (uppermost 1.3 m)*

431 Ascribed to the last two centuries (19th-20th), this zone coincides with delta plain deposits. Despite the
432 dominance of hyg+hel+hyd herbs (mean value ~40%), pollen assemblages in the two analysed samples show
433 distinct features. Specifically, the lower sample is marked by abundant montane taxa (~19%), mainly pines
434 (Figure 4), and cultivations are well represented (~8%; mainly *Hordeum* group, *Juglans* and *Vitis* in Figure 6).
435 Dinoflagellates are very abundant (5-20%) and follow the main peak of secondary grains (~125%), suggesting
436 a high degree of transportation also from back-barrier environments altogether with a low primary pollen
437 concentration. The upper sample shows high pollen concentrations (I ~25k, II ~1.6k) and hyg+hel+hyd herbs
438 at their highest value in the whole succession (~50%), whereas Ac, M+Q and Hyg groups nearly disappear.
439 According to the sedimentary facies, pollen suggests a landscape dominated by wetlands with mesophilous
440 prairies separating damp areas.

441

442

443 Discussion

444

445 The stratigraphically expanded record of Volano and Goro prodelta lobes (Figure 2), as well as their key role
446 as traps for fine-grained sediments (Trincardi, 2004), allows the sub-centennial scale examination of
447 vegetation dynamics over the last two millennia. According to the age-depth model, the mean temporal
448 resolution within prodelta muds (PZs 4b-2c) ranges between ~25-70 years. This takes us towards the human
449 time-scale, making it possible to compare vegetation changes with historical (natural or human-induced)
450 events documented in the literature (Figure 7). The resolution of pollen data further increases at the
451 transition to the delta front where, however, the coarser grain-size hampers palynomorphs' preservation
452 and the chronological accuracy is low due to a lack of radiocarbon ages (Figure 2). A similar temporal
453 inaccuracy affects modern delta-plain samples.

454 The taxonomical variations encountered within Po delta lobes are interpreted to reflect changes in
455 vegetation that occurred upstream, in the Po River catchment, as rivers represent the main vectors of pollen
456 deposition on fluvial-influenced shelves (Beaudouin et al., 2007; Brown et al., 2007). However, the mode of
457 transportation of pollen grains is a complex matter and no options should be completely discarded: if, on one
458 hand, the southward-directed Adriatic longshore currents (Harris et al., 2008; Figure 1A) might have brought
459 a minor and taxonomically similar pollen contribution from the Venetian Plain (Blasi et al., 2014), on the
460 other hand the airborne pollen rain around a subaqueous delta location would remain buoyant on the sea
461 surface for a long time before sinking and becoming buried by the pollen-rich riverine plume. Contextually,
462 we can exclude a pervasive interference by flood events on the pollen record, since secondary and primary
463 concentrations change coherently through time (Figure 3). Instead, the highest secondary peaks (ie, II-I ratio
464 > 100%), invariably paralleled by high amounts of dinoflagellates, can be considered a good proxy of major
465 river floods accompanied by intense erosion and transport processes downstream to the coastal areas. The
466 highest peaks occur invariably within the Goro lobe succession, which records frequent flood events
467 clustering around two main time-intervals: *i*) the Volano-to-Goro lobe switching (Ficarolo avulsion; Figure 1)
468 and *ii*) the Little Ice Age, a climate oscillation characterised by a general decrease in temperatures, an increase
469 in precipitations and a growing frequency of river floods in Europe (Glaser et al., 2010; Büntgen et al., 2011).
470 As a whole, five historical phases of vegetation landscape are discussed below in relation to well-known
471 changes in palaeohydrography, palaeoclimate and human frequentation in the Po Plain (Figure 7).

472

473 [insert Figure 7]

474

475 ***Imperial – Late Roman Age (1st-5th centuries)***

476 The most prominent features of the landscape are the widespread presence of lowland forests (mixed oak-
477 alder-willow) and the reduced degree of anthropisation in the plain (Figure 7). Such a climate optimum-like

478 vegetation, also attested from several archaeological sites of the study area (Bandini Mazzanti et al., 2001;
479 Marchesini and Marvelli, 2009; Bosi et al., 2019), is consistent with the so-called “Roman Climate Optimum”
480 (RCO) and it is interpreted to reflect high afforestation also due to sedges and woodlands in areas devoted
481 to flood management and drainage. During the whole Roman Period, a complex centuriated landscape,
482 including dry (cultivated or not) and damp clearances, typified the Po Plain (Cremaschi et al., 1980; Malaguti
483 et al., 2010; Marchesini and Marvelli, 2017, 2018), though human settlements also occupied the reliefs along
484 river axes (Scagliarini Corlaita, 1989).

485 A major phase of wetland expansion is recorded at the end of the 3rd century (Figure 7). Although settlement
486 contraction and decreasing land management left riverbed aggradation unchecked during the Late Roman
487 period (Cremonini et al., 2013), the peak in hygro-helo-hydrophytes is so striking (~40% - PZ 4a; Figures 3, 5)
488 as to suggest climate-human interplay. This hypothesis is consistent with the coeval expansion of conifer
489 woods in the study area (mainly *Abies* in Figure 4; Marchesini and Marvelli 2009), an inferred period of
490 enhanced rainfall in central Italy (Bini et al. 2020 and references herein) and with flood activity in the Po Plain
491 (eg, Stefani and Vincenzi, 2005; Bosi et al., 2019).

492 The varied cultural landscape (Figures 3, 6) is representative of the so-called “*piantata*”, the typical
493 Mediterranean polyculture (Butzer, 2005) practiced by the Romans, which lasted until the Middle Ages
494 (Sereni 1957; Bottazzi 1990; Boriani and Bufferli, 1999). Close to the end of the Late Roman (end 4th-5th
495 century), the near-disappearance of cultivated taxa likely reflects a major settlement collapse due to the
496 invasions of Visigoths and Huns a few decades from one another (Figure 7). Interestingly, the general
497 opposite behaviour of chestnut and cereals suggests complex societal dynamics of land abandonment in the
498 plain (cereal decrease) in favour of more protected and defensible settlements on the hills (chestnut
499 increase), as also documented on the Alps (Furlanetto et al., 2018) and in the whole Po Plain (Ortalli, 1992).
500 Despite being present in the region before the Roman Age (Accorsi et al., 2004), during this period a similar
501 expansion of chestnut arboriculture is also attested in central and southern Italy (Di Pasquale et al., 2010;
502 Squatriti, 2013; Di Rita et al., 2018; Michelangeli et al., 2022). Therefore, an interplay between local traditions
503 and a northward expansion of sylviculture may be taken into account.

504

505 **Late Antiquity (5th-6th centuries)**

506 The bipartite nature of montane forests (from broadleaves-fir to pines) and the complex taxonomical
507 turnovers (PZ 3, Figure 3) suggest a period of climate variability and increased humidity at the Late Roman–
508 Late Antiquity transition, followed by drier and possibly cooler conditions on the mountains (expansion of
509 pines; Figure 4). Our inference is consistent with archaeobotanical findings (Accorsi et al., 1999; Marchesini
510 et al., 1998, 1999a, b) and in tune with climate features of a cool period known as Late Antique Little Ice Age-
511 LALIA (Figure 7; Büntgen et al., 2011, 2016; Peregrine, 2020). Moreover, cooler-wetter conditions are
512 recorded by several Italian pollen sequences (Sadori et al., 2016; Di Rita et al., 2018; Kaniewski et al., 2022).
513 Nonetheless, the anthropic presence (mostly lowland cultivations) expands: despite the dominance of *Avena*-
514 *Triticum* and *Hordeum* groups, the significant appearance of the lesser cereal *Panicum miliaceum* (L.) may
515 suggest complex, site-dependent agricultural practices typical of impoverished cultural landscapes
516 (Montanari, 1979, 1988). *Cannabis*, *Juglans* and *Vitis* are also significant, confirming the spread of human
517 settlements in the plain. The anthropic pollen signature can be specifically related neither to the relative
518 societal stability of the Ostrogothic Kingdom nor to the first phases of the Ravenna Exarchate (Ravegnani
519 2004) because the expected settlement contraction during the second half of the 6th century (Gothic Wars,
520 Justinian Plague, Langobard invasion, as in Ostrogorsky, 1963) cannot be detected (Figures 3, 7). This is
521 possibly due to site-dependent conditions, as the remaining population likely moved to the coastline and to
522 the main river in order to benefit protection by the Roman fleet.

523 At the same time, wetlands expanded likely in relation to both natural (ie, LALIA climate variability) and
524 anthropic forcing factors, a possible evidence of the aforementioned collapse of territorial management
525 following the end of the Western Roman Empire (Veggiani, 1979, 1990; Cremonini, 1990). This in turn also
526 promoted river avulsions in the plain during the 5th and 6th centuries (Bruno et al., 2013; Cremonini et al.,
527 2013; Bosi et al., 2019).

528

529 **Early Middle Ages (7th-10th centuries)**

530 The transition to the Early Middle Ages is also marked by widespread wetlands sustained by a combined
531 climate-human factor and diffuse agriculture activities in the plain (Figure 7). Then, the socio-economic
532 disruption, following the final Langobard onslaught against the Byzantines and the conquest of the Ravenna
533 Exarchate (Ravegnani 2004), likely determined a sharp drop in lowland cultivations (cereals and
534 arboriculture) in favour of chestnut during the late 7th century (Figures 3, 7). A mid-8th century peak in cereal
535 cultivation, ascribable to the last phases of the Langobard Kingdom, was followed by the shift to a more
536 natural landscape, as arboriculture became the main cultural feature both on the hills and in the plain. This
537 scarce lowland anthropisation was common in Northern Italy, as the vast majority of the countryside had a
538 sparse population organised in villages around the so-called “*pieve*” (Bacchini, 1708; Andreolli, 1989;
539 Bonacini, 1989). Indeed, in a context of recurring turmoil (Langobard-Byzantine wars, rapid rise and fall of
540 the Carolingian Empire, Feudal Anarchy), minor bishopric buildings provided some institutional stability.
541 According to local archaeological investigations (ie, spread of lowland forests, in Marchesini et al., 1999),
542 hygrophilous woods generally co-dominated with oak woods suggesting long-lasting warm-moist conditions
543 culminating with the so-called “Medieval Warm Period” (MWP; Figure 7). However, a prominent, though
544 single, peak in montane taxa (PZ 2e, Figure 3), age-modelled to the 9th century, points to a cool-wet oscillation
545 already depicted in the Alpine and Apennine regions (Holzhauser et al., 2005; Nicolussi et al., 2009; Mensing
546 et al., 2016).
547 During the 10th century, a main phase of wetlands shrinking occurred, while afforestation and cultivations
548 increased. This vegetation change fits well with the prolonged phases of land reclamation carried out by the
549 Benedict monks from the Pomposa Abbey (the so-called “Pomposan Island” between Goro and Volano
550 channels; Leoni, 1984; Ferraresi, 2004).

551

552 **Late Middle Ages (11th-15th centuries)**

553 The onset of the Late Middle Ages is in vegetational continuity with the late Early Middle Ages, as the effects
554 of the Pomposan reclamation continued (scarcity of wetlands at the benefits of cultivations; Figures 3, 7). A
555 relatively limited spread of crops and orchards was a boon for lowland forests, as the climate-optimum like
556 vegetation continued to thrive up until the late 11th century, documenting the MWP signature into the Late
557 Middle Ages.

558 Two subsequent peaks in montane alders and beech, chronologically coincident to the Oort solar minimum
559 (second half of the 11th century; Figure 7), may suggest complex, long-term climate-fluvial environment
560 interactions, as during the 12th century a major landscape change occurred in tune with an episode of intense
561 river network reorganisation in the lower Po Plain (Zanella, 1983; Cremonini, 1988). The Ficarolo avulsion,
562 historically dated to 1152 AD, but triggered by subsequent episodes of fluvial avulsion (Veggiani et al., 1990;
563 Correggiari et al., 2005), left a trace in the pollen record *via* the expansion of wetlands (upper PZ 2d in Figure
564 3; Figure 7). Accordingly, a general spreading of fluvial-related environments is recorded in the inland portion
565 of the plain by archaeological pollen sequences (Marchesini et al., 2003; 2008b; Marvelli et al., 2011). This
566 interpretation is coherent with the decrease of cultivated species toward the second half of the 12th century,
567 documenting a phase of land abandonment under the forcing of fluvial dynamics and the evidence of
568 recurring floods (II-I ratio peaks; Figures 3, 7).

569 After this event, the last interval of the Late Middle Ages is typified by the expansion of lowland forests and
570 by a century-long retraction of wetlands in favour of crop fields, likely due to an inferred land reclamation
571 phase following the Ficarolo avulsion. Similar to our record, inland archaeological sites of late Medieval age
572 (Forlani and Marvelli, 1999; Guarnieri, 1999; Marchesini et al., 1999) attest to open, in-site anthropised
573 landscapes with *Vitis*, *Juglans*, *Vicia faba* (L.) and cereals.

574 A renewed trend of wetland expansion occurred around the 14th-15th century transition after a single, minor
575 peak in montane forests falling into the temporal window of the Wolf solar minimum and suggesting a likely,
576 although feeble, LIA footprint for this phase of landscape naturalisation (Figure 7). In this context, the late
577 14th-early 15th century record of crop fields substitution by montane cultivations would reflect land
578 depopulation and abandonment, in favour of a sparser settlement on the mountains (Capitani et al., 1981)
579 due to the Great Plague of 1348 (drop of ~1/3 of European population, Sussman, 2011; Schmid et al., 2015).

580

581 **Modern–Contemporaneous Ages (16th-20th centuries)**

582 A common feature of our pollen assemblages after ~13th century is a generally lower amount of montane
583 taxa compared to previous times (means ~9% vs ~13%; Figure 3). This is a rather peculiar feature, since after
584 the MWP-LIA transition (13th-14th century) an opposite effect would be expected under natural forcing
585 (Figure 7). This may be explained by the population boom from the Late Medieval Age onwards that led to
586 the depletion of the montane vegetation (Vescovi et al., 2010), mainly aimed at building large fleets and/or
587 for poor-quality fuel for iron forging in absence of coal (Sorbelli, 1911; Cacciavillani, 1988). In this context,
588 even subtle peaks of montane vegetation could reflect climatic variations, implying expansions of an
589 artificially shrunk forest community. Interestingly, montane vegetation peaks show an estimated centennial-
590 scale cyclicity (Figure 7) following the time-intervals of the Spörer (end of the 15th, the 16th-17th century
591 transition), Maunder and Dalton solar minima (early 17th-18th century transition and late 19th century,
592 respectively). Montane alders alternately peak with pines, pointing to a mixed wet-dry signal up to the 17th
593 century, although lowland forests show a strong hygrophilous community. Afterwards, the pine-dominated
594 montane vegetation suggests cool and dry conditions culminating during the Dalton minimum (Figure 4), the
595 coldest LIA phase (Holzhauser et al., 2005). An overall climate-fluvial teleconnection can also be inferred, as
596 peaks in montane vegetation commonly overlap with peaks in secondary deposition and drops in pollen
597 concentrations (Figures 3, 7).

598 Wetlands shrinking typified the plain landscape up to the end of 17th century, due to an extensive campaign
599 of land reclamations carried out by the Estensi family (Duchy of Ferrara) who managed their possessions not
600 only as farming estates but also as wilderness areas devoted to game reserves (Cazzola, 1982). This
601 postponed the most recent, strong deforestation phase, paralleled by a series of peaks in anthropisation,
602 from the 18th century onwards (Figure 7). Coherently with recent land reclamations (Giacomelli, 1989), the
603 final emersion of the delta (Ciabatti, 1967; Bondesan et al., 1995; Amorosi et al., 2019a) is testified by a facies-
604 related dominance of wetland pollen dated to the last two centuries (Figure 7).

605 A brief, but severe, reduction of landscape anthropisation is age-modelled to the end of 17th century, as both
606 montane trees and disturbance indicators increase at the expenses of cultivated taxa. It likely reflects the
607 combined interplay of climate (Spörer minima) and disease (the Manzoni's 1630-3 plague) that is also
608 supposed to determine the olive cultivation disappearance in the whole region (Boriani and Bufferli, 2002).

609
610

611 **Conclusions**

612

613 Po delta lobes, especially their muddy portions (prodelta deposits), are powerful sedimentary archives for
614 high-resolution reconstructions of fluvial, anthropic and climate dynamics in the Po Plain, although limited
615 to the activity period of the feeding river branches. The major outcomes of this study can be summarised as
616 follows:

- 617 • Stratigraphic variations of key ecological groups (meso-thermophilous taxa; woody hygrophytes;
618 hygro-helo-hydrophyte herbs; pasture-meadow herbs; cultivated taxa and montane taxa) robustly
619 document the environmental shifts of a complex natural-cultural landscape, shaped at a sub-
620 centennial timescale by fluvial processes and societal dynamics under the umbrella of changeable
621 climate conditions, since the 1st century AD (Imperial Roman).
- 622 • Rivers represent the main vector of primary (I) and secondary (II) pollen supply to the shelf. Peaks in
623 the II-I pollen ratio mark phases of river network reorganisation (Volano-Goro lobe switching) or
624 climate deterioration (LIA).
- 625 • As pollen grains derive from the catchment *via* river fluxes, the anthropic signal encased downstream
626 within delta lobes is weaker than in classic archaeological pollen sequences, but highly informative
627 about the average extent (ie, settlements patterns) and types (eg, polyculture; relative proportion
628 between lowland and montane cultivations) of agricultural practices. The typical Roman polyculture
629 characterises the cultural landscape of both the Roman and Medieval periods, although local
630 conditions (ie, sparse settlements) affected its extension and composition from the Western Roman
631 Empire collapse onwards, mainly due to societal turmoil.
- 632 • A climate optimum-like forest with both dry and damp clearances characterises the Roman
633 centuriated landscape of the Po Plain, confirming general warm conditions during the "Roman

634 Climatic Optimum". However, the expansion of wetlands around the end of the 3rd century AD likely
635 reflects the combined effect of a cool-wet climate oscillation and decreasing land management.
636 • Wetlands strongly expanded between the 6th-7th centuries AD under both natural (LALIA climate
637 variability) and anthropic (collapse of territorial management) forcing factors. The pollen record
638 (montane taxa) suggests a bipartite climate oscillation, typified by cool-moist and then cool-dry
639 conditions.
640 • During the Middle Ages, the expansion-contraction cycles of wetlands mainly reflect reclamation
641 activities and a major event of Po River drainage reorganization ("Ficarolo avulsion"). The climate
642 footprint seems feeble, as long-lasting warm conditions are inferred by a mixed oak meso-
643 hygrophilous woodland also during the "Medieval Warm Period". However, peaks in montane taxa
644 suggest cool-wet oscillations in phase with solar minima (9th century; 11th century and 14th century).
645 • Despite a human-induced shrinking of the forest community, distinct peaks of montane vegetation
646 occurred during the LIA with a centennial-scale cyclicity following solar minima and possibly
647 influenced by the two major plagues of the 14th and 17th centuries.
648
649

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656

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659

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661 The Authors declare that there are no conflicting interests.

662 **Supplemental Material statement**

663

664 Palynomorphs percentages, age-depth model support graphs and pollen groups' percentage diagrams
665 plotted against chronology are available online as Supplementary material.

666

667

668 **Supplemental Material captions**

669

670 Supplemental Figure 1. Age-depth model original graph. Priors: Memory defines how much the accumulation
671 rate of a particular depth in a core depends on the depth above it (Blaauw and Christen, 2011). Acc. rate
672 panel shows the accumulation rate prior as defined per intervals listed bottom-to-top; acc.shape is the shape
673 of the distribution curve of the accumulation rates (1.5 is default). The iteration panel pictures how well the
674 Markov Chain Monte Carlo fits with given priors at an increasing number of iterations (the more uniform the
675 oscillations, the better the model). Boundaries (dotted horizontal lines) in the model were set at 22.45 m
676 (meiofauna-based variation in bottom conditions due to changes in river inputs, following Barbieri et al.,
677 2021), 6.43 m (prodelta – delta front transition/delta front boundary) and 1.31 m (delta front transition/delta
678 front – delta plain boundary).

679

680 Supplemental Figure 2. Pollen groups' percentage diagram of EM13 plotted against chronology, including the
681 pollen zonation identified *via* CONISS. The temporal attribution of each sample derives from the age-depth
682 model. The subdivision in terms of centuries AD is also shown (see also Figure 3).

683

684 Supplemental Table 1: Percentages of pollen, spores and other NPPs of core EM13. The ecological
685 characterisation of some taxa may be controversial and deserves some explanation: *Castanea*, even though
686 living on the hills, was counted as Anthropoc cultivated (Ac) and not as Montane (Mt) because during the last
687 two millennia it was mainly cultivated and, thus, bears no climatic significance. *Beta* was considered
688 halophyte (hal) instead of Ac because its relative abundance is always too low to be considered of anthropic
689 origin. Similarly, other chenopods were also considered hal instead of Anthropoc spontaneous (As) due to the
690 proximity of the coast. *Posidonia* and *Ruppia* were assigned to the halophyte group, though strictly
691 hydrophyte (hyd), because they live in saltwater at a few meters of depth in the sea.

692

693

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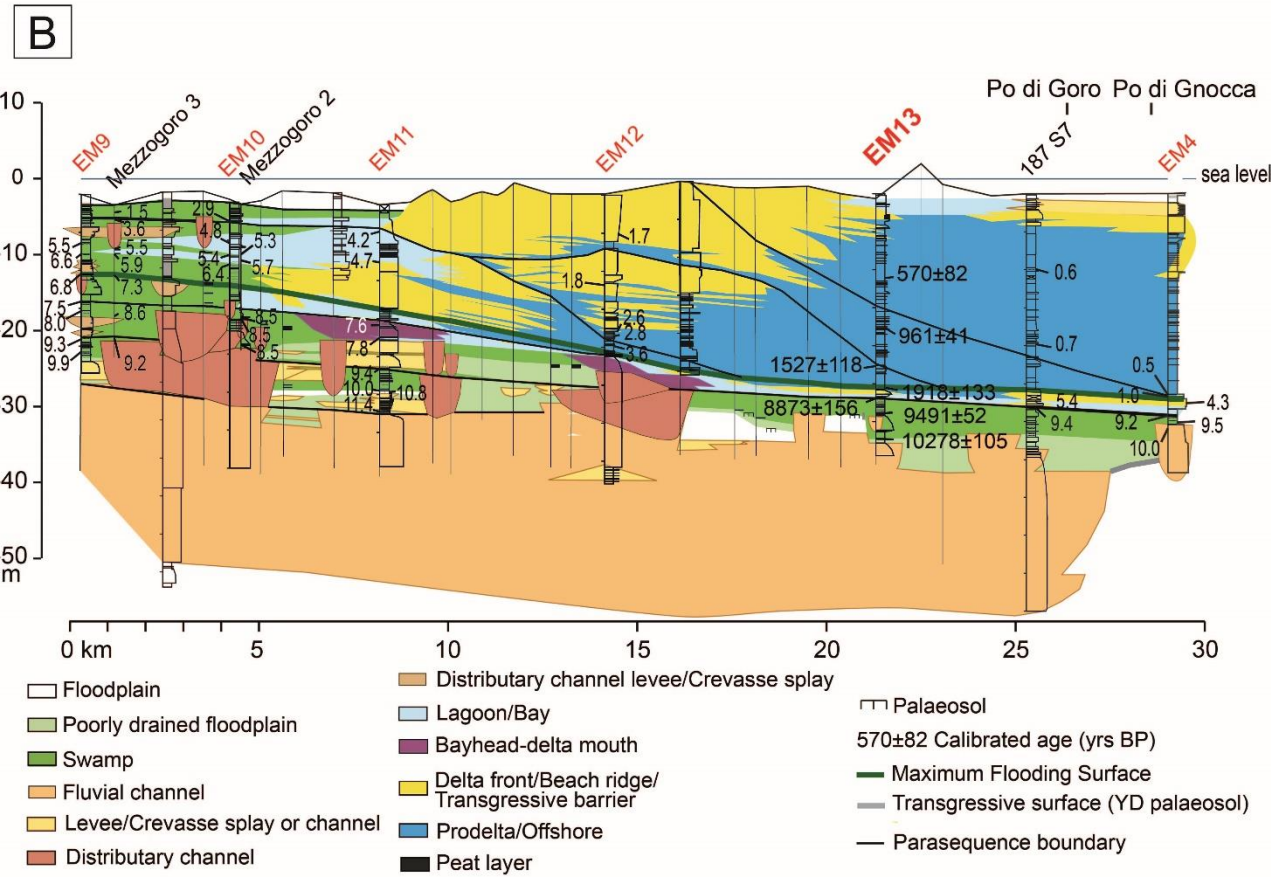
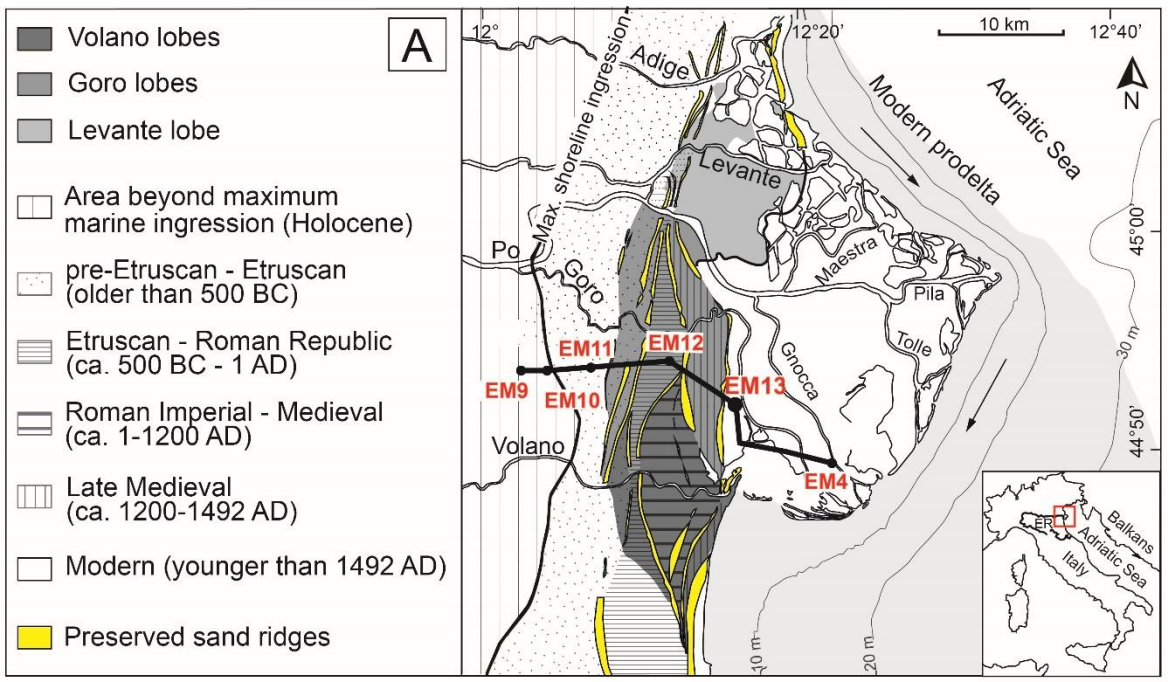
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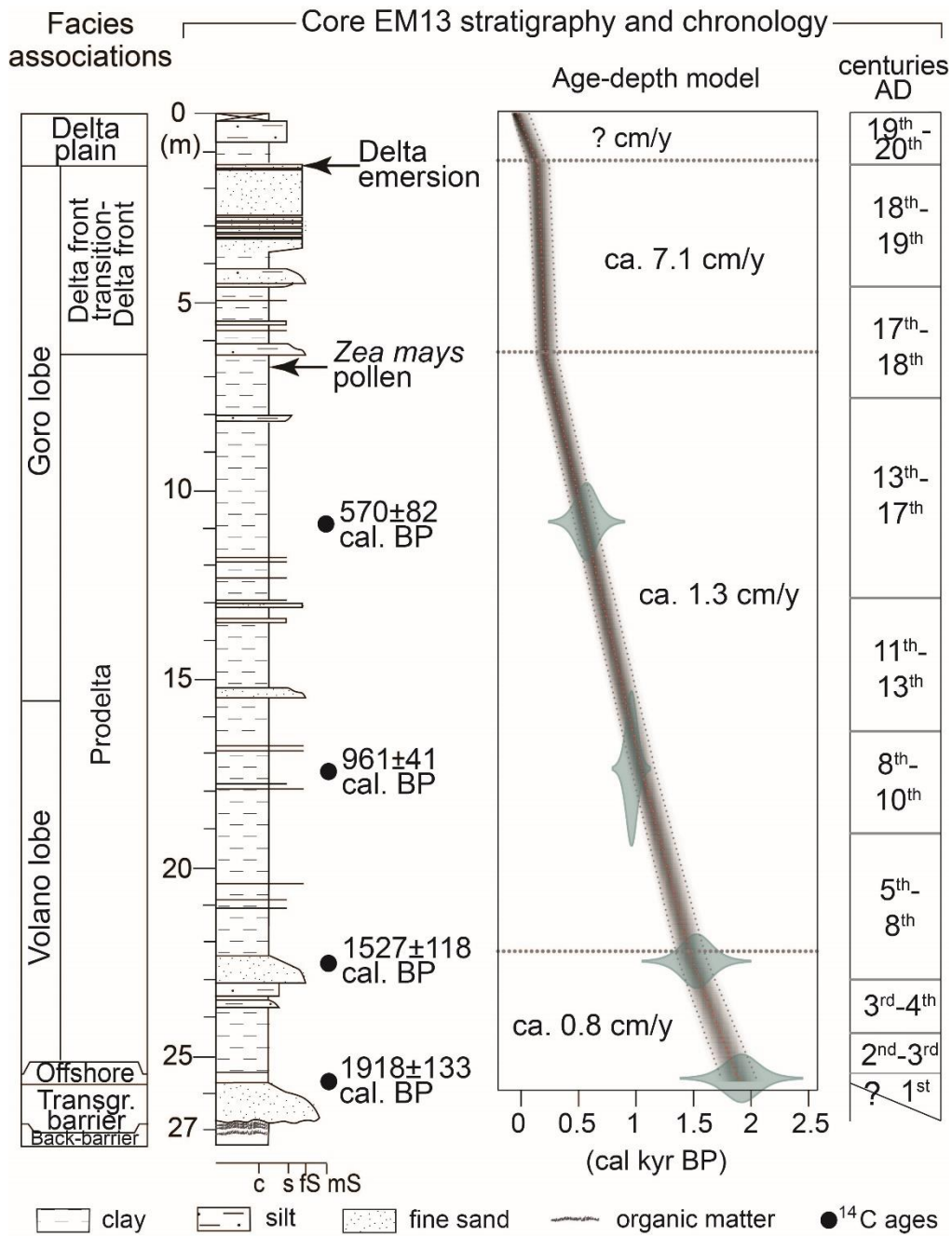
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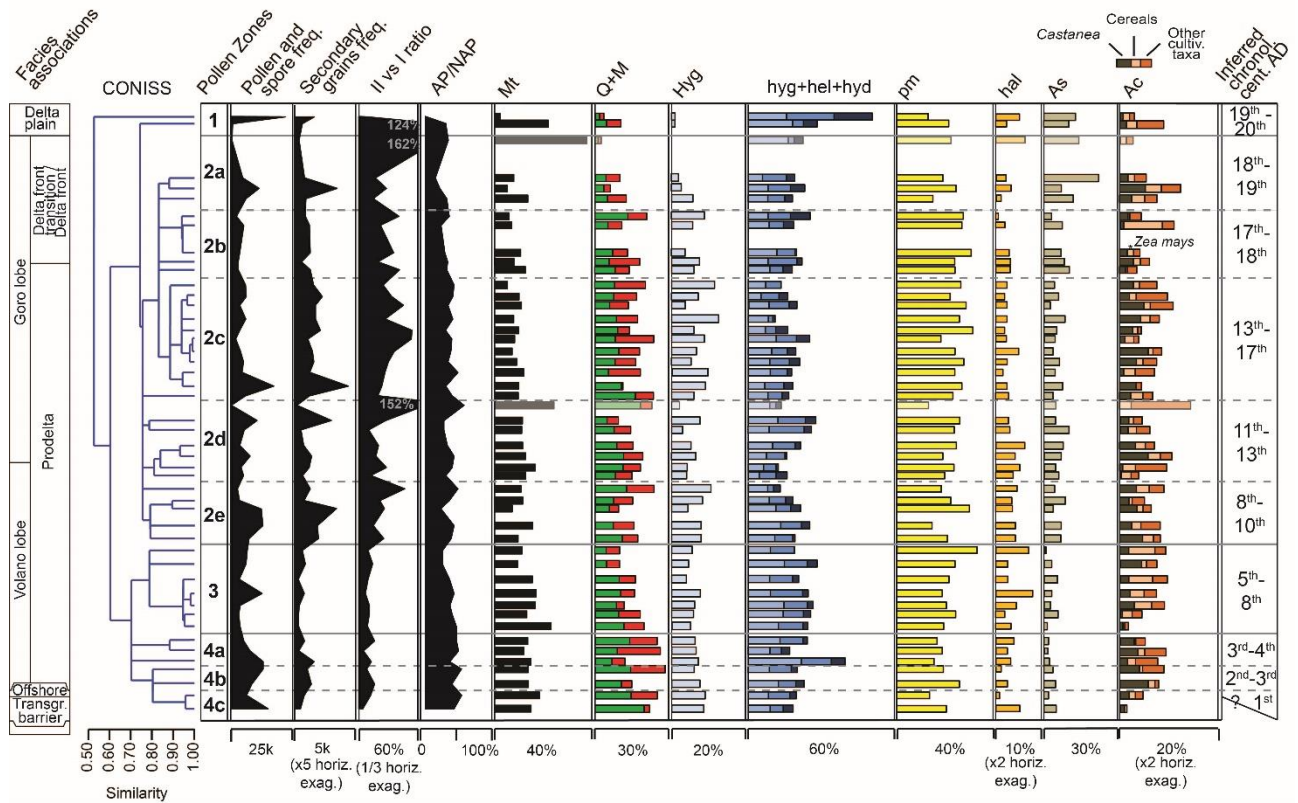
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Figure 1. Geomorphological and stratigraphic setting of the Po Delta area. (A) Map showing the spatial distribution of the (palaeo)delta lobes (slightly modified after Ciabatti, 1967, and Barbieri et al., 2021), the location of core EM13 and the trace of the section shown in Figure 1B. Maximum shoreline ingress from Bruno et al. (2017), the modern prodelta from Correggiari et al. (2005). Black arrows highlight the Sdirected Adriatic longshore current. ER: Emilia-Romagna Region. (B) Stratigraphic section showing the Holocene depositional architecture of the Po Delta (slightly modified after Amorosi et al., 2017). Radiocarbon dates are rounded up except for core EM13, whose ages (see Table 2) are recalibrated after Reimer et al. (2020).



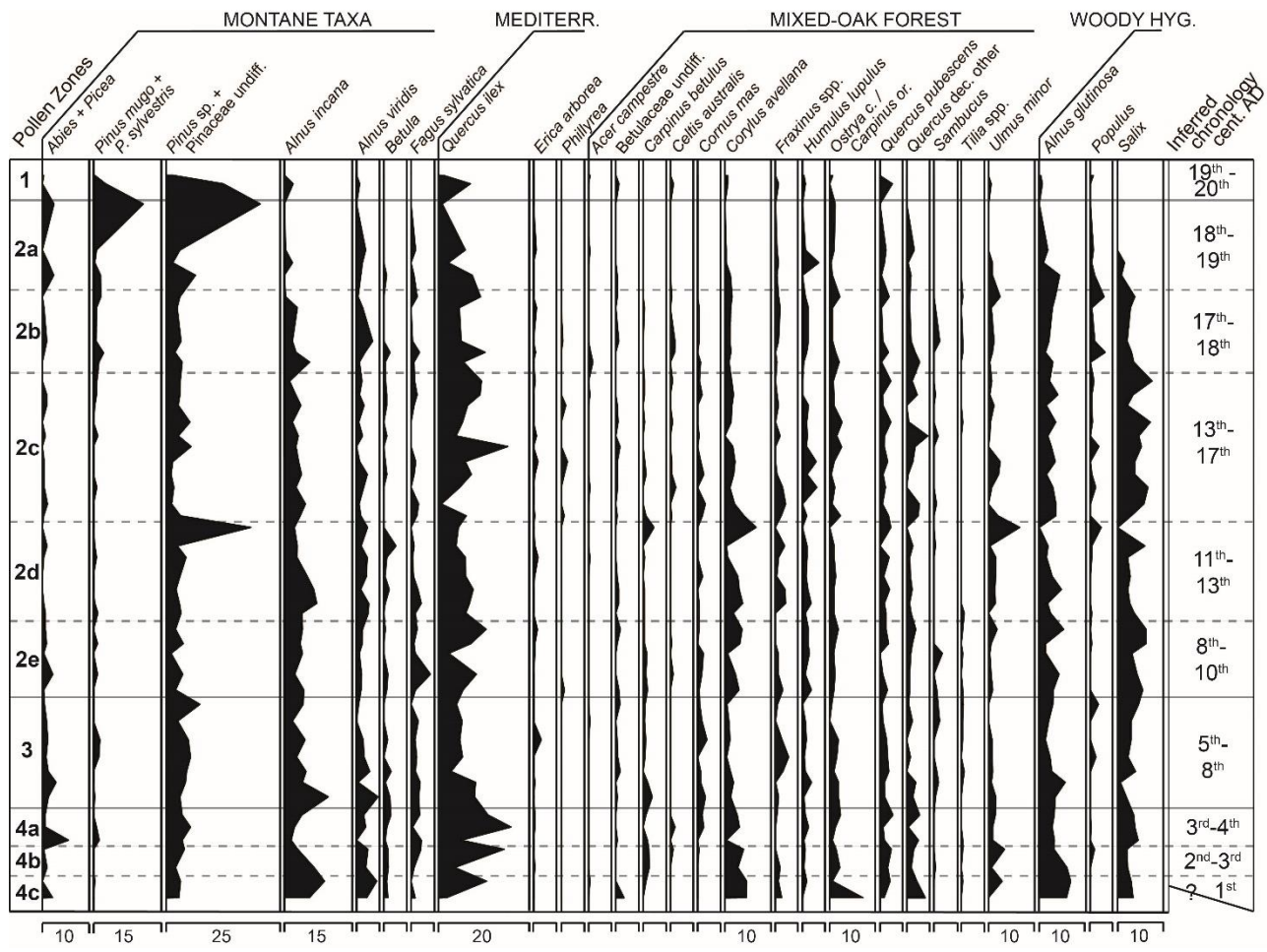
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Figure 2. Stratigraphy, facies associations, age-depth model and chronological inferences of core EM13 (stratigraphic log and facies interpretation slightly modified after Barbieri et al., 2021).



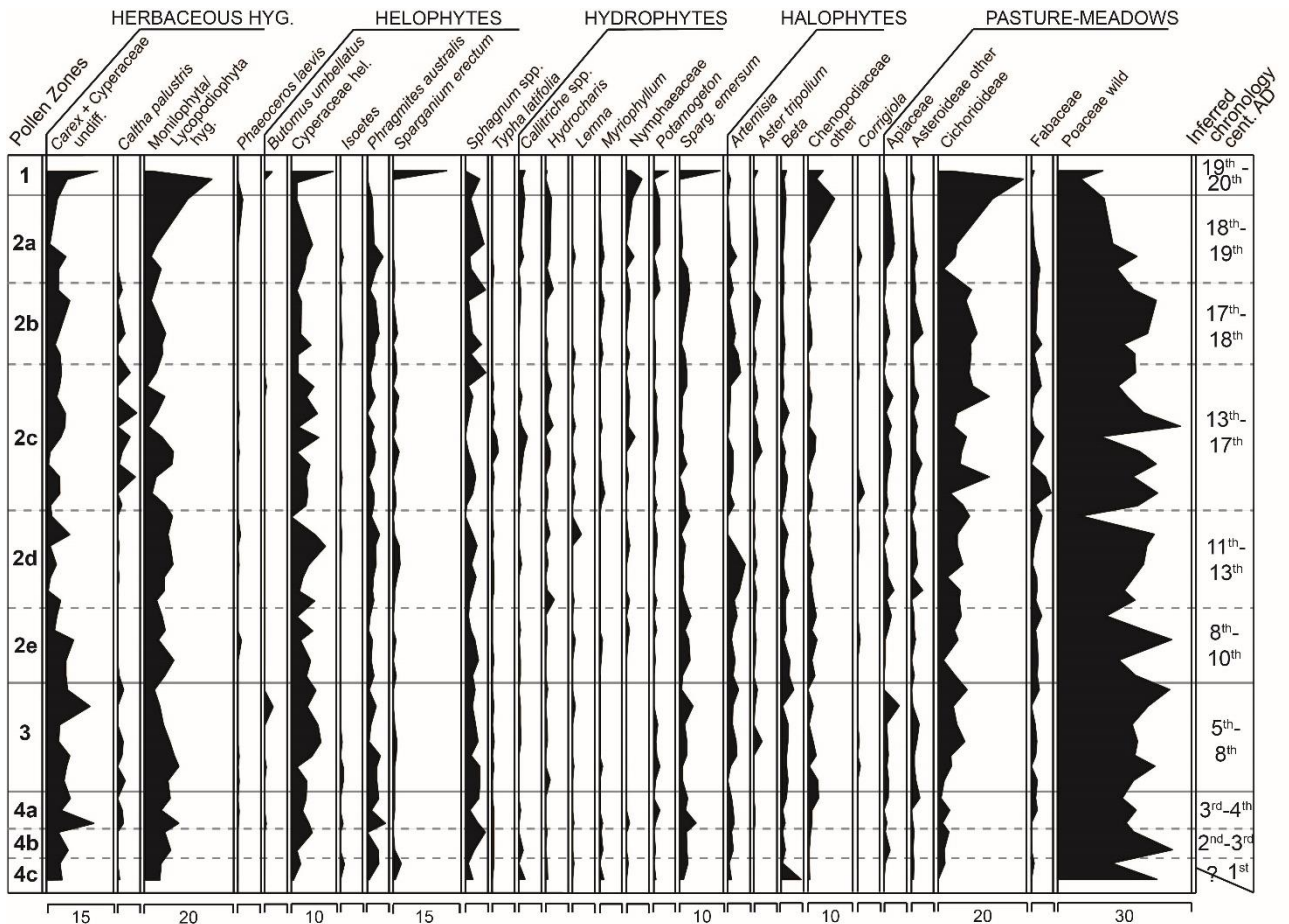
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Figure 3. Main palynological features of core EM13, reported as relative abundances of pollen ecological groups (see text and Table 1), frequency of palynomorphs and AP/NAP ratio. The studied succession includes four main pollen zones, identified via CONISS and chronologically constrained on the basis of radiocarbon ages and additional markers (Figure 2).



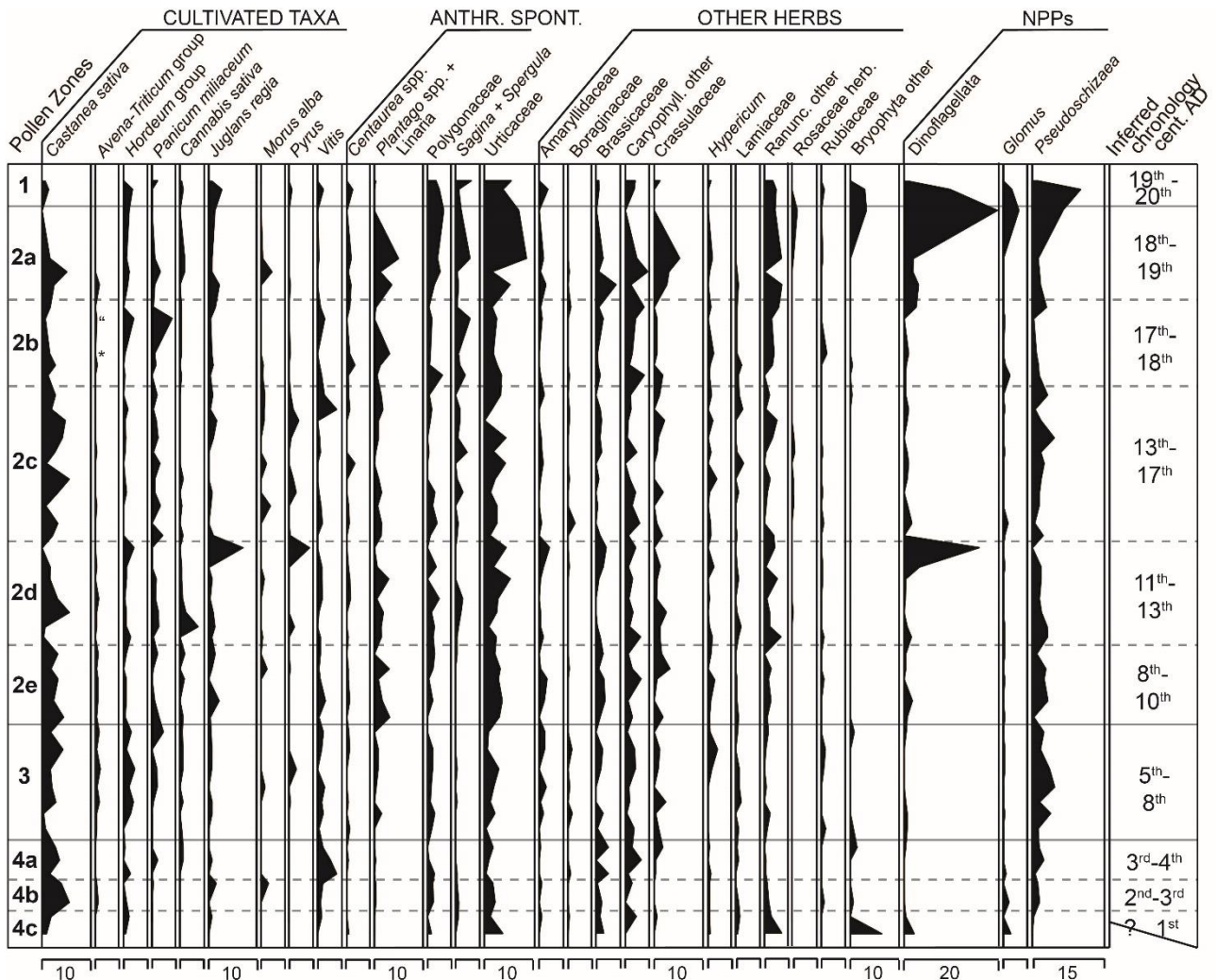
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Figure 4. Pollen percentage diagram showing the relative abundances of the main tree taxa, belonging to the montane (Mt) and lowland (M, Q and Hyg) groups. Where unspecified, the scale bar represents a 5% measure unit.



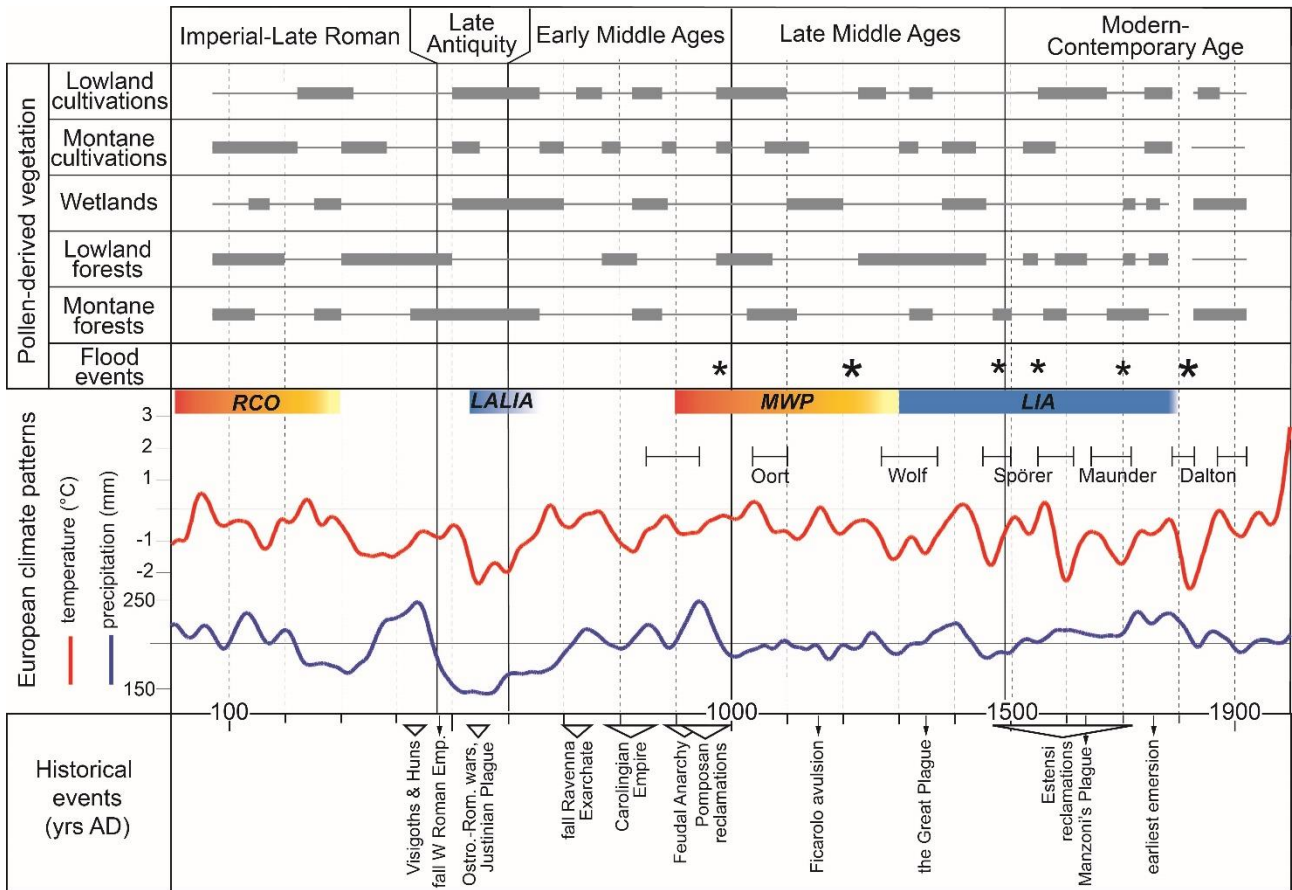
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Figure 5. Pollen percentage diagram showing the relative abundances of the main herbaceous taxa, belonging to the wetland (hyg, hel, hyd) and well-drained (hal and pm) environmental groups. Where unspecified, the scale bar represents a 5% measure unit.



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Figure 6. Pollen percentage diagram showing the relative abundances of the main herbaceous taxa, belonging to the Ac and As groups plus taxa not specifically belonging to any group/ubiquists; NPPs are also expressed. Where unspecified, the scale bar represents a 5% measure unit.



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Figure 7. Comparison between the EM13 palynological record (vegetation patterns, flood events) with solar minima (sensu Bard et al., 2000) and European temperature and rainfall reconstructions (60-year low-pass filters from Büntgen et al., 2011). Bigger asterisks highlight major peaks in II/I ratio. At the bottom, the main historical events occurring in the Po delta plain are also shown. Grey bars were assigned on the base of the most dominant ecological groups within each chronologically and stratigraphically constrained pollen zone/sub-zone (see also Supplemental Figure 2).

Ecological group	Definition	Ecological significance
Mt	Montane taxa	High altitude woods
Q	Mixed oak forest	Mesophilous woods
M	Mediterraneans	Thermophilous woods
Hyg	Woody hygrophytes	Hygrophilous woods
hyg	Herbaceous hygrophytes	Hygrophilous grasslands
hel	Helophytes	Seasonally underwater herbs
hyd	Hydrophytes	Fully aquatic herbs
pm	Pasture-meadows	Mesophilous grasslands
hal	Halophytes	Saline-tolerant grasslands
As	Anthropic spontaneous	Disturbed grasslands
Ac	Anthropic cultivated	Crop fields / orchards-arboriculture (split into <i>Castanea</i> , cereals – ce, and other cultivated taxa)

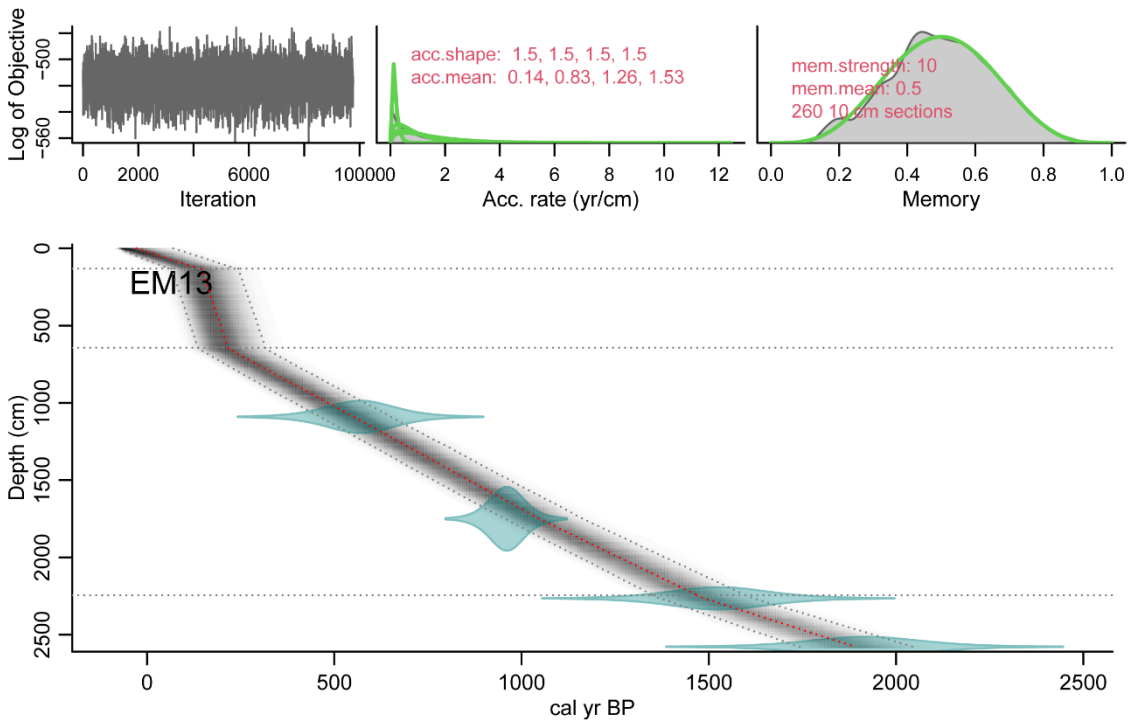
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Table 1. List of pollen's ecological groups and associated ecological significance.

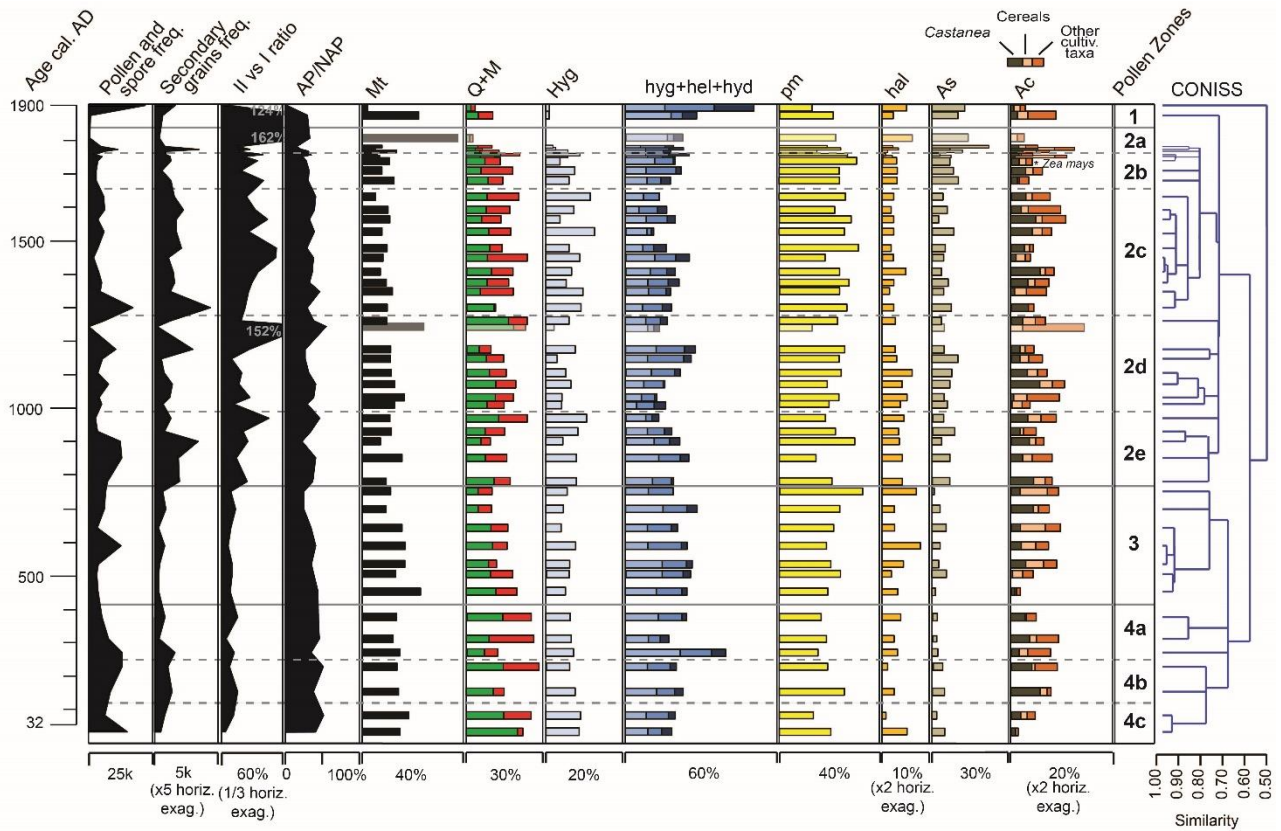
Sample depth (m)	Dated material	Radiocarbon age (conventional yrs BP)	Calibrated age BP (2 σ interval)	Calibrated age BC/AD (2 σ interval)	References
10.90	Shell	840 \pm 40	489-652	1298-1461 AD	Amorosi et al. (2017)
17.50	Wood	1060 \pm 30	920-1002	948-1030 AD	Amorosi et al. (2017)
22.90	Shell	1900 \pm 40	1409-1645	305-541 AD	Amorosi et al. (2017)
25.78	Shell	2220 \pm 30	1786-2051	102 BC-164 AD	this study

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Table 2. List of radiocarbon ages available for core EM13, recalibrated after Reimer et al. (2020).



1269 Supplemental Figure 1. Age-depth model original graph. Priors: Memory defines how much the accumulation
 1270 rate of a particular depth in a core depends on the depth above it (Blaauw and Christen, 2011). Acc. rate
 1271 panel shows the accumulation rate prior as defined per intervals listed bottom-to-top; acc.shape is the shape
 1272 of the distribution curve of the accumulation rates (1.5 is default). The iteration panel pictures how well the
 1273 Markov Chain Monte Carlo fits with given priors at an increasing number of iterations (the more uniform the
 1274 oscillations, the better the model). Boundaries (dotted horizontal lines) in the model were set at 22.45 m
 1275 (meiofauna-based variation in bottom conditions due to changes in river inputs, following Barbieri et al.,
 1276 2021), 6.43 m (prodelta – delta front transition/delta front boundary) and 1.31 m (delta front transition/delta
 1277 front – delta plain boundary).
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Supplemental Figure 2. Pollen groups' percentage diagram of EM13 plotted against chronology, including the pollen zonation identified *via* CONISS. The temporal attribution of each sample derives from the age-depth model. The subdivision in terms of centuries AD is also shown (see also Figure 3).

1284 Supplemental Table 1: Percentages of pollen, spores and other NPPs of core EM13. The ecological
1285 characterisation of some taxa may be controversial and deserves some explanation: *Castanea*, even though
1286 living on the hills, was counted as Anthropoc cultivated (Ac) and not as Montane (Mt) because during the last
1287 two millennia it was mainly cultivated and, thus, bears no climatic significance. *Beta* was considered
1288 halophyte (hal) instead of Ac because its relative abundance is always too low to be considered of anthropic
1289 origin. Similarly, other chenopods were also considered hal instead of Anthropoc spontaneous (As) due to the
1290 proximity of the coast. *Posidonia* and *Ruppia* were assigned to the halophyte group, though strictly
1291 hydrophyte (hyd), because they live in saltwater at a few meters of depth in the sea.

DEPTH (m)			26,17	25,70	25,10	24,52	24,17	23,83	23,30	22,77	22,20	21,82	21,17	20,61	19,94	19,32	18,88	18,22	17,62	17,20	
SAMPLES (n°)			51	49	47	46	45	44	43	42	41	40	39	38	37	36	35	34	33	32	
TREES		Ecological groups																			
ADOXACEAE	<i>Sambucus</i> sp.	sh,DT			0,33					0,33	0,99	0,64			1,24	0,88	0,65			1,85	
BETULACEAE	<i>Alnus</i> cf. <i>glutinosa</i>	T,Hyg	6,25	7,21	6,33	3,38	3,49	3,00	3,44	3,67	5,92	2,88	2,45	1,42	2,17	3,10	3,23	4,52	1,54	1,56	
	<i>Alnus</i> cf. <i>incana</i>	T,Mt	5,80	9,40	7,00	3,08	1,59	2,33	4,06	10,33	4,28	5,13	2,86	4,84	1,86	4,42	4,52	2,41	4,31	3,74	
	<i>Alnus</i> cf. <i>viridis</i>	T,Mt	2,23	4,39	2,00	2,46		2,00	1,56	4,67	0,33	2,88	1,63	1,42		0,44	0,97	1,20	0,62	1,25	
	<i>Betula</i>	T,Mt	0,89	0,63	1,00	0,92	0,32	0,67	1,56	1,33	0,33	1,60		0,85			0,65	0,90			
	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	T,Q		0,63	1,33	1,23	0,95		0,63	2,00	0,99		0,41	0,57	0,31	0,44	0,97	0,60	0,92	0,31	
	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	sh,Q	4,91	5,02	3,00	4,31	0,32	3,33	2,81	1,33	1,97	1,28	0,41	1,14	0,93	0,44	3,23	2,41	0,62	3,43	
	<i>Ostrya carpinifolia</i> / <i>Carpinus orientalis</i>	T,Q	7,59	0,63	2,33	1,54	0,63	1,33	2,50	2,00	1,97	0,96	1,63	1,99		0,44	0,97	1,20	0,92	1,25	
	Betulaceae undiff.	T,Q	1,79				0,32			0,33		0,96	0,41	0,28		0,88	0,65			0,31	
CANNABACEAE	<i>Celtis australis</i>	T,DT				0,62		1,00										0,60		0,31	
	<i>Humulus lupulus</i>	L,DT		0,94	0,33	0,62	0,32	1,33	0,63	0,33	1,97	0,64	0,41	0,85	0,62		1,94	0,60	1,54	1,25	
CISTACEAE	<i>Cistus</i>	sh,M																		0,62	
	<i>Helianthemum</i>	sh										0,64			0,31						
CORNACEAE	<i>Cornus mas</i>	T,Q				0,31		1,33	0,94	1,67	0,66	0,64		1,99	0,93	0,44	0,32	0,90	1,23		
ERICACEAE	<i>Erica arborea</i>	sh,M			0,33			0,33	0,31		0,33			1,71						0,31	0,31
EUPHORBIACEAE	Euphorbiaceae undiff.	sh,DT																			
FAGACEAE	<i>Castanea sativa</i>	T,Ac	0,89	1,88	5,67	4,00	1,59	3,67	2,81	0,67	0,33	2,88	2,04	1,71	4,35	1,77	4,52	2,41	3,38	1,87	
	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	T,Mt	0,89		0,67	2,15	2,22	0,33	1,88	1,67	1,97	0,96	1,22	0,85	1,55		0,97	4,22	0,92	0,62	
	<i>Quercus cerris</i> + <i>petraea</i> + <i>robur</i>	T,Q	1,34	0,63		0,92	0,63	0,33	0,31		0,99				0,31	0,44		0,30			
	<i>Quercus ilex</i>	T,M	2,23	10,97	4,00	14,77	5,40	16,33	11,25	8,33	8,55	3,21	5,71	5,13	5,59	4,42	5,81	8,73	2,77	7,48	
	<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	T,Q	0,89	2,19	1,67	2,46	0,95	0,67	2,81	1,00	0,99	1,92	1,63	1,42	0,62	0,44	1,61	0,60		1,87	
	<i>Quercus</i> sp.	T,Q	2,68	1,57	1,00	0,62	1,90		2,50	1,33	0,99		0,82		0,93		0,65	0,30	0,92	1,25	
JUGLANDACEAE	<i>Juglans regia</i>	T,Ac		0,63		1,54		0,67			0,66	0,64		0,57	0,62	0,44	0,32	2,11		0,62	
MALVACEAE	<i>Tilia</i> spp.	T,Q		0,31		0,31	0,32				0,33	0,64		0,28	0,31	0,44	0,32			0,31	
MORACEAE	<i>Morus alba</i>	T,Ac				1,54							0,82							1,25	
OLEACEAE	<i>Fraxinus</i> spp.	T,Q	1,34	0,63	1,00				0,31	0,67		1,60	2,86	1,42		0,44	1,61	0,60	0,62		
	<i>Olea europaea</i>	T,Ac																			
	<i>Phillyrea angustifolia</i>	sh,M															0,65				
PINACEAE	<i>Abies</i> + <i>Picea</i>	T,Mt	2,23		1,00	0,31	5,71	0,67	0,63	1,33	2,96	1,28	0,82	1,14	0,93	0,44	0,32	2,11	0,31	0,93	
	<i>Larix decidua</i>	T,Mt		0,31																	
	<i>Pinus mugo</i> + <i>sylvestris</i>	T,Mt		0,31			1,27	0,67		0,33			1,22	1,42				0,90		0,93	
	<i>Pinus</i> sp.	T,Mt	2,23	2,51	2,00	2,77	2,54	3,67	1,88	1,67	3,95	2,88	3,67	3,13	2,17	6,64	1,29	3,01	0,62	3,12	
	Pinaceae undiff.	T,Mt	0,45	0,63		1,23	0,95	1,67	1,56	1,33	0,33	1,60	1,63	1,71	0,31	0,88	0,65	0,60	0,31	0,62	
RHAMNACEAE	<i>Frangula alnus</i>	sh,Q																			
ROSACEAE	<i>Prunus</i>	T,Ac																			
	<i>Pyrus</i>	T,Ac										0,32		1,71						0,31	
	<i>Rosa</i>	sh,DT																			
	<i>Rubus</i>	sh,DT							0,63	1,00											
SALICACEAE	<i>Populus</i>	T,Hyg				0,92		0,33					1,22				1,77			0,31	
	<i>Salix</i>	T,Hyg	3,57	3,13	2,33	2,15	4,76	4,00	3,75	2,00	0,66	4,17	2,45	3,13	3,11	4,87	5,81	4,52	3,38	6,54	
SAPINDACEAE	<i>Acer campestre</i> type	T,Q		0,31											0,31						

			26,17	25,70	25,10	24,52	24,17	23,83	23,30	22,77	22,20	21,82	21,17	20,61	19,94	19,32	18,88	18,22	17,62	17,20
ULMACEAE	<i>Ulmus minor</i>	T,Q		3,13	0,67	3,69	0,95	1,00	1,56	1,67	0,66	0,96	0,82	0,85			0,97	0,60	0,31	0,62
VITACEAE	<i>Vitis</i>	L,Ac		0,94	0,67	1,23	4,44	3,00	1,25	0,33	1,32	0,96	1,63		0,93	1,33	0,32	1,81	0,62	0,31
HERBS																				
ALISMATACEAE	<i>Sagittaria</i>	hyd																		1,54
AMARANTHACEAE	<i>Beta</i>	hal	4,91	0,31	1,00	0,31	0,95	0,33	1,25	1,67	1,32	1,28	1,63	1,71	0,31	3,10	1,94	2,11	0,62	1,25
	Chenopodiaceae other	hal	0,45	0,31	0,33	0,62	0,95	1,00	2,50	2,33	0,33	1,92	1,22	0,28	1,24		1,61	0,90	2,15	0,93
AMARYLLIDACEAE	<i>Allium</i> type			0,63		0,62			0,31		0,99	0,32	1,63		1,24	1,33		1,20	1,85	0,31
APIACEAE	Apiaceae tot.	pm		0,31	1,33	0,31	0,63		0,94	1,00	0,66	0,96	0,82	0,57	3,42			0,30	0,31	0,93
ARACEAE	<i>Arum</i>																			
	<i>Lemna</i>	hyd		0,31			0,32				0,33				0,62					0,62
ASTERACEAE	<i>Artemisia</i>	hal	0,89	0,31	1,33	0,92	1,59	1,33	0,94		0,66	2,24	2,04	1,14	1,24	2,65	1,29	1,81	0,92	1,25
	<i>Aster tripolium</i> type	hal					0,32	0,33					2,04		0,31	0,88		0,30	0,62	0,31
	<i>Centaurea</i> spp.	As	0,45					0,33		0,67		0,32			0,62	0,44		0,60	0,31	0,31
	Asteroideae undiff. + <i>Bellis</i> + <i>Tussilago</i>	pm	0,45	0,63	0,33	0,62	0,32		1,88	1,00	0,66	0,64	1,22	1,71	0,31		0,65		0,92	0,62
	Cichorioideae tot.	pm		1,57	1,33	2,46	0,95	2,67	0,63	1,33	2,96	2,88	6,12	4,27	3,42	6,64	3,87	1,20	4,62	3,74
BORAGINACEAE	Boraginaceae tot.			0,31			0,63				0,99		0,41		0,93					0,31
BRASSICACEAE	Brassicaceae tot.		1,79	0,94	1,33	0,31	2,86		2,81	0,33	1,64			1,14	1,55		0,97	2,11	1,85	0,62
BUTOMACEAE	<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>	hel					0,32				0,33				1,86					
CANNABACEAE	<i>Cannabis sativa</i>	Ac						0,67	0,63	0,33		0,64		0,57	0,62	0,44	0,65		0,92	
CARYOPHYLLACEAE	<i>Corrigiola</i>	hal									0,66		0,41						0,62	0,31
	<i>Sagina</i> + <i>Spergula</i>	As		0,63	0,67	0,31	0,32					0,32		0,28						
	Caryophyllaceae other			2,51		1,54	0,63	3,67	1,56	2,00	0,33	0,96	0,82	2,28	2,17	0,44	1,61	0,60	3,69	1,56
CONVOLVULACEAE	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>																			
CRASSULACEAE	Crassulaceae tot.			0,63			0,32	0,33	1,88	1,00	0,33	2,56		0,85	1,24		1,94		0,62	3,43
CYPERACEAE	<i>Carex</i> type	hyg	0,45	1,57	1,33	4,00	2,86	3,67	2,81	1,33	1,32	3,85	2,45	2,56	3,11	5,31	2,26	5,12	1,54	2,18
	<i>Schoenoplectus</i> + <i>Schoenus</i> types	hel	0,45	2,19	1,33	4,92	4,13	2,67	3,44	3,67	1,32	4,81	6,94	6,27	3,73	5,75	3,55	4,52	2,15	4,98
	Cyperaceae undiff.	hyg	4,46	2,82	5,00		9,52	1,00	4,06	4,00	4,61	2,88	1,63	1,71	8,39	0,88	3,55	0,60	6,15	0,93
FABACEAE	<i>Medicago</i>	pm						0,33					0,82			0,44	0,65	0,30		0,62
	Fabaceae other	pm		0,63				1,00	0,94	1,33		0,96	0,41	0,85		1,33	0,65	1,20	1,23	0,31
GERANIACEAE	Geraniaceae undiff.	As																		
HALORHAGACEAE	<i>Myriophyllum</i> spp.	hyd	0,89		0,67	0,31	0,63				0,66								0,30	0,62
HYDROCHARITACEAE	<i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i>	hyd	0,45	0,31		0,31				1,00			0,41	0,28		0,44			0,31	0,31
HYPERICACEAE	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i> type		0,45	0,31	0,33	0,31	0,63		0,31					0,85	2,17	0,44	0,32	0,60	1,54	
LAMIACEAE	Lamiaceae tot.		0,45	0,94	0,67			0,67	0,31	0,67		1,28	0,82	0,85		0,44	0,65	0,30	0,31	
LILIACEAE	<i>Fritillaria</i> type	pm																		0,92
LINACEAE	<i>Linum</i> sp.																			
LYTHRACEAE	<i>Peplis portula</i>	Mt																		
NYMPHAEACEAE	<i>Nymphaeaceae</i> tot.	hyd		0,31			0,63													0,31
PAPAVERACEAE	Papaveraceae tot.	As													0,31					
PLANTAGINACEAE	<i>Callitriche</i> spp.	hyd	1,34		0,67			0,33					0,41	0,28	0,31		0,32	0,30		0,31
	<i>Litorella uniflora</i>	hyd																		
	<i>Plantago</i> spp. + <i>Linaria</i>	As			0,33	0,31		0,33			1,64		0,41	0,85	0,93		3,55	1,81	0,92	3,43
POACEAE	" <i>Avena-Triticum</i> " group	ce			0,67	0,31				0,33	0,33	0,96	0,41	1,14	0,31	0,88	0,32	0,60	0,62	0,31
	" <i>Hordeum</i> " group	ce	0,45	1,25	0,67		1,59		0,31		1,64	2,24	1,22	2,56	0,62	1,77	0,32	0,60	0,62	
	<i>Panicum miliaceum</i> cf.	ce				0,31		1,33				0,32	1,22	1,14		2,65	1,61	0,60		0,31

			26,17	25,70	25,10	24,52	24,17	23,83	23,30	22,77	22,20	21,82	21,17	20,61	19,94	19,32	18,88	18,22	17,62	17,20	
DICRANACEAE	<i>Aongstroemia longipes</i> + <i>Saellania glaucescens</i>																				
FISSIDENTACEAE	<i>Fissidens rufulus</i>																				
FUNARIACEAE	<i>Funaria</i>								0,30												
	<i>Physcomitrium pyriforme</i>	hyg																			
JUNGERMANNIACEAE	<i>Mylia taylori</i>	Mt																			
MNIACEAE	<i>Plagiomnium</i> + <i>Rhizomnium</i>		2,04																		
ORTOTRICHACEAE	<i>Ulotha crispa</i>		0,41						1,19	0,64											
POTTIACEAE	<i>Pterygoneum ovatum</i>																				
RADULACEAE	<i>Radula complanata</i>																				
SPHAGNACEAE	<i>Sphagnum</i> spp.	hel	1,63	0,62	1,95	4,41	2,77	0,99	2,98	3,21	3,17	1,27	2,78	2,23	1,53	2,15	1,59	2,90	2,11	1,23	
	BRYOPHYTA TOTAL		8,57	0,62	2,60	4,41	3,08	0,99	4,76	3,85	3,49	1,27	2,78	2,23	1,53	3,00	1,59	3,77	2,11	1,23	
SECONDARY DEPOSITION (% PS+themsemves)																					
	<i>Acer</i>																				
	<i>Alnus</i>			3,13	1,33	1,23	2,22		2,81	0,33	1,64	1,28			1,86		1,94		1,23	0,62	
	Apiaceae																		0,31		
	<i>Artemisia</i>																				
	Asteraceae undiff.											0,32					0,32				
	<i>Beta</i>						0,63														
	<i>Betula</i>								0,63												
	Betulaceae undiff.													0,57			1,29			0,31	
	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>				0,33																
	Caryophyllaceae																				
	<i>Carya</i>		0,89		2,00		1,27		1,56	0,33	1,32	0,64		0,28	0,62	0,44		1,51			
	<i>Castanea sativa</i>														0,31						
	Chenopodiaceae undiff.				0,67		0,32		0,31		0,33				0,62		0,97	0,60			
	Cichorioideae				0,33				0,31			0,32									
	<i>Corylus</i>																			0,31	
	Cyperaceae														0,31						
	<i>Engelhardia</i>						0,63														
	<i>Ephedra</i>			0,31							0,33										
	Ericaceae																				
	Fabaceae																				
	<i>Glomus</i>				1,00						0,66										
	<i>Hystricosphaeridium</i>						0,95													0,31	
	Juglandaceae undiff.																			0,31	
	<i>Myrica</i>				0,33																
	<i>Myriophyllum</i>								0,31												
	<i>Nyssa</i>			0,63																	
	<i>Ostrya carpinifolia</i> / <i>Carpinus orientalis</i>				1,00						0,33									0,62	
	<i>Pinus sylvestris/mugo</i>																				
	Pinaceae undiff. + <i>Pinus</i> sp.			0,31	1,33	2,46	0,32	0,67	0,63	0,33	0,99	0,32	2,86	2,56	0,62	0,88	2,26	2,41	1,23	7,48	
	Poaceae						0,63		0,63			0,32	0,82							0,62	
	<i>Pteris</i>										0,33										
	<i>Pterocarya</i>		0,45		2,00		2,54				0,66				0,31						
	<i>Quercus</i> sp.										0,33									0,31	
	<i>Sequoiadendron</i>														0,31						
	<i>Tilia</i>														0,62						

			26,17	25,70	25,10	24,52	24,17	23,83	23,30	22,77	22,20	21,82	21,17	20,61	19,94	19,32	18,88	18,22	17,62	17,20
	<i>Tsuga</i>				0,33															
	<i>Ulmus</i>										0,33									
	Urticaceae																			
	<i>Zelkova</i>			0,31																
	Undeterminable grains		1,79	7,21	5,00	3,38	3,17	3,67	9,06	7,67	2,96	7,05	5,31	5,13	8,39	4,87	19,03	9,94	21,54	12,15
	Monolete spores																			
	Trilete spores				0,67	0,31								0,28			0,65	0,30	0,31	0,62
SECONDARY DEPOSITION - TOTAL		II/I ratio	3,13	11,91	16,33	7,38	12,70	4,33	16,25	8,67	10,20	10,26	8,98	8,83	13,98	6,19	26,45	14,76	26,77	21,50
ECOLOGICAL GROUPS		SAMPLES	51	49	47	46	45	44	43	42	41	40	39	38	37	36	35	34	33	32
Physiognomy																				
WOODY		T+sh+L	48,21	58,93	44,67	59,08	41,59	53,67	51,56	51,33	44,41	42,31	38,78	41,60	30,43	35,84	43,87	48,19	28,92	42,37
Trees		T	41,07	47,65	38,00	50,46	36,51	43,67	44,38	43,33	37,50	35,26	34,69	36,47	26,40	32,74	36,13	42,17	22,77	35,83
Shrubs		sh	7,14	9,40	5,67	6,77	0,32	5,67	5,31	7,33	3,62	5,45	2,04	4,27	2,48	1,77	5,48	3,61	4,00	4,98
Lianas		L		1,88	1,00	1,85	4,76	4,33	1,88	0,67	3,29	1,60	2,04	0,85	1,55	1,33	2,26	2,41	2,15	1,56
HERBS		H	51,79	41,07	55,67	40,92	58,41	46,67	48,44	49,00	56,58	58,65	61,22	58,40	70,81	65,04	56,77	51,81	74,46	57,63
Ecology																				
Deciduous trees		DT		0,94	0,67	1,23	0,32	2,33	1,25	1,67	2,96	1,28	0,41	0,85	1,86	0,88	2,58	1,20	3,38	1,56
Montane taxa		Mt	14,73	18,18	13,67	12,92	14,60	12,00	13,13	22,67	14,47	16,35	13,06	15,38	6,83	12,83	9,35	15,36	7,08	11,21
Broadleaved mesic forest		M+Q	22,77	26,02	15,33	30,15	12,38	24,67	25,94	20,33	18,42	12,18	14,69	16,81	10,25	8,85	17,74	16,27	9,54	16,82
Mixed-oak forest		Q	20,54	15,05	11,00	15,38	6,98	8,00	14,38	12,00	9,54	8,97	8,98	9,97	4,66	4,42	11,29	7,53	5,85	9,03
Mediterraneans		M	2,23	10,97	4,33	14,77	5,40	16,67	11,56	8,33	8,88	3,21	5,71	6,84	5,59	4,42	6,45	8,73	3,69	7,79
Woody hygrophytes		Hyg	9,82	10,34	8,67	6,46	8,25	7,33	7,19	5,67	6,58	7,05	6,12	4,56	5,28	9,73	9,03	9,04	4,92	8,41
Herbaceous hygrophytes		hyg	9,22	9,45	12,58	8,97	22,65	9,82	13,33	13,25	14,95	14,84	11,79	8,89	15,37	10,11	11,04	13,60	11,25	8,14
Helophytes		hel	5,42	8,73	7,26	9,64	12,56	5,32	9,54	10,16	8,38	9,92	11,73	9,64	9,60	8,34	7,39	8,62	6,11	6,53
Hydrophytes		hyd	4,02	2,82	3,33	2,15	5,71	3,00	1,88	2,00	2,96	2,24	2,86	2,56	4,04	0,88	0,97	3,31	5,54	3,12
Other cultivated		Ac-Cast-ce		1,57	0,67	4,31	4,44	4,33	1,88	0,67	1,97	2,56	2,45	2,85	2,17	2,21	1,29	3,92	1,54	2,49
Cereals		ce	0,45	1,25	1,33	0,62	1,59	1,33	0,31	0,33	1,97	3,53	2,86	4,84	0,93	5,31	2,26	1,81	1,23	0,62
Anthropic spontaneous		As	5,36	1,88	4,67	3,69	2,22	2,00	1,88	2,00	5,59	2,88	3,27	5,41	3,73	1,33	6,77	7,53	4,62	8,41
Halophytes		hal	6,25	0,94	3,00	1,85	3,81	3,00	4,69	4,00	2,96	5,45	7,35	3,13	3,11	6,64	5,16	5,12	4,92	4,05
Pastures and meadows		pm	22,32	14,73	28,33	20,00	16,83	21,33	18,44	21,33	25,66	22,44	26,94	23,65	27,02	33,19	22,90	16,27	33,54	25,23
Anthropic cultivated tot		Ac	1,34	4,70	7,67	8,92	7,62	9,33	5,00	1,67	4,28	8,97	7,35	9,40	7,45	9,29	8,06	8,13	6,15	4,98
COUNTED GRAINS																				
TRACHEOPHYTA		S+M	254	338	328	357	355	316	357	332	344	340	269	376	340	239	331	370	344	342
SPERMATOPHYTA (pollen sum)		S	224	319	300	325	315	300	320	300	304	312	245	351	322	226	310	332	325	321
MONILOPHYTA+LYCOPODIOPHYTA		M	30	19	28	32	40	16	37	32	40	28	24	25	18	13	21	38	19	21
SECONDARY DEPOSITION			7	38	49	24	40	13	52	26	31	32	22	31	45	14	82	49	87	69
Absolute Pollen Frequency (grains/g)																				
APF TRACHEOPHYTA			16253	6761	9005	13891	13998	7678	5444	3807	3350	3993	9489	3451	6421	5693	7757	13851	13429	3737
APF SPERMATOPHYTA			14333	6381	8236	12646	12421	7289	4880	3440	2961	3664	8643	3222	6081	5384	7265	12428	12687	3507
APF MONILOPHYTA+LYCOPODIOPHYTA			1920	380	769	1245	1577	389	564	367	390	329	847	229	340	310	492	1423	742	229
APF SECONDARY GRAINS			448	760	1345	934	1577	316	793	298	302	376	776	285	850	334	1922	1834	3396	754

			16,75	16,10	15,80	15,25	14,85	14,22	13,80	13,06	12,77	12,20	11,63	11,15	10,75	10,20	9,82	9,30	8,77	8,34
ULMACEAE	<i>Ulmus minor</i>	T,Q	1,97		1,58	1,49	1,61	1,67	0,33	7,14	2,19		0,78	2,33	2,67		0,33	0,47	1,30	0,33
VITACEAE	<i>Vitis</i>	L,Ac	0,66	0,64		0,30	1,08	1,00	1,00			1,10	0,78	0,33			0,66	0,47		4,28
HERBS																				
ALISMATACEAE	<i>Sagittaria</i>	hyd																		
AMARANTHACEAE	<i>Beta</i>	hal	0,98	0,96	1,89	0,90	0,54	1,00	1,67		0,63	1,10	1,56	0,67	1,00		0,66	1,89	0,32	0,66
	Chenopodiaceae other	hal	1,97	1,28	0,95	0,60	1,34	0,33	0,67		0,94	1,10		0,67	1,67	1,83	0,33	0,47	0,97	0,33
AMARYLLIDACEAE	<i>Allium</i> type			0,96	0,32	0,30		0,33	1,00	2,38		0,55			0,33	0,92	0,66	0,47		
APIACEAE	Apiaceae tot.	pm	1,64	0,64	2,21	0,90	0,81		1,00		0,94	0,55	0,78	1,33	1,67	0,92	1,64	0,47	1,95	0,66
ARACEAE	<i>Arum</i>																			
	<i>Lemna</i>	hyd		0,32					2,00			0,55		0,67			0,66			0,33
ASTERACEAE	<i>Artemisia</i>	hal	2,30	1,60	2,84	3,58	4,30	1,67			1,56	0,55	1,17	1,33	1,33		0,33	0,47	0,65	0,66
	<i>Aster tripolium</i> type	hal	0,33	0,64	0,63		0,81		0,33		0,31			0,33	2,00	0,92	0,98		0,97	0,66
	<i>Centaurea</i> spp.	As		0,32			0,81	0,67	0,33			0,55	0,39			1,83				0,66
	Asteroidae undiff. + <i>Bellis</i> + <i>Tussilago</i>	pm	0,66		2,52	0,30	1,34	1,00	1,00		0,94	0,55	1,17	2,33	1,00	0,92	1,31	0,47	1,62	0,66
	Cichorioideae tot.	pm	5,25	4,81	5,05	2,09	5,65	4,33	4,33	7,14	5,63	2,76	11,72	5,00	5,33	6,42	3,61	4,25	11,69	7,89
BORAGINACEAE	Boraginaceae tot.								0,33			1,66				0,33				0,32
BRASSICACEAE	Brassicaceae tot.		1,64	0,96	0,32			0,67	1,67	2,38	0,94		0,39		0,67		1,31	0,94	1,30	0,99
BUTOMACEAE	<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>	hel																		0,33
CANNABACEAE	<i>Cannabis sativa</i>	Ac	0,98		3,79	1,19	0,54	0,33	0,33		0,63		0,39		0,67					
CARYOPHYLLACEAE	<i>Corrigiola</i>	hal						0,33	0,33			1,66	0,39							
	<i>Sagina</i> + <i>Spergula</i>	As	0,33	0,32	0,63	1,19	1,61				0,31	0,55		1,67	0,33		2,62	0,47	0,97	0,99
	Caryophyllaceae other		0,66	3,53	0,95	1,79	0,81	1,67	0,67	2,38	0,63	3,31	1,56	2,33	1,00		2,62	0,47	0,65	1,32
CONVOLVULACEAE	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>																			0,47
CRASSULACEAE	Crassulaceae tot.		1,64	1,28	1,26	2,69	0,54	0,67	1,33		1,88	0,55		2,00			0,66	0,94	2,27	
CYPERACEAE	<i>Carex</i> type	hyg	1,64	3,53	0,32	0,60	2,15	2,00	2,00	2,38	1,25	1,10	2,73	1,00	1,67	3,67	0,98	3,30	1,30	1,97
	<i>Schoenoplectus</i> + <i>Schoenus</i> types	hel	1,31	5,45	1,89	2,69	4,03	8,00	5,67		3,44	3,87	3,52	4,33	1,33	6,42	1,64	6,13	3,57	5,26
	Cyperaceae undiff.	hyg	1,97	0,96	1,26	1,49	1,34		4,67		0,94	3,31	1,56	0,67	0,33	0,92	4,59	2,36	2,27	2,30
FABACEAE	<i>Medicago</i>	pm	0,98	0,32	0,63	0,60	0,27				0,31		1,17		0,33	0,92				0,65
	Fabaceae other	pm	1,31	0,64	0,63	0,60		0,67	1,33	2,38	0,63	4,42	1,95		0,67	1,83	0,66			2,30
GERANIACEAE	Geraniaceae undiff.	As																		
HALORHAGACEAE	<i>Myriophyllum</i> spp.	hyd									0,31	1,10	0,39	0,33			0,66			
HYDROCHARITACEAE	<i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i>	hyd		1,92	0,32		0,54		1,00		0,31	0,55		1,00	1,00		1,64	0,47	0,65	1,32
HYPERICACEAE	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i> type		0,66	0,96	0,32		0,27		1,33		0,63	0,55		0,33	2,00		0,66		1,30	
LAMIACEAE	Lamiaceae tot.			0,64	1,26	0,30		0,67	0,33		0,31			0,67		1,83	0,33			1,64
LILIACEAE	<i>Fritillaria</i> type	pm																		
LINACEAE	<i>Linum</i> sp.						0,27													
LYTHRACEAE	<i>Peplis portula</i>	Mt																		
NYMPHAEACEAE	<i>Nymphaeaceae</i> tot.	hyd		0,64				0,67	0,33				0,39			1,83	0,33	0,47	0,65	0,33
PAPAVERACEAE	Papaveraceae tot.	As																		
PLANTAGINACEAE	<i>Callitriche</i> spp.	hyd					0,54				0,31		0,39	0,67	1,00	1,83	0,66		0,65	
	<i>Litorella uniflora</i>	hyd																		
	<i>Plantago</i> spp. + <i>Linaria</i>	As		1,60	1,58	2,09	0,54	3,33	0,67		1,56	1,66	0,78	1,67	1,00		0,33	0,94	0,97	1,97
POACEAE	" <i>Avena-Triticum</i> " group	ce	0,66		0,32	0,30	0,81		0,33				0,39				0,33			
	" <i>Hordeum</i> " group	ce	0,66	1,60	0,63	0,60	0,27	0,67	0,67	2,38				0,67	0,33		0,33	0,47	0,32	0,99
	<i>Panicum miliaceum</i> cf.	ce	1,31	0,32	1,58	1,49	0,81	1,00			2,50		1,95	0,67	0,67	1,83	0,33	1,42	0,97	0,33

			16,75	16,10	15,80	15,25	14,85	14,22	13,80	13,06	12,77	12,20	11,63	11,15	10,75	10,20	9,82	9,30	8,77	8,34	
DICRANACEAE	<i>Aongstroemia longipes</i> + <i>Saelania glaucescens</i>																				
FISSIDENTACEAE	<i>Fissidens rufulus</i>																				
FUNARIACEAE	<i>Funaria</i>																				
	<i>Physcomitrium pyriforme</i>	hyg																			
JUNGERMANNIACEAE	<i>Mylia taylori</i>	Mt																			
MNIACEAE	<i>Plagiomnium</i> + <i>Rhizomnium</i>																				
ORTOTRICHACEAE	<i>Ulotha crista</i>																				
POTTIACEAE	<i>Pterygoneum ovatum</i>																				
RADULACEAE	<i>Radula complanata</i>																				
SPHAGNACEAE	<i>Sphagnum</i> spp.	hel	0,65	0,95	1,55	2,33	1,33	2,58	1,64		0,31	1,63	2,29	1,63	0,66		0,33	0,93	1,60	0,65	
	BRYOPHYTA TOTAL		0,65	0,95	1,55	2,62	1,33	3,23	1,64		0,31	1,63	2,29	1,96	0,66		0,65	0,93	1,60	0,65	
SECONDARY DEPOSITION (% PS+themsemves)																					
	<i>Acer</i>																				
	<i>Alnus</i>		0,33	0,32	1,26	1,49		0,33	2,67				1,17		0,67		1,64	0,94		0,33	
	Apiaceae								0,67												
	<i>Artemisia</i>																				
	Asteraceae undiff.										0,31						0,66	0,47			
	<i>Beta</i>																				
	<i>Betula</i>																				
	Betulaceae undiff.		0,66			0,30		0,67				2,21			0,33		0,66		0,32		
	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>																				
	Caryophyllaceae																				
	<i>Carya</i>								0,33			0,55					2,62			0,66	
	<i>Castanea sativa</i>																				
	Chenopodiaceae undiff.		0,98	0,32	0,32	0,30	0,54		0,67		0,31				0,33		0,33		0,32		
	Cichorioideae																				
	<i>Corylus</i>								0,33								0,66				
	Cyperaceae																			0,33	
	<i>Engelhardia</i>																				
	<i>Ephedra</i>		0,33		0,32												0,98			0,33	
	Ericaceae																				
	Fabaceae																1,64			0,66	
	<i>Glomus</i>											0,55					0,66			0,99	
	<i>Hystricosphaeridium</i>									9,52			0,39								
	Juglandaceae undiff.																				
	<i>Myrica</i>								0,33												
	<i>Myriophyllum</i>																				
	<i>Nyssa</i>																				
	<i>Ostrya carpinifolia</i> / <i>Carpinus orientalis</i>																				
	<i>Pinus sylvestris/mugo</i>																				
	Pinaceae undiff. + <i>Pinus</i> sp.		6,56	1,60	8,20	2,99	6,72	1,33	6,33	28,57	4,38	1,10	3,13	6,33	3,67	14,68	6,23	2,83	12,34	2,96	
	Poaceae								0,67		0,31	0,55			0,67		0,98	0,94			
	<i>Pteris</i>							0,67													
	<i>Pterocarya</i>																				
	<i>Quercus</i> sp.											0,55	0,39					0,94	0,97		
	<i>Sequoiadendron</i>											0,55									
	<i>Tilia</i>																	0,94			

			16,75	16,10	15,80	15,25	14,85	14,22	13,80	13,06	12,77	12,20	11,63	11,15	10,75	10,20	9,82	9,30	8,77	8,34
	<i>Tsuga</i>										0,31									
	<i>Ulmus</i>																			
	Urticaceae			0,32																
	<i>Zelkova</i>					0,30														
	Undeterminable grains		39,67	8,97	18,93	12,54	13,44	7,33	15,00	114,29	14,38	16,57	13,28	25,00	31,67	38,53	38,03	25,94	33,77	26,97
	Monolete spores																	0,47		0,33
	Trilete spores			0,32					1,00			0,55	0,39		0,33	2,75	1,31	0,47		0,99
SECONDARY DEPOSITION - TOTAL		II/I ratio	48,52	11,86	29,02	17,91	20,70	10,33	28,00	152,38	20,00	23,20	18,75	31,33	37,67	55,96	56,39	33,96	47,73	34,54
ECOLOGICAL GROUPS		SAMPLES	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14
Physiognomy																				
WOODY		T+sh+L	53,44	34,62	45,11	48,06	38,44	35,67	33,67	61,90	45,31	36,46	38,67	39,33	43,33	44,95	36,07	40,57	39,61	46,05
Trees		T	45,57	28,85	36,28	42,39	31,18	29,67	29,67	52,38	38,13	30,94	31,64	32,67	35,00	42,20	31,15	37,26	34,09	36,84
Shrubs		sh	5,90	4,49	6,94	4,18	5,38	4,00	2,00	9,52	6,25	4,42	2,73	5,33	5,33	1,83	3,28	1,89	4,22	4,93
Lianas		L	1,97	1,28	1,89	1,49	1,88	2,00	2,00		0,94	1,10	3,91	1,33	3,00	0,92	1,64	1,42	1,30	4,28
HERBS		H	46,56	65,38	54,89	51,94	61,56	64,67	66,67	38,10	54,69	64,64	61,33	60,67	56,67	55,05	64,92	59,43	60,39	54,61
Ecology																				
Deciduous trees		DT	1,31	0,64	1,89	1,19	0,81	1,00	1,33		1,25	0,55	4,30	1,33	3,33	0,92	1,97	1,42	1,30	2,30
Montane taxa		Mt	10,16	12,50	16,40	12,54	11,29	11,67	11,00	23,81	9,38	9,39	7,03	9,00	7,00	8,26	9,51	7,55	10,71	9,87
Broadleaved mesic forest		M+Q	24,59	12,82	18,93	20,00	15,86	14,67	9,67	23,81	24,38	12,15	12,11	17,00	18,67	23,85	14,43	13,68	13,96	17,43
Mixed-oak forest		Q	13,11	6,41	11,67	11,94	9,14	7,33	5,00	19,05	16,88	11,05	6,64	8,33	10,00	8,26	9,51	8,02	6,17	7,89
Mediterraneans		M	11,48	6,41	7,26	8,06	6,72	7,33	4,67	4,76	7,50	1,10	5,47	8,67	8,67	15,60	4,92	5,66	7,79	9,54
Woody hygrophytes		Hyg	12,13	6,73	4,73	7,46	5,91	4,33	8,67	2,38	6,88	9,94	11,33	6,00	7,67	10,09	6,89	11,79	4,22	8,22
Herbaceous hygrophytes		hyg	8,00	7,59	6,38	7,51	10,26	9,52	12,62	9,05	8,17	6,58	11,60	8,87	9,83	11,73	7,19	13,10	8,51	5,25
Helophytes		hel	2,62	8,32	5,34	7,70	9,39	14,23	11,29	2,38	5,94	7,71	6,96	8,30	6,66	8,26	4,26	8,01	8,42	7,56
Hydrophytes		hyd	2,62	4,81	0,95	0,90	2,15	2,67	4,33	2,38	2,81	3,31	1,56	4,33	3,33	5,50	4,92	1,89	3,25	3,62
Other cultivated		Ac-Cast-ce	2,95	1,60	6,31	2,39	1,88	2,67	1,67	11,90	1,88	1,10	3,91	2,67	1,67	0,92	0,66	1,89	4,55	6,25
Cereals		ce	2,62	1,92	2,52	2,39	1,88	1,67	1,00	2,38	2,50		2,34	1,33	1,00	1,83	0,98	1,89	1,30	1,32
Anthropic spontaneous		As	4,26	6,09	4,73	6,87	8,60	10,00	5,00	4,76	3,75	8,29	5,08	6,33	3,67	6,42	5,25	6,13	2,60	6,58
Halophytes		hal	5,57	4,49	6,31	5,07	7,53	3,33	3,67		3,44	4,42	3,13	3,00	6,00	2,75	2,30	2,83	2,92	2,30
Pastures and meadows		pm	20,33	23,40	25,55	21,19	26,88	25,67	29,00	14,29	25,94	30,39	33,20	30,33	27,00	20,18	34,43	24,06	31,17	24,67
Anthropic cultivated tot		Ac	8,85	3,85	9,46	10,45	6,99	6,00	4,33	14,29	6,56	4,42	7,03	7,33	8,33	3,67	4,26	8,02	10,71	9,54
COUNTED GRAINS																				
TRACHEOPHYTA		S+M	321	325	338	361	404	331	324	45	338	188	271	327	324	114	311	221	329	309
SPERMATOPHYTA (pollen sum)		S	305	312	317	335	372	300	300	42	320	181	256	300	300	109	305	212	308	304
MONILOPHYTA+LYCOPODIOPHYTA		M	16	13	21	26	32	31	24	3	18	7	15	27	24	5	6	9	21	5
SECONDARY DEPOSITION			148	37	92	60	77	31	84	64	64	42	48	94	113	61	172	72	147	105
Absolute Pollen Frequency (grains/g)																				
APF TRACHEOPHYTA			2749	5514	4273	8236	3771	5554	11457	114	6307	19503	3840	5409	4107	1993	3746	3691	3723	6556
APF SPERMATOPHYTA			2612	5293	4008	7643	3472	5034	10608	107	5972	18776	3628	4963	3803	1906	3674	3541	3485	6450
APF MONILOPHYTA+LYCOPODIOPHYTA			137	221	266	593	299	520	849	8	336	726	213	447	304	87	72	150	238	106
APF SECONDARY GRAINS			1267	628	1163	1369	719	520	2970	163	1194	4357	680	1555	1432	1066	2072	1203	1663	2228

DEPTH (m)			7,84	7,15	6,86	6,43	5,17	4,80	4,10	3,69	3,19	1,59	0,83	0,57
SAMPLES (n°)			13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2
TREES		Ecological groups												
ADOXACEAE	<i>Sambucus</i> sp.	sh,DT				1,27	0,33							
BETULACEAE	<i>Alnus</i> cf. <i>glutinosa</i>	T,Hyg	2,37	3,13	1,38	2,23	3,00	3,67	4,67	0,97	1,98		0,68	0,32
	<i>Alnus</i> cf. <i>incana</i>	T,Mt	1,19	5,94	2,76	1,91	3,00	0,33		1,94	0,33		2,04	
	<i>Alnus</i> cf. <i>viridis</i>	T,Mt	1,19	0,63	1,84	3,50	1,33	0,33	0,93	1,29	1,98		0,68	
	<i>Betula</i>	T,Mt	0,40	0,31	1,38				0,62					
	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	T,Q				0,32								
	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	sh,Q	1,58	0,94	1,38	1,27	1,33	1,67	1,25	0,32	0,33		0,68	0,65
	<i>Ostrya carpinifolia</i> / <i>Carpinus orientalis</i>	T,Q	0,79	2,19	1,38	0,64	0,67	2,33	0,62	0,32	0,99	1,25		0,65
	Betulaceae undiff.	T,Q				0,64		0,33	0,31				0,68	
CANNABACEAE	<i>Celtis australis</i>	T,DT	0,40		0,92	1,27		0,33					0,68	
	<i>Humulus lupulus</i>	L,DT		0,31	0,92	1,27	1,33	0,67		3,56	0,66		0,68	0,32
CISTACEAE	<i>Cistus</i>	sh,M												
	<i>Helianthemum</i>	sh												
CORNACEAE	<i>Cornus mas</i>	T,Q	0,40	0,63		0,32	0,33							
ERICACEAE	<i>Erica arborea</i>	sh,M	0,40		0,46		0,67				0,66			
EUPHORBIACEAE	Euphorbiaceae undiff.	sh,DT		0,31										
FAGACEAE	<i>Castanea sativa</i>	T,Ac	2,77	1,25	2,76	1,59	0,67	1,67	2,49	5,18	1,65		1,36	0,65
	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	T,Mt	0,79	0,63	1,84	0,32		1,33	0,62		0,99			
	<i>Quercus cerris</i> + <i>petraea</i> + <i>robur</i>	T,Q		0,94	0,46	0,32		0,33	0,93		0,99			
	<i>Quercus ilex</i>	T,M	9,88	5,94	10,60	5,41	5,00	9,67	7,79	2,59	6,27	1,25	7,48	1,62
	<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	T,Q	2,37	0,31	1,84	0,64	0,33	2,00	0,31	0,97	1,32		2,72	
	<i>Quercus</i> sp.	T,Q	1,19	1,88	1,38	0,64	0,67	0,33		0,32	0,66			
JUGLANDACEAE	<i>Juglans regia</i>	T,Ac	0,79	0,31	0,92	0,64	0,33	1,33	2,18	0,65	0,66	1,25	2,72	0,65
MALVACEAE	<i>Tilia</i> spp.	T,Q				0,32	0,33		0,31					
MORACEAE	<i>Morus alba</i>	T,Ac	0,79	0,31	0,46					2,27	0,33			
OLEACEAE	<i>Fraxinus</i> spp.	T,Q		0,31		0,64	1,00	0,67	0,31	0,65	0,33		0,68	
	<i>Olea europaea</i>	T,Ac												
	<i>Phillyrea angustifolia</i>	sh,M				0,32								
PINACEAE	<i>Abies</i> + <i>Picea</i>	T,Mt			0,46	0,96	0,33		2,49	1,29		2,50		0,32
	<i>Larix decidua</i>	T,Mt								0,32				
	<i>Pinus mugo</i> + <i>sylvestris</i>	T,Mt	0,79	1,25	2,30	0,64	0,67	1,67	1,56	0,32	0,66	11,25	2,72	0,32
	<i>Pinus</i> sp.	T,Mt	2,37	3,13	0,92	2,55	2,33	2,33	5,92	0,97	2,64	20,00	12,24	0,97
	Pinaceae undiff.	T,Mt	0,79	0,31	0,92	0,64		0,67	0,62	0,32	0,33	1,25	0,68	0,32
RHAMNACEAE	<i>Frangula alnus</i>	sh,Q												
ROSACEAE	<i>Prunus</i>	T,Ac												
	<i>Pyrus</i>	T,Ac	0,40			0,32			0,31				0,68	
	<i>Rosa</i>	sh,DT		0,31										
	<i>Rubus</i>	sh,DT		0,63			0,33		0,31					
SALICACEAE	<i>Populus</i>	T,Hyg	0,79		3,23	0,96	0,33	3,00	0,93	0,32	0,66			0,65
	<i>Salix</i>	T,Hyg	7,91	3,75	3,23	2,23	3,00	4,00	0,93	1,62				
SAPINDACEAE	<i>Acer campestre</i> type	T,Q		0,94	0,46				0,31					0,32

			7,84	7,15	6,86	6,43	5,17	4,80	4,10	3,69	3,19	1,59	0,83	0,57
ULMACEAE	<i>Ulmus minor</i>	T,Q	0,79	0,31	0,92	1,27	0,67	2,67	0,93	0,97			0,68	
VITACEAE	<i>Vitis</i>	L,Ac	1,58	0,94	0,46		1,67	0,67			0,33		1,36	
HERBS														
ALISMATACEAE	<i>Sagittaria</i>	hyd												
AMARANTHACEAE	<i>Beta</i>	hal	0,40	0,63	0,92	0,64	0,33	0,67	0,62	0,32	0,66	1,25	0,68	1,30
	Chenopodiaceae other	hal	0,40		0,92	0,96		0,67		0,65	0,33	6,25	2,04	3,57
AMARYLLIDACEAE	<i>Allium</i> type		1,19	0,31			0,67	0,33	1,56	0,32	0,99		2,04	
APIACEAE	Apiaceae tot.	pm		0,63	0,46	1,27		0,33	0,62	1,94	2,31	1,25	0,68	
ARACEAE	<i>Arum</i>		0,40							1,29				
	<i>Lemna</i>	hyd		0,63						0,65				
ASTERACEAE	<i>Artemisia</i>	hal	3,16	2,50	1,38	1,91	0,33	1,33	0,31	2,27	0,66		0,68	
	<i>Aster tripolium</i> type	hal		0,63			1,67		0,31	0,65	0,99			0,97
	<i>Centaurea</i> spp.	As	0,40	0,31	1,84	0,64		0,67	0,93	0,32	0,99		1,36	
	Asteroideae undiff. + <i>Bellis</i> + <i>Tussilago</i>	pm	0,40	0,31	0,46	2,55	0,67	1,00	0,62	1,29	0,66		0,68	
	Cichorioideae tot.	pm	7,11	7,50	7,37	8,92	6,33	7,67	1,25	3,88	4,29	12,50	19,73	2,92
BORAGINACEAE	Boraginaceae tot.			0,31				0,67		0,32				
BRASSICACEAE	Brassicaceae tot.			0,94	0,46	0,32	1,67	0,67	4,67	0,65	1,65		0,68	0,65
BUTOMACEAE	<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>	hel												1,62
CANNABACEAE	<i>Cannabis sativa</i>	Ac		0,31		0,32	0,33	0,33		0,97	0,99		0,68	0,32
CARYOPHYLLACEAE	<i>Corrigiola</i>	hal	0,40				0,33			0,97				
	<i>Sagina</i> + <i>Spergula</i>	As		2,19	0,92	0,64	3,33	0,33	0,62	0,32	3,30	1,25	0,68	3,57
	Caryophyllaceae other		1,19	4,38	0,92	1,59	2,33	4,33	1,25	5,18	2,64		2,04	2,27
CONVOLVULACEAE	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>													
CRASSULACEAE	Crassulaceae tot.		1,19	1,88		0,64	0,67		2,80	3,24	5,61			1,30
CYPERACEAE	<i>Carex</i> type	hyg	3,16	0,63	2,30	2,87	2,33	3,33	3,43	3,56	0,99	2,50	4,76	11,04
	<i>Schoenoplectus</i> + <i>Schoenus</i> types	hel	1,58	1,56	4,61	2,23	2,33	1,33	3,12	3,56	4,95	1,25	1,36	9,74
	Cyperaceae undiff.	hyg	1,58	3,75	0,92	1,27	4,33	0,67	0,62	2,27	0,99	1,25	1,36	2,27
FABACEAE	<i>Medicago</i>	pm			1,38	0,64			0,93	0,32	0,66			
	Fabaceae other	pm	1,58	0,63	0,92	0,32	1,33	1,33	0,93	0,97				0,65
GERANIACEAE	Geraniaceae undiff.	As										1,25		0,32
HALORHAGACEAE	<i>Myriophyllum</i> spp.	hyd		0,63	0,46		1,00	0,33	0,31	0,97	0,66			
HYDROCHARITACEAE	<i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i>	hyd	0,40	0,31	0,46		0,33	1,67	0,31	0,97	0,99	1,25		0,32
HYPERICACEAE	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i> type		0,79	0,31	0,46	1,27		0,67		0,32	0,99			0,65
LAMIACEAE	Lamiaceae tot.		0,79	0,63	1,38	0,32	0,33	0,33	0,62	0,32				
LILIACEAE	<i>Fritillaria</i> type	pm												
LINACEAE	<i>Linum</i> sp.				0,92									
LYTHRACEAE	<i>Peplis portula</i>	Mt							0,62					
NYMPHAEACEAE	<i>Nymphaeaceae</i> tot.	hyd		0,63			0,67	0,67		1,62		1,25	3,40	0,97
PAPAVERACEAE	Papaveraceae tot.	As		0,31			0,33			0,32				
PLANTAGINACEAE	<i>Callitriche</i> spp.	hyd					0,33	0,33		0,97	0,33	1,25	0,68	1,30
	<i>Litorella uniflora</i>	hyd								0,32				
	<i>Plantago</i> spp. + <i>Linaria</i>	As	1,58	0,63	1,38	3,50		0,33	4,05	1,29	5,61			0,32
POACEAE	" <i>Avena-Triticum</i> " group	ce			0,46		0,33		0,93					
	" <i>Hordeum</i> " group	ce		0,31		0,32	2,33		0,93	1,29	0,66	1,25	2,04	
	<i>Panicum miliaceum</i> cf.	ce	1,19		0,92	0,64	4,67	0,33	0,62	1,94	0,66			1,30

			7,84	7,15	6,86	6,43	5,17	4,80	4,10	3,69	3,19	1,59	0,83	0,57
DICRANACEAE	<i>Aongstroemia longipes</i> + <i>Saelania glaucescens</i>												1,91	
FISSIDENTACEAE	<i>Fissidens rufulus</i>				0,44									
FUNARIACEAE	<i>Funaria</i>													
	<i>Physcomitrium pyriforme</i>	hyg										1,18		
JUNGERMANNIACEAE	<i>Mylia taylori</i>	Mt										1,18	0,64	
MNIACEAE	<i>Plagiomnium</i> + <i>Rhizomnium</i>													
ORTOTRICHACEAE	<i>Ulotha crista</i>													
POTTIACEAE	<i>Pterygoneum ovatum</i>		0,38											
RADULACEAE	<i>Radula complanata</i>											1,18		
SPHAGNACEAE	<i>Sphagnum</i> spp.	hel	4,51	1,23	3,54	1,57	0,66	4,46	1,23	0,96	4,11	1,18	3,18	
	BRYOPHYTA TOTAL		4,89	1,23	3,98	1,57	0,66	4,46	1,23	0,96	4,11	5,88	6,37	
SECONDARY DEPOSITION (% PS+themsemves)														
	<i>Acer</i>													1,36
	<i>Alnus</i>		0,40	0,63		0,64				0,32				
	Apiaceae													
	<i>Artemisia</i>												0,68	
	Asteraceae undiff.					0,32								
	<i>Beta</i>													
	<i>Betula</i>									0,32				
	Betulaceae undiff.		0,79				0,67	0,67						
	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>													
	Caryophyllaceae												1,36	
	<i>Carya</i>			0,94						1,29				
	<i>Castanea sativa</i>													
	Chenopodiaceae undiff.			0,63		0,32								0,32
	Cichorioideae					0,32				0,32				
	<i>Corylus</i>		0,40											
	Cyperaceae													
	<i>Engelhardia</i>													
	<i>Ephedra</i>			0,31			0,67	0,33		0,32				
	Ericaceae													
	Fabaceae													
	<i>Glomus</i>											7,50		
	<i>Hystricosphaeridium</i>		0,40		0,46	1,59		1,33					3,40	
	Juglandaceae undiff.													
	<i>Myrica</i>													
	<i>Myriophyllum</i>													
	<i>Nyssa</i>													
	<i>Ostrya carpinifolia</i> / <i>Carpinus orientalis</i>		0,40											
	<i>Pinus sylvestris/mugo</i>											28,75		
	Pinaceae undiff. + <i>Pinus</i> sp.		3,95	5,94	3,23	5,10	4,00	12,33	6,85	4,53	4,62	71,25	62,59	0,97
	Poaceae			0,94			0,67			0,97				
	<i>Pteris</i>								0,31		0,33		0,68	
	<i>Pterocarya</i>												2,04	
	<i>Quercus</i> sp.		1,98											
	<i>Sequoiadendron</i>													
	<i>Tilia</i>					0,32			0,31					

			7,84	7,15	6,86	6,43	5,17	4,80	4,10	3,69	3,19	1,59	0,83	0,57
	<i>Tsuga</i>			0,31				0,33		0,32		1,25		
	<i>Ulmus</i>													
	Urticaceae													
	<i>Zelkova</i>				0,46			0,33		0,32				
	Undeterminable grains		13,83	32,50	14,29	24,20	15,67	26,00	6,85	18,45	10,89	36,25	63,27	4,22
	Monolete spores							0,33						
	Trilete spores		0,40	1,25	0,46		0,33	0,33	0,31	0,97	0,33	5,00	2,72	0,97
SECONDARY DEPOSITION - TOTAL		II/I ratio	22,53	43,44	18,89	32,80	22,00	42,00	14,64	28,16	16,17	150,00	136,73	6,49
ECOLOGICAL GROUPS		SAMPLES	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2
Physiognomy														
WOODY		T+sh+L	42,69	37,81	45,62	35,03	29,67	42,00	37,69	27,18	24,75	38,75	39,46	7,79
Trees		T	37,94	33,75	40,55	27,39	22,67	38,67	35,20	22,01	20,79	38,75	36,05	6,82
Shrubs		sh	3,16	2,81	3,69	6,37	4,00	2,00	2,49	1,62	2,97		1,36	0,65
Lianas		L	1,58	1,25	1,38	1,27	3,00	1,33		3,56	0,99		2,04	0,32
HERBS		H	57,31	62,19	54,38	66,24	70,67	58,00	62,31	73,14	75,25	61,25	61,22	92,21
Ecology														
Deciduous trees		DT	0,40	1,56	1,84	3,82	2,00	1,00	0,31	3,56	0,66		1,36	0,32
Montane taxa		Mt	7,51	12,19	12,44	10,51	7,67	6,67	13,40	6,47	6,93	36,18	19,00	1,95
Broadleaved mesic forest		M+Q	17,39	14,38	18,89	12,74	11,00	20,00	13,08	6,15	11,55	2,50	12,93	3,25
Mixed-oak forest		Q	7,11	8,44	7,83	7,01	5,33	10,33	5,30	3,56	4,62	1,25	5,44	1,62
Mediterraneans		M	10,28	5,94	11,06	5,73	5,67	9,67	7,79	2,59	6,93	1,25	7,48	1,62
Woody hygrophytes		Hyg	11,07	6,88	7,83	5,41	6,33	10,67	6,54	2,91	2,64		0,68	0,97
Herbaceous hygrophytes		hyg	10,58	9,14	8,05	11,15	8,63	7,91	8,23	8,67	5,18	16,22	21,64	15,22
Helophytes		hel	7,67	5,59	10,43	7,92	5,00	7,12	7,15	9,04	10,71	3,68	4,55	24,03
Hydrophytes		hyd	2,37	3,75	1,84	0,64	4,33	6,67	3,12	5,83	3,96	5,00	4,08	15,26
Other cultivated		Ac-Cast-ce	3,56	1,88	1,84	1,27	2,33	2,33	2,49	3,88	2,31	1,25	5,44	0,97
Cereals		ce	1,19	0,31	1,38	1,27	7,67	0,33	2,49	3,24	1,32	1,25	2,04	1,30
Anthropic spontaneous		As	5,93	10,63	7,37	7,32	7,33	3,33	12,77	7,12	21,45	13,75	8,84	12,01
Halophytes		hal	4,35	3,75	3,23	3,50	2,67	2,67	1,25	4,85	2,64	7,50	3,40	5,84
Pastures and meadows		pm	26,09	25,94	24,88	33,44	30,00	27,00	17,13	25,89	19,80	23,75	25,85	13,31
Anthropic cultivated tot		Ac	7,51	3,44	5,99	4,14	10,67	4,33	7,48	12,30	5,28	2,50	8,84	2,92
COUNTED GRAINS														
TRACHEOPHYTA		S+M	274	340	237	337	308	323	339	320	326	94	184	314
SPERMATOPHYTA (pollen sum)		S	253	320	217	314	300	300	321	309	303	80	147	308
MONILOPHYTA+LYCOPODIOPHYTA		M	21	20	20	23	8	23	18	11	23	14	37	6
SECONDARY DEPOSITION			57	139	41	103	66	126	47	87	49	120	201	20
Absolute Pollen Frequency (grains/g)														
APF TRACHEOPHYTA			5455	3091	3363	3774	5550	2787	6471	12615	5226	263	586	25142
APF SPERMATOPHYTA			5037	2909	3079	3516	5406	2588	6128	12181	4858	224	469	24662
APF MONILOPHYTA+LYCOPODIOPHYTA			418	182	284	258	144	198	344	434	369	39	118	480
APF SECONDARY GRAINS			1135	1264	582	1153	1189	1087	897	3430	786	336	641	1601