

## **PLANT OFFERINGS FROM ROMAN CREMATIONS IN NORTHERN ITALY: A REVIEW**

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This study presents a review of plant products (cereals, pulses, fruits and bread) used as offerings in Roman graves in northern Italian cemeteries.

During the Iron Age, funerary offerings in inhumations and cremations were already common in Italy but only the cremation ritual allows a greater preservation of remains by carbonisation. Iron Age data seems to be more various in quantity and quality, due perhaps to different rituals.

With Romanisation, plant offerings become abundant and more standardised, largely dominated by fruits; different types of bread are also frequent. In each necropolis, this general outline presents variations, probably due to individual, social, ritual and economic aspects. In order to understand the relative importance of each factor, it is necessary to compare archaeobotanical results with anthropological and archaeological data and with ancient written sources.

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