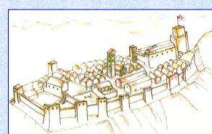
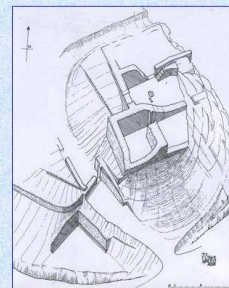


# Investigations about *Gereonium* (Molise, Italy): carpological remains from the castle's kitchen (14th century A.D.)



Reconstruction of Site

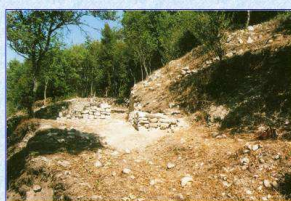


The site of Gerione has a very long history. The name, *Gereonium*, reminds a village cited in the works of the Hannibal's war historians. A castle was built at Gerione at the beginning of the Middle Age and it was then destroyed by the earthquake of 1349. The archaeological excavations, made by Bologna University since 2003, are discovering the different phases of the site life.

The archaeobotanical analysis have begun in 2006. The aims of carpological research are: the study of different remains species, wild or cultivated and the most frequent typologies (caryopsis, rachis fragment, seeds, cotyledons, fruits, etc.); observation of the annual crop weeds to reconstruct the agrarian calendar; research of possible marks of parasites to get the features of the foodstuff storage; observation of the autochthonous species and the remains from other vegetation associations; analysis of the wild component to study the palaeoenvironment and planimetric analysis (to investigate potential areas with a particular use).

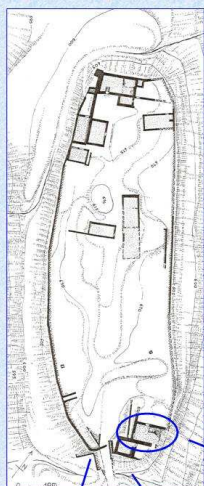


The landscape



The archaeological excavation

The Castle planimetry



The carpological analysis at Gerione mainly concerns the castle's kitchen where the archaeologists found the situation *in situ* after the earthquake. The remains that have been found in the kitchen are the following: pulses (horse bean, pea, chickling and vetch), cereals (wheat and barley even if fragmented) and lots of flax seeds, probably used for alimentation and oil. Various types of edible fruits have also been found, but there is a chronological difference: olive and vine grape remains prevail among the older samples (11-12th century A.D.) while walnut and fig fragments prevail in the later samples (14th century A.D.).

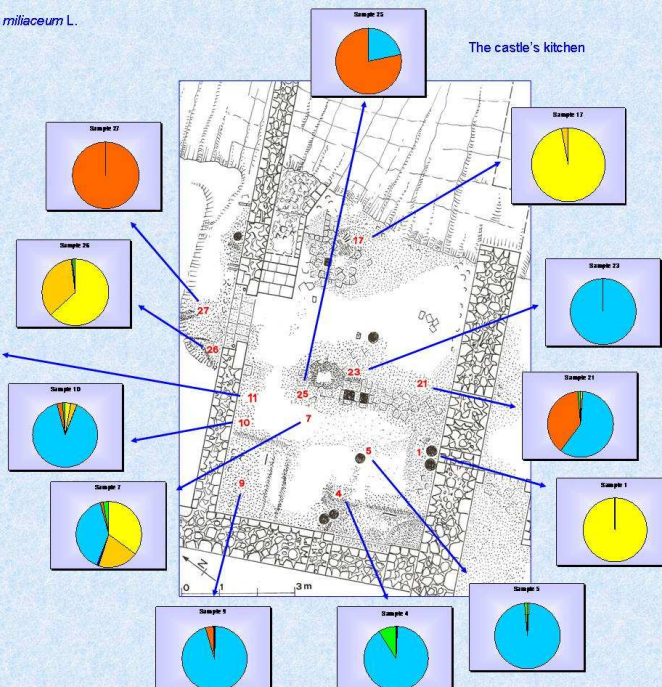
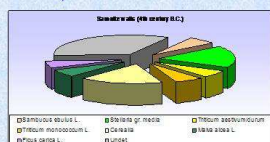
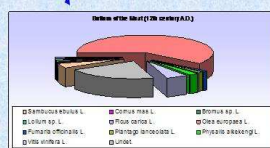
Lastly, there are few herbaceous vegetation findings; among these prevail crop weeds as *Lolium* sp. L., *Bromus* sp. L., *Plantago lanceolata* L., *Siene alba* (Miller) Krause, *Fumaria officinalis* L., *Galium* sp. L. and some officinal plants as *Malva alcea* L. and *Physalis alkekengi* L.



*Panicum miliaceum* L.



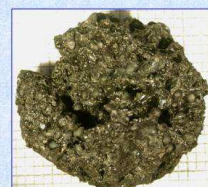
*Pisum sativum* L.



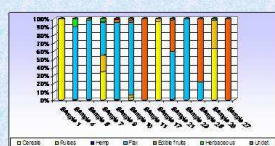
*Olea europaea* L.



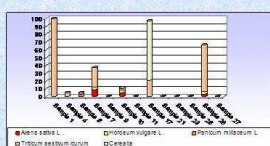
*Linum usitatissimum* L.



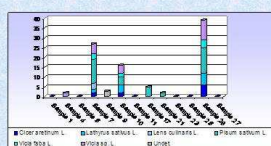
*Ficus carica* L.



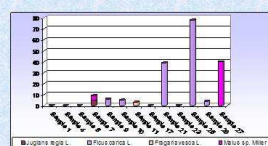
Subsistence economy



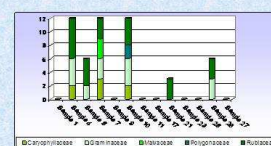
Cereals



Pulses



Edible fruits



Herbaceous



Marialetizia Carra  
ArcheoLaBio - Centro di Ricerche di Bioarcheologia  
Alma Mater