

# The Eneolithic Necropolis of Forlì-Celletta dei Passeri: Taphonomy, Anthropology and Paleonutrition

F. Bertoldi<sup>1</sup>, M. Miari<sup>2</sup>, L. Tagliani, F. Bartoli<sup>3</sup>, P.A. Rasia, F. Bestetti

<sup>1</sup> Università Ca' Foscari, Venezia-Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici. E-mail: francescabertoldi@hotmail.com

<sup>2</sup> Soprintendenza per i Beni Archeologici dell'Emilia Romagna

<sup>3</sup> Università di Pisa-Dipartimento di Biologia

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## Introduction

This Copper age necropolis has been discovered in 2009 in the outskirts of Forlì, during the archaeological investigations performed together with the building of the Nuovo Istituto Penitenziario-località Quattro. The excavations that took place between 2009 and 2010 allowed more than 70 tombs to be brought to light in a burial area extended for 120 m. in E-W direction and 65 m. in N-S direction, thus occupying around 5000 sqmt (Fig. 1). The burials are mostly W-NW and S-SW oriented and the pottery grave goods are formed by a single jar or jug lying close to the feet of the deceased. In seven tombs

copper axes or triangular Remedello-type daggers have been found (Fig. 2) and in 23 of them, flint arrow points have been discovered. Taphonomical data show an evident manipulation of the human remains in antiquity: almost all the graves have been disturbed in order to obtain skeletal parts or to sack valuable grave goods such as metal objects. The human sample is formed by 40 adults and 10 juveniles: 18 males, 7 females and 15 undetermined subjects have been numbered among the adults, while very young children aged below 3 years are missing, possibly because they were buried in a reserved lot of the burial ground (Tab. 1). Stature estimation values could be calculated only for five male subjects and gave a mean value of 170 cm, while paleopathological analysis recorded the presence of the most common dental and skeletal diseases. Preliminary paleonutritional data by AAS on 6 subjects show extremely

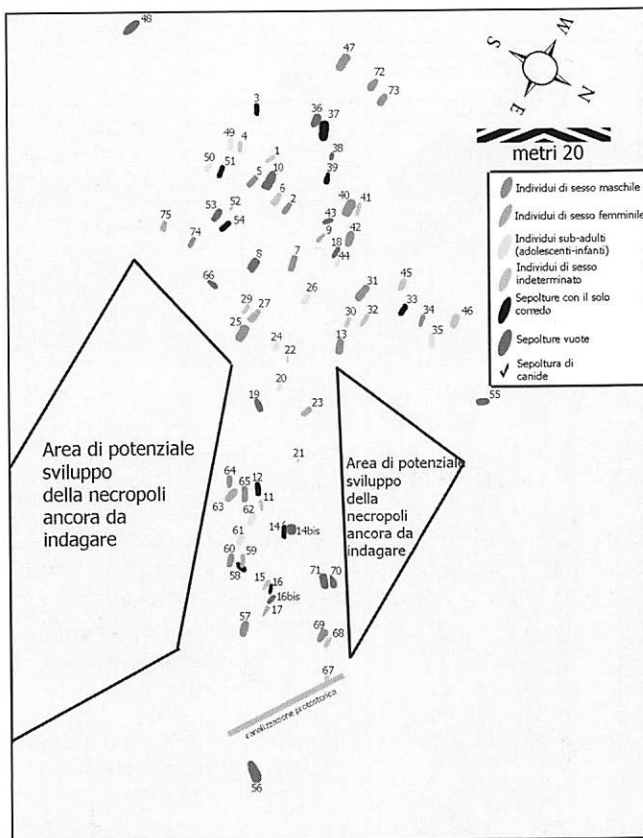


Fig. 1. Plan of the necropolis of Forlì-Celletta dei Passeri.



Fig. 2. The copper dagger found in tomb 64.

	SEX	AGE		SEX	AGE
Tb 1	?	adult	Tb 40	M	25-35
Tb 2	M	adult	Tb 41	?	adult
Tb 4	?	adult?	Tb 42	M	25-35
Tb 5	M?	adult	Tb 44	JUV	5-6 anni ca.
Tb 6	?	adult	Tb 45	?	adult
Tb 7	M?	adult	Tb 46	?	?
Tb 9	F?	?	Tb 47	M?	adult
Tb 11	?	?	Tb 49	JUV	9 ca.
Tb 13	M	adult	Tb 50	JUV	juvenis
Tb 15	?	25 ca.	Tb 57	M?	35-45
Tb 17	F	35-45	Tb 59	F?	35-45
Tb 20	JUV	5 ca.	Tb 60	M?	30-35
Tb 21	?	?	Tb 61	JUV	13-14
Tb 22	?	?	Tb 62 A	JUV	9-10 ca.
Tb 23	F?	20-25	Tb 62 B	JUV	4 ca.
Tb 24	JUV	13-14	Tb 63	F	30-35
Tb 25	M?	25 ca.	Tb 64	M	25-35
Tb 26	JUV	12-13	Tb 65	M	adult
Tb 27	F	40-45	Tb 67	?	adult
Tb 29	?	adult	Tb 68	?	adult
Tb 30	?	30-35	Tb 69	M	45 ca.
Tb 31	M?	25-35	Tb 72	M?	adult
Tb 32	?	adult	Tb 73	M?	16-20
Tb 34	M?	25-35	Tb 74	M	25-35
Tb 35	JUV	15 ca.	Tb 75	F?	35-45
Tb 31	M?	25-35			

Tab. 1. Sex and age at death of the subjects.

high values of Strontium (thus indicating a diet based on the consumption of vegetables and cereals) and very low ones of Zinc (indicating a diet based on the consumption of animal proteins). Correction with the site and analysis of herbivorous animal bones will be performed soon, together with a correct evaluation of diagenesis effect on bones.

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