



## The polished stone axes workshop of Rivanazzano (PV-Northern Italy): analyses of the lithological diversities in comparison with other Italian Neolithic sites

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The authors present the results of archaeometrical analyses conducted on a large sample (182 specimens) of stone artefacts collected in the polished stone tools workshop of Rivanazzano, near Pavia (North-western Italy). The site lies on the foothills of the northern side of the Ligurian Apennine, on a terrace along the river Staffora. Here, more than 400 artefacts have been collected on the surface, consisting of hammerstones, and by-products, fragmentary wastes, flakes and rough-outs resulting from the manufacture of adzes, axes and chisels, proving the existence of one important production site of polished, cutting edged tools which can be dated to the Neolithic period. Petrographical investigations were carried out with the aim of understanding the pattern of exploitation of the stone resources and their possible provenance (D'Amico et alii, in press). The sample for the petrographical analyses was selected according to two methods. The first consists of a random sampling of 90 artefacts, the second of 92 samples collected according to macroscopical differences noticed in the rocks. The cumulative result shows a predominance of eclogites, followed, in order of importance, by glaucophane schists, jades and others HP metaophiolites. The occurrence of

jades is surprisingly low, in comparison to the usual pattern observed in other sites of Northern Italy (D'Amico-Starnini, 2000), whilst that of glaucophane schists is, on the contrary, very high. This can be perhaps explained because of the different character of the site, which is a workshop of primary production, where the finished tools are lacking, contrary to settlements, from which only finished and used tools have been usually analysed.

Finally, all the lithotypes present at the site can be considered of local provenance, collected as pebbles among the alluvial deposits of the Oligocene period, naturally enriched of such rocks, which are the results of the erosion of the primary formations of the Voltri Group.

### References

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- D'Amico C. & Starnini E. 2000: *Eclogites, jades and other HP metaophiolites of the Neolithic polished stone tools from northern Italy*. Krystalinikum, 26, Brno, pp. 9-20.