



Geoarcheological Research on Roman Occupation in Tuscany (Italy) – First results about landscape development around the archaeological site Il Monte

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The process of Romanisation in Europe occurred very different depending on the natural and prehistorical conditions of the several landscapes. During the last four years the Archaeological Institute of the University Jena is excavating an early roman settlement on Il Monte site near San Gimignano (Tuscany) to understand the cultural changes from the Etruscan to the Roman period. In connection with this excavation activities also geoarcheological investigations were executed.

Actually information about the landscape history of Tuscany during the last 4.000 years is very rare. This phenomenon is caused in bad conservation conditions of botanical remains and in situ sediments due to the dry summers, massive erosional processes and strong changes in ground water level. Some new publications give an overview about the general Holocene development (Magny et al. 2007, Vanni  re et al. 2008, Jalut et al. 2009), but investigations with analyses in high temporal resolution are actually a lack in research.

In 2009 sediment cores were drilled in two karst structures very near to the archaeological site. To reconstruct the landscape development of this period the material were used for palynological analyses and radiocarbon datings. Here we present the project idea and first results of this investigation.

References

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