

PRESENTATION

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RESEARCH

Since 2006 Matteo Romandini, archaeozoological researcher, performs and collaborates in research projects or coordinates research projects focused on human peopling in north Italy and in the Alps during the Middle Paleolithic and Upper-Late Palaeolithic. Main goals are *Homo Neanderthalensis* – *Homo Sapiens* bio-cultural substitution and Late-glacial and early Holocene hunter-gatherer settlement dynamics and strategies.

As archaeozoological and taphonomical researcher, he studies the faunal assemblage and reconstructs the whole process of their accumulation in different sites, shelters and caves, of which he is a member or coordinator of the research team. Using the archaeozoology and taphonomy analysis as a tool for information, has revealed the existence of variability in the Mousterian behavioral and particularly during his final period, and the Gravettian and Epigravettian.

As concerns the Mousterian, the main research involves numerous sites in the Italian Alps and the Friuli Venezia Giulia region, among which the most relevant are Grotta di Fumane, Grotta di San Bernardino, Grotta del Col della Stria, Grotta di Paina, Riparo e Grotta del Broion (Veneto), Grotta del Rio Secco (Friuli). Studies on the Middle Paleolithic – Upper Paleolithic transition are mostly focused on Grotta di Fumane, an important site in the North of Italy, well known for its high-resolution sedimentary succession and the extensively excavated final Mousterian, Uluzzian and Aurignacian levels. Other significant sites in course of investigation are Grotta del Rio Secco (Friuli), Riparo del Broion and Grotta del Col della Stria (Veneto).

Human colonization of the Italian Alps in the Late-glacial and the evolution of this phenomenon during the post-glacial period has been approached by surveying some high-plateaux in the Venetian Pre-Alps (Berici hills, Pradis plateaux), field-work and investigations carried out on sites bearing distinct chronology and function (Covolo Fortificato di Trene,

Grotta del Buso Doppio del Broion, Veneto region, Grotta del Clusantin and Riparo di Biarzo Friuli region).

KEY WORDS

PERIOD : Middle and Late Paleolithic

GEOGRAPHY : Italy, North-Adriatic region

SPECIALITY : Archaeozoological and taphonomical analysis

CULTURE/TECHNO-COMPLEX : Mousterian, Uluzzian, Gravettian, Epigravettian