

PLANT REMAINS FROM THE ROMAN HARBOUR AT ZATON NEAR ZADAR (CROATIA)

Renata ŠOŠTARIĆ¹, Mirna A. KRAJAČIĆ², Smiljan GLUŠČEVIĆ³, Sara MAREKOVIĆ¹, Sven D. JELASKA¹

Key words: Plant macrofossils, Mediterranean cultivated plants, Roman harbour, Croatia

71 archaeobotanical samples from an undersea archaeological site – a Roman harbour at Zaton near Zadar (Croatia) were analysed. Cultural layers excavated in Zaton provide material evidence for the activity of this harbour during the time between 1st to the 3rd (eventually 4th) century AD. Out of the collected samples, a total of 3611 seeds, fruits and other mostly non-carbonized plant remains have been separated, out of which 3409 have been identified, mostly up to species level.

An analysis of the results showed that the most important agricultural products were the grape vine (*Vitis vinifera*), olives (*Olea europaea*) and figs (*Ficus carica*). The stone pine (*Pinus pinea*), sweet/sour cherry (*Prunus avium/cerasus*), peach (*Prunus persica*) and almond (*Prunus amygdalus*), some cereals, vegetables and seasoning plants were cultivated or traded as well. Mediterranean evergreen vegetation, today described as alliance *Quercion ilicis*, already existed in the Roman period but under anthropogenic influence it became degraded into maquis, garigue and pasture. The most interesting finds, new and unexpected for the investigated area, are radish (*Raphanus sativus*), red horned-poppay (*Glaucium corniculatum*) and Assyrian plum (*Cordia myxa*).

¹ Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb, Marulićev trg 20, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia, e-mail: renata@botanic.hr; sara@lipa.botanic.hr; sven@botanic.hr

² Popovićeve 17, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia, e-mail: mirnakrajacic@net.hr

³ Department of Underwater Archaeology, Archaeological Museum Zadar, Trg opatice Čike 1, 23000 Zadar, Croatia, e-mail: sgluscevic@amzd.hr