Archaeobotanical analyses show that the canal was partly naturally, partly anthropically filled up, but it was rarely used as garbage and latrine waste. Probably the canal, rich of wet ground plants, was close to a kitchen garden and a little orchard, with fruits, vegetables, aromatics/medicinal plants and other than ornamental plants, such as for example Aquilegia vulgaris/atrata and Prunella vulgaris, probably with also a religious meaning, according to the archaeological context.

The revision of the Flora of the Province of Modena (in press) allows us to compare past and present.

Among weeds, more than 1/5 of taxa found in the archaeobotanical record are today rare or disappeared; e.g. Agrostemma githago, Amaranthus graciosus/lindiius, Ammi majus, Anthemis cotula, Chenopodium ficifolium, Medicago arabica, Nesisia paniculata, Thymelaea passerina and Veronica hederifolia.

About wet ground plants, more than 1/3 of taxa are in the same situation: we may mention Cicuta virosa, perhaps also a medicinal plant in this context, Cladium mariscus, Elymus multicaulis, Epilobium tetragonum, Hydrocotyle vulgaris, Oenothera fistulosa, Pedicularis cf. palustris, Polygonum amphibium, P. minus, Ranunculus flammula, Rhytidospora alba, Salix viminalis and Scutellaria galericulata.

Several plants today missing in the plain, take cover in the hills of the Emilia Romagna region: for example, in the medieval settlement of S. Agata Bolognese (BO - 17 m.s.l. - 10th-11th century A.D.) we find many carphological records of Dracaena intermedia, a protected species today absent in the plain and still present in the hills. So, archaeobotany is able to supervise the vegetal biodiversity in time, giving evidence of disappeared plants.

Archaeological excavations in the Bishop's Palace of Modena brought to light a canal (layers 17 -12th century AD) filled with plant material. Seeds and fruits, above all waterlogged except a few charred ones, show a good state of preservation. The concentration of remains is 52,174 sq/60 l and the floristic list include 146 taxa.

Flora of the Province of Modena - carphological remains from the Bishop's Palace (12th century A.D.) and plants of the same taxa currently living in the territory - 5 and a - Medicagio cf. arctica (legume 4.8 mm); 6 and b - Agrostemma githago (seed 3.8 mm); 7 and c - Aquilegia vulgaris/atrata (seed 1.2 mm) and A. vulgaris; 8 and d - Scutellaria galericulata (mericarp 1.5 mm); 9 and e - Sisymbrium alba (seed 1.2 mm); 10 and f - Cladium mariscus (achene 2.1 mm); 11 and g - Thymelaea passerina (achene 2.5 mm); 12 and h - Veronicia cf. hederifolia (seed 1.2 mm).

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