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on the Mesolithic in Europe**
Ferrara, 15th-19th September 2025

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ABSTRACT BOOK**



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PROGRAM AND
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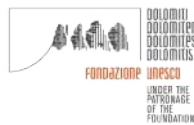


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EXPLOITING LITTLE FLINT PEBBLES: THE MESOLITHIC LITHIC ASSEMBLAGE OF RIPARO BLANC (MONTE CIRCEO, CENTRAL ITALY)

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Riparo Blanc is a small rock shelter located along the Tyrrhenian Sea coast of Monte Circeo, in central Italy. It was the first Mesolithic site identified in the Italian peninsula at the end of 1960s. A recent reassessment of the site has revealed Riparo Blanc to be a significant Early Mesolithic burial ground in the Mediterranean area (see Altamura et al.). The Early Mesolithic occupation levels, whose excavation were resumed in 2016-2019 by Università di Roma Sapienza, have yielded a large number of shells, predominantly marine, along with a smaller number of land shells, charcoal remains, and fewer bone fragments from mammals, fish, reptiles, and birds. Notably, the site has also revealed the presence of a substantial collection of *Columbella rustica* shells (see Mussi et al.). Although it was never thoroughly studied, the lithic assemblage from Riparo Blanc was recognized as highly distinctive by Mariella Taschini in the 1960s since the outset of research, and likely related to the specific subsistence activities carried out at the site. It is composed of around 2000 artefacts from old excavations and 300 from new investigations and primarily manufactured on local marine pebbles by using bipolar technique. Furthermore, at least two small fragmented bladelets/flakes made on obsidian were also retrieved from the recent excavations. A new study aims to reconstruct the technical objectives and the reduction sequences applied to the small local marine pebbles, through a techno-economic analysis and an experimental program. The potential for conducting a traceological analysis will also be assessed.