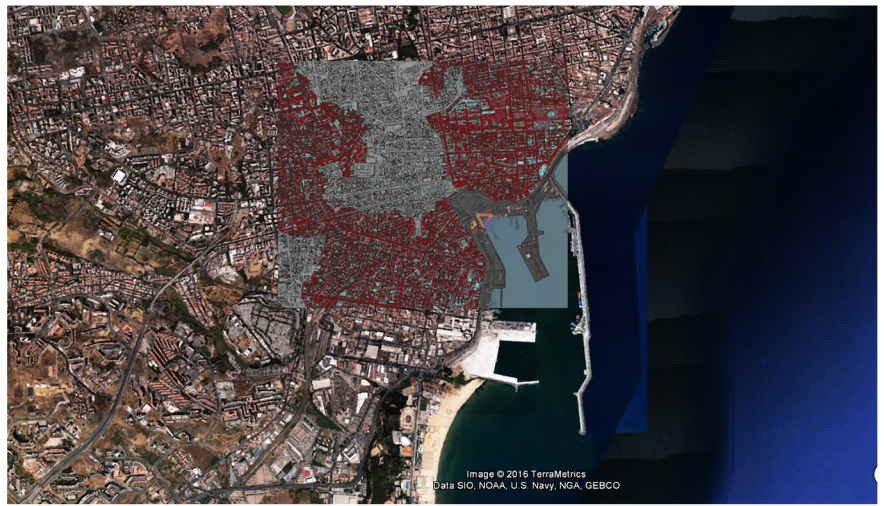


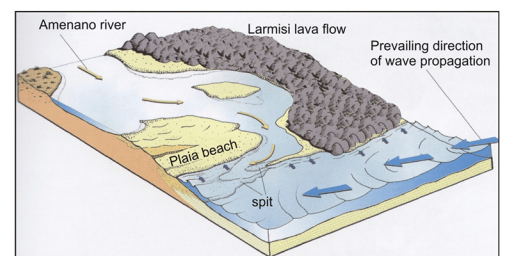
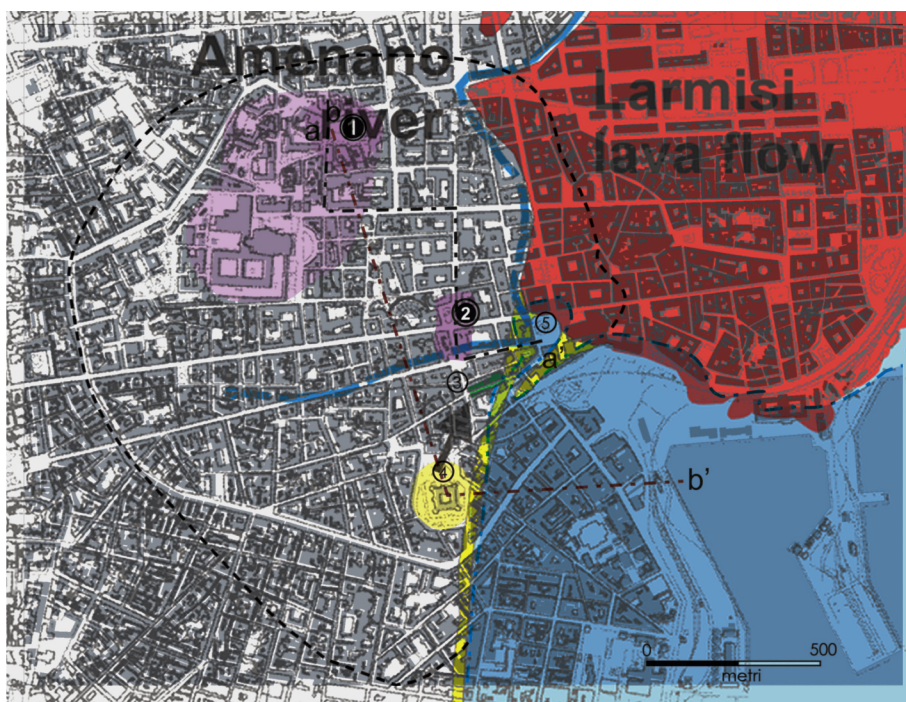
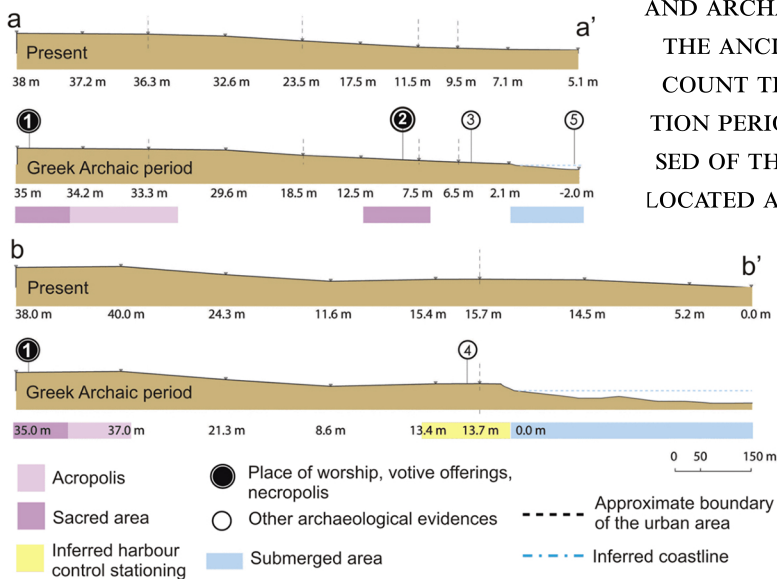
THE GREEK ARCHAIC HARBOUR SYSTEM OF CATANIA

INTERPRETATION OF GEO-ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA



THE ANALYSIS OF LITERARY SOURCES AND HISTORICAL ICONOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION, COMBINED WITH GEOLOGICAL DATA AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDS, PROVIDES NEW EVIDENCE FOR THE ANCIENT HARBOUR SYSTEM OF CATANIA. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE TECTONIC UPLIFT, DURING THE GREEK COLONIZATION PERIOD THE AREA OF PIAZZA DUOMO - THE MOST DEPRESSED OF THE CITY AT THE MOUTH OF THE AMENANO RIVER - WAS LOCATED A FEW METERS BELOW THE SEA-LEVEL. WE INFER THAT

IT WAS THE PROBABLE SITE OF A NATURAL INNER HARBOUR AS A LANDING PLACE FOR THE FIRST COLONISTS WHO FOUNDED CATANIA IN THE 8TH CENTURY B.C. ACCORDING TO THE LITERARY SOURCES, BESIDE THE SMALL RIVER PORT USED FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSE, DURING THE GREEK AND HELLENISTIC PERIOD THE LARGE BEACH LOCATED IMMEDIATELY SOUTH OF THE TOWN, NOW COVERED BY THE 1669 LAVA FLOW, WAS USED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES..



LOCATION OF THE MAIN GREEK ARCHAIC FEATURES IN CATANIA (FROM CASTAGNINO BERLINGHIERI AND MONACO); (1) EX RECLUSORIO DELLA PURITÀ; (2) PIAZZA SAN FRANCESCO; (3) VIA ZAPPALÀ GEMELLI; (4) URSINO CASTLE; (5) ANCIENT HARBOUR (HYPOTHESIS). THE SECTIONS BELOW ILLUSTRATE THE CHANGE OF THE TOPOGRAPHIC ELEVATION FROM THE GREEK ARCHAIC PERIOD TO THE PRESENT. THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE OLD ELEVATION SUBTRACTED FROM THE PRESENT ELEVATION 3 M, OBTAINED BY THE VERTICAL TECTONIC UPLIFT (5 M, CONSIDERING AN UPLIFT RATE OF 2 MM/YR) MINUS THE SEA-LEVEL RISE (2 M IN THE LAST 2500 YRS).