SESSION: Vegetation control
INSTRUCTOR: Giulia Caneva
TIME: Tuesday, 28th May/ 14:30 – 16:00 (1.5 hours)

SESSION OUTLINE

ABSTRACT
The damages arising from the growth of plants on stone monuments is due to chemical, mechanical and physical mechanisms. The colonization of stone by vascular plants usually occurs after the substrate has been attacked by pioneer organisms (cyanobacteria, algae, lichens, mosses), and then proceeds through phases, which are structurally more complex and evolved. Time of abandonment and climatic conditions are two factors which influence type, degree and pattern of colonization. Root damages of ruderal plants can be very severe, such as in the case of trees in tropical countries or growing on hypogeans. It is also important to consider how well managed plant growth in archeological areas can occasionally provide positive effects, (microclimate modification, the reduction of wind erosion, the lowering of the water-table, and the reduction of pollutants). Vegetation control measures such as biocides and mechanical methods will be discussed.

OBJECTIVES
By the end of this session, participants will be able to:
• Describe the chemical, mechanical and physical mechanisms of weathering produced by the colonization of vascular plants upon stone,
• evaluate the negative and positive effects of plants in archaeological areas and
• suggest guidelines for planning and managing archaeological areas in relation to vegetation growth.

CONTENT OUTLINE
• The role of higher plants in archeological and monumental areas.
• Risks and advantages of their presence. Methods of control of ruderal vegetation.

READINGS

= Essential reading material
= Available online

