1. INTRODUCTION

Interdisciplinary project, starting from an archaeological problem...

In the meantime, on the arrival of the men of war, Utica deserted; preparations to be made to the merchant-ships, which were at anchor before Utica, in number about two hundred, that he would need in enemies all that did not take shelter immediately for the navigation coming.

• today, the ancient city is located on a promontory in the heart of the Medjerda delta, 12 km inland;
• the location of the Phoenician and Roman port infrastructures remains unknown.

4. RESULTS

Sea inlet and/or marine bay? The size of the area covered by the sea during time, which will be determined by the next radiocarbon dating.

Where?

▶ Utica was a maritime and port city (ancient authors) but:
• today, the ancient city is located on a promontory in the heart of the Medjerda delta, 12 km inland;
• the location of the Phoenician and Roman port infrastructures remains unknown.

2. AIMS

Reconstruction of the Medjerda delta landscape changes during the Holocene and of the ancient coastline

• hypothesis on the location of the Utica harbour infrastructures

3. MATERIAL & METHODS

• in the field: mechanical extraction of cores (15-20 m deep) to reach the early Holocene. Two of these cores are particularly developed in this poster.
• in the laboratory: particle size analysis and quartz morphology, sedimentological and biological analysis, mineralogical and geochemical approaches, radiocarbon dating.

5. PERSPECTIVES

• Dating of the marine units in the two cores:
  • to establish the chronological framework of the retreat of the coastline;
  • to understand the passage of the Medjerda into the «North compartment» to evaluate the maximum extent of the ancient coastline;
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• to understand the passage of the Medjerda into the «North compartment» to evaluate the maximum extent of the ancient coastline;
• laboratory analyses for palaeoenvironmental reconstruction
• Next coring campaign:
  • in «North compartment» to evaluate the maximum extent of the marine bay
  • in «corridor» to know if the Kalât el-Andalous promontory was an island during Phoenician times