

**Titolo dell'abstract**

THE ANCIENT LIGNITE MINES OF AGNANA CALABRA AS A GEO-ARCHEOLOGICAL PARK, SE CALABRIA, ITALY.

**Autori**

CARRÀ DOMENICO<sup>1</sup>, PROCOPIO FABIO<sup>1</sup>, MINZONI NELLO<sup>2</sup>, GALLO NICOLA<sup>1</sup>, PISCIUNERI ANTONIO<sup>1</sup>, STAMILE ANGELO<sup>1</sup>, URSIDA VALENTINA<sup>1</sup>

presenter's e-mail: domenico.carra@virgilio.it

1 - Ordine dei Geologi della Calabria

2 - Università di Ferrara

**Parole chiave**

mines

lignite

oligocene

anthracoterium

geo-archeological park

**Abstract**

The precious geo-mineralogical patrimony of the southern Calabria is today unjustly neglected while its richness was well known, in every epoch, to the ancient populations. During the nineteenth century, the Agnana Calabria village, became famous because of a huge net of anthracite and lignite mines that reached the most productive power, during the Borboni Regency and the Reign of Two Sicilies. During this period the coal extracted, was utilized from the local population and was also exported to the near villages of the ionic coast by fluvial transportation. In Siderno Marina, for example, the lignite was manufactured in small factories for the production of powder. Furthermore, the coal, was used for the start up of the first Italian railway (from Roma to Frascati) during the same century. After Italy unification the most part of the mines, was abandoned because of lacking of finances and in 1910, the mining activities definitively stopped. In the village of Agnana Calabria old documentations, old work instruments and machines, concerning to the mining activities, are preserved. From a geological point of view, the Oligocene-early Miocene Agnana basin, is limited westward and northward by the Mesozoic relief of Monte Mutolo and Monte Nafrusa and southward by the Late Variscan granodiorite of Monte Schiavo. Starting from early Oligocene marine transgression affected the Agnana area. A lagoonal environment evolved in neritic and batial basin, with deposition of terrigenous and biogenic sequences. The outcrops in Agnana show a thinning-upward sedimentary succession including centimetric to decimetric lignitic layers rich in continental vertebrate macrofossils. These have been classified as rests of Paleogenic *Anthracoterium*. The *Anthracoterium* fossils are particularly abundant in Oligocene lignitic deposits, also in other regions of Italy as in the Monteviale (northeast Vicenza, north Italy) and along the Sardinia western coast. The presence of the same fauna (*Anthracoterium*) in the same Oligocenic lignit deposits of Calabria and Sardinia further confirms the geodynamic processes inducing separation and migration of Calabrian peninsula from its original position, east of Sardo-Corso block. In fact, Calabria reached its present position by the opening, from the Serravallian onwards, of the Tyrrhenian Sea. The idea of institution of a Geo-Archeological Park rises from all the matters previously showed. The finalities of the Park will take in account not only the valorization of the geological and paleontological elements but will also rediscover the historical mining activities and structures. The Park will be promoted and conducted by local young people associations creating new job opportunities, new didactical experiences, new tourist attraction, and then economic improvement for the villages involved.

**Modalita' di presentazione**

Orale

**Scelta della sessione**

1<sup>a</sup> OPZIONE T59 - Il patrimonio geologico come risorsa

2<sup>a</sup> OPZIONE D09B - Beni Culturali