

At first the site of the Athenian camp and later of the Carthaginian one, the north coast of the "Penisola della Maddalena", the ancient *Plemmyrion* by Thucydides, represented for centuries the place selected by all the powers who settled there in an attempt to conquer the pentapolis Syracuse.



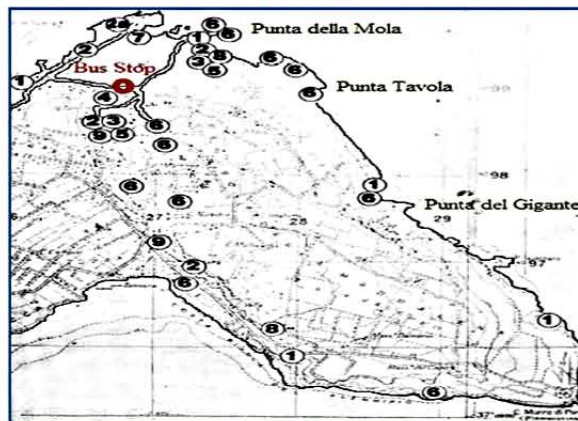
Battle of Siracusa 413-415 B.C.

colored in red are the three Athenians forts
(Punta Castelluccio-Punta della Mola-Punta Tavola)

Nevertheless the traces of human settlements in these places date back already to the 14th century, long before the arrival of the Greeks and over 40 Sicilian small well - tombs (Middle Bronze Age) are evidence of it. Paolo Orsi himself said about the Plemmirio: "In the spring of 1891 I explored in that site about forty tombs, all from the north-east side, and it was one of the first revelations of Sicilian Sicily" (Paolo Orsi - *Notizie degli Scavi* 1899). These tombs were then used during the Greek period by Athenians, who buried there the dead caused by the violent fights between Athens and Syracuse (413-415 B.C.). After more than 2000 years the same area of Pillirina was the scene of the Allied landing in Syracuse during the Second World War. In confirmation of the strategic importance of this place there are the remains of a military battery of Second World War called "Emanuele Russo".

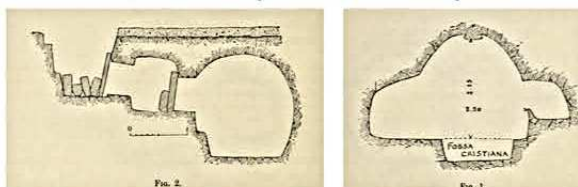
a **JOURNEY THROUGH
HISTORY CULTURE and
LANDSCAPES of SYRACUSE**

MAP OF "PENINSULA MADDALENA" POINTS OF INTEREST



(1) Remains of large-sized mammals (Punta Castelluccio, Punta della Mola, Costa Bianca, Murro di Porco, Grotta Pillirina). (2) Middle Bronze Age Necropolis. (2a) On the calcareous platform of the hollow is located the Neolithic journey area. (3) Tombs (5th century B.C.) (4) Circular monument at Mondjo, likely Gelo's tomb. (5) Tombs (5th century B.C.) (6) Land and sea quarries (7th century B.C.) (7) Greek grain silos converted into kilns by the Romans. (8) Carriage roads. (9) Quarries.

Middle Bronze Age Necropolis Point N° 2 (Punta della Mola)



Designs by Paolo Orsi depicting the small well- tombs
of the "Sicilian Necropolis of Plemmirio"

Coastal Quarries - Point N° 6 (Punta della Mola)

The choice of coastal quarries was dictated by the ease with which the blocks of stone, could be "ferried" to Ortigia in a short time and used for the construction of houses and temples of Syracuse (Temples of Jupiter and Apollo).



View of Latomia Nord (Punta della Mola)

Greek Syloi and Roman kilns Point N°7 (Punta della Mola - Punta Castelluccio)

At Punta della Mola there are dozens of great sub-cylindrical excavations, used at first as *syloi* (tanks for grain) by the Greeks and later as lime kilns for the manufacture of hydraulic lime by the Romans.



Fossils Point N°1 (Punta della Mola)

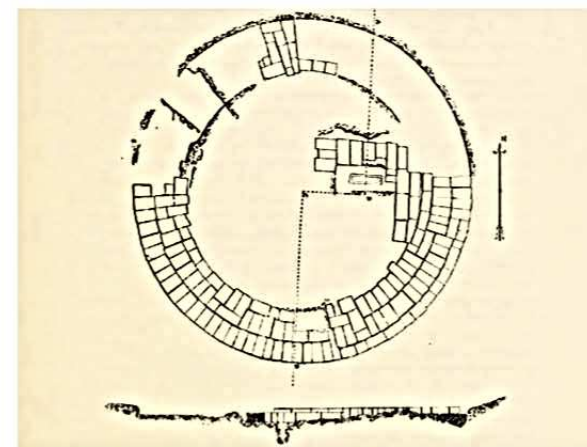


Fossils of *Clypeaster*
Pleistocene (2.58
million years ago).

Mondjo Point N° 4 (near St. Augustine side street - access to Punta della Mola)

The yellowish and compact Quaternary calcarenite, taken in the quarries of Punta della Mola, was certainly used for the construction of one of the most important monuments of ancient Syracuse, Mondjo.

It is an imposing mausoleum (diameter 25 m) that was used to honor the Syracusan fallen, victims of the Athens-Syracuse war, is, according to some people, the tomb of Gelo, the founding father of the Ancient City and State.



Mondjo plan (Paolo Orsi-*Notizie degli scavi* 1899)