The ancient harbour of Emperor Claudius is located in the Tiber River Plain, few km far from the coastline. After the Holocene stabilisation of the sea level, the progradation of the alluvial plain determined the end of the marine cycle in the study area.

The harbour was built between 41 and 54 AD. It was constituted by a 0.9 km² wide dock, partly excavated on the land, delimited in the North and in the South by two long piers and protected at the inlet by an artificial lighthouse island.

A total of 164 samples from 8 boreholes drilled in the archaeological site were analysed for benthic foraminifera. In 71 samples the foraminiferal abundance was sufficient for the quantitative analysis.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

- All boreholes show at the bottom a lagoonal pre-harbour phase that ends with the progradation of the Tiber River alluvial plain
- The harbour phase is recognised in boreholes 4, 5, 6, 8B and 9B as a seeming new slight deepening (2165 ± 50 yrs BP in borehole 5). The Ancient Romans excavated the harbour in the mainland in correspondence of boreholes 4, 5 and 6, while they dredged the sea bottom in correspondence of boreholes 8B and 9B
- The environmental changes observed in borehole 8B starting from ~15 m may be attributed to alternating dredging and burial of the inlet
- In correspondence of borehole 9B a sandy bar was incised for the construction of the harbour (~15 m). The bar re-formed later (~9 m) and was excavated again