

Geochemical characterisation of pozzolanic obsidian glasses used in the ancient mortars of Nora Roman theatre (Sardinia, Italy): provenance of raw materials and historical–archaeological implications

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Abstract

The study focused on the volcanic glass used in the production of bedding mortars and concrete of the Roman theatre (I cent. AD) of the Nora site. The volcanic glasses were frequently used as aggregate and with pozzolanic function in all hydraulic mortars of the different sectors of the building (e.g., concretes of *tribunalia* vaults and external niches, jointing and foundation mortars of *cavea* tier ashlar, brick bedding), together with mainly quartz-feldspar sands, local Oligo-Miocenic andesitic-dacitic volcanics and Palaeozoic and Tyrrhenian sedimentary rocks. These volcanic glasses show characteristics closer to obsidian than to natural pozzolan normally used in the Roman period. They have definitely not sourced locally, unlike the other components that make up the aggregate. To identify their provenance, a petrochemical comparison between several samples taken from the theatre mortars and the volcanic outcrops of some probable Sardinian source areas is made. The use of the not local pozzolanic glass is a technical innovation in the mortars of the Nora archaeological site, and considering the wide use of obsidians in the prehistoric periods for the production of tools, significant considerations about its origin, procurement and use are made.

Keywords Pozzolan · Obsidian glass · Chemical analysis · Aggregate · Mt. Arci · Sardinian Neolithic

Introduction

The Roman theatre is one of the most important buildings of the Roman town of Nora, located in the Gulf of Cagliari (south-western Sardinia, Figs. 1 and 2). Nora was founded by the Phoenicians around the mid-eighth century BC, although there is evidence of earlier settlements (AA.VV. 2000; Lugliè 2009b; Wilson 1980). The theatre has a semi-circular isodomic front with a W–NW axis (Fig. 3) and was built during the Augustan or Giulio-Claudio period (first century AD; Bejor 1999; Ghiotto 2004). According to the use in Roman

times (Adam 2006; Cagnana 2000; Giuliani Cairoli 2006), a variety of geomaterials (sandstones, conglomerates, volcanic rocks, marbles, bricks, etc.) and different kind of mortars (i.e., Roman concrete, bedding and jointing mortars of ashlar and bricks, plasters) were employed to construct the theatre. In the mortars, several different raw materials (i.e., quartz-feldspathic sands, fine and coarse volcanic aggregate) were used, according to the mortar function and the different sectors of the building: structure-wall, *tribunalia* vaults, wall of external niches, foundation of *cavea* tiers, and stage inner wall.

The volcanic glasses show characteristics similar to obsidian facies and not to natural pozzolan normally used in the Roman period for making the mortars. The use of these pozzolanic glasses, which at the outset does not show to share a local origin, is a novelty because, to date, they have never been found in the ancient mortars neither of the Nora archaeological site nor of other roman sites in the island. Given the wide use of obsidian supplied by the Sardinian Mt. Arci source for the production of tools and artefacts from the Neolithic to

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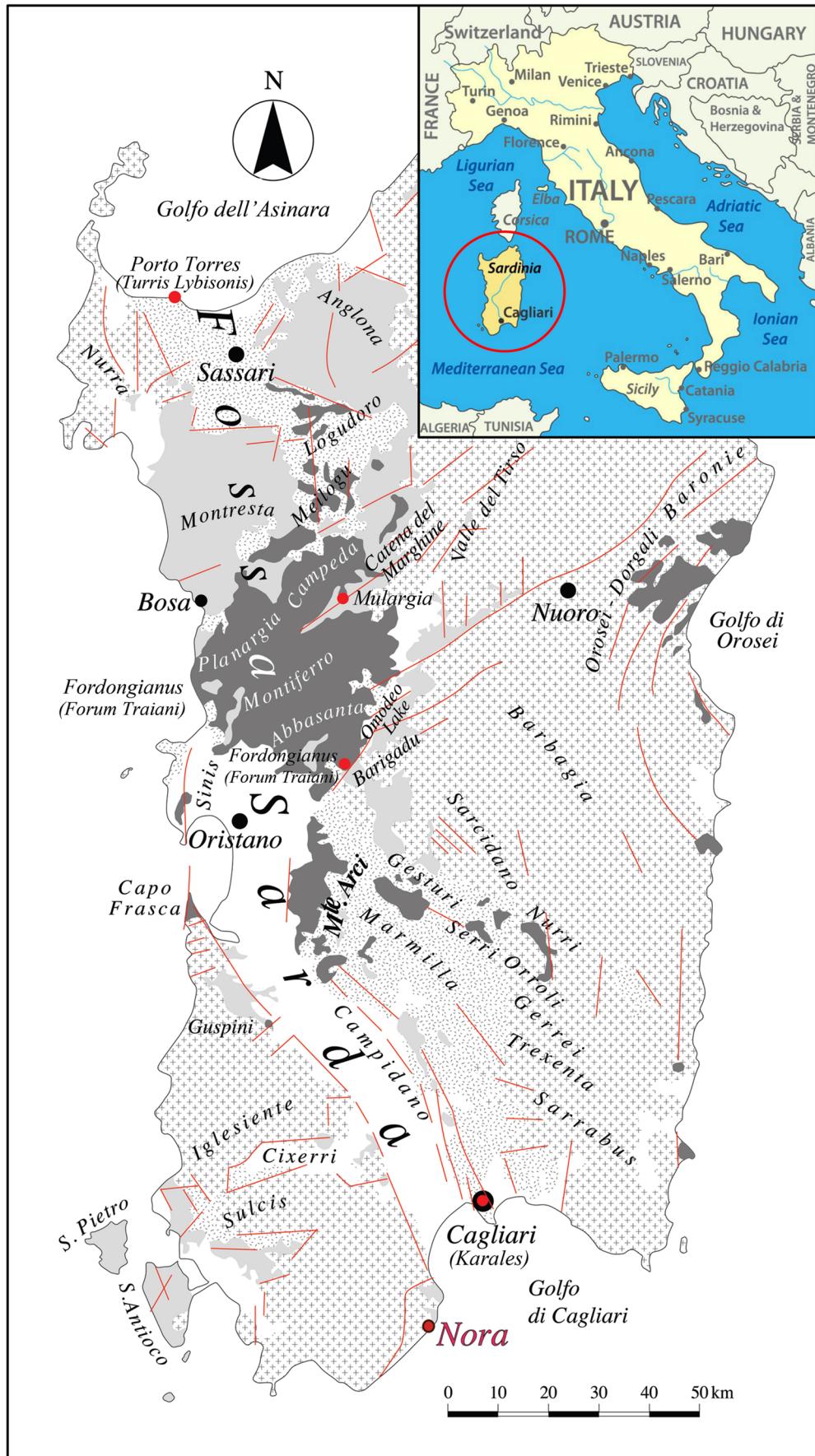


Fig. 1 Geological map of Sardinia with localization of the Roman Nora village and other important Punic-Roman city from the south to the north of the island, i.e., *Karales* (today Cagliari), *Forum Traiani* (Fordongianus), *Turris Lybisonis* (Porto Torres); from Columbu and Garau (2017). Legend of patterns and colours refers to lithologies: white, recent alluvial sediments; light gray, Oligo-Miocene volcanics; dark gray, Plio-Pleistocene volcanics; gray stippled, Miocene marine sediments; gray crosses, Palaeozoic crystalline basement and Mesozoic formations. Red continuous and dashed lines, faults

the late Bronze Age, significant considerations about its use, origin and exploitation can be made.

The archaeometric investigations on both the geochemical and petrographic features and origin of raw materials used in the ancient mortars are fundamental for understanding the ancient routes used by the Romans for the transport of stone materials and for obtaining information on the interconnection of Roman settlements and residential sites present in Sardinia. Moreover, these studies are useful to define the technologies and behaviours for the construction of ancient buildings in different historic times and to address the conservative and restorative works

(Adriano et al. 2009; Alvarez et al. 2000; Antonelli et al. 2014b; Bertorino et al. 2002; Bianchini et al. 2004; Bultrini et al. 2006; Columbu 2017, 2018; Columbu et al. 2014a, b, 2015a; b, 2017a; b, 2018a; b; c; Columbu and Verdiani 2014; De Luca et al. 2013, 2015; Franzini et al. 2000; Gutiérrez et al. 2016; Lapuente 2014a, b; Lapuente et al. 2012; Lezzerini et al. 2016, 2018a; b; Miriello et al. 2010, 2015; Maravelaki-Kalaitzaki et al. 2003; Moropoulou et al. 2000, 2004; Ramacciotti et al. 2018; Riccardi et al. 1998; Smith and Smith 2009; Stanislao et al. 2011; Verdiani and Columbu 2010, 2012; Vola et al. 2011).

To identify their geological provenance, the geochemical data of the glass samples were compared with those of new and literature data of acid volcanics (only the rhyolites and alkali-rhyolites were selected) for south and central Sardinia, where one may find similar lithologies: the island of St. Antioco and Mt. Arci, respectively. In the last of these areas, singled out as possible sources, despite more than 15 years of continuous and systematic surveys performed all around the massif (Lugliè 2003, 2013), there are no clues yet of quarrying nor of reduction activity during the Roman period, but striking

Fig. 2 Nora Roman theatre: (a) overview of Nora archaeological site with the theatre evidenced by red ellipse; (b) southwest view of the *hyposcenium* space under the stage (*palcoscenium*) and east-side *tribunalia* sector (see Fig. 3); (c) southeast view of *orchestra*, west-side of *cavea* tiers and (down) part of *hyposcenium*; (d) view of east-side *tribunalia* sector (with recent cement rebuilt-consolidation under the vault); (e) detail of east-side *cavea* sector with greyish sandstone ashlar, original purplish volcanic ashlar and concrete of the tier foundation; (f) original mosaic decoration of *orchestra* floor

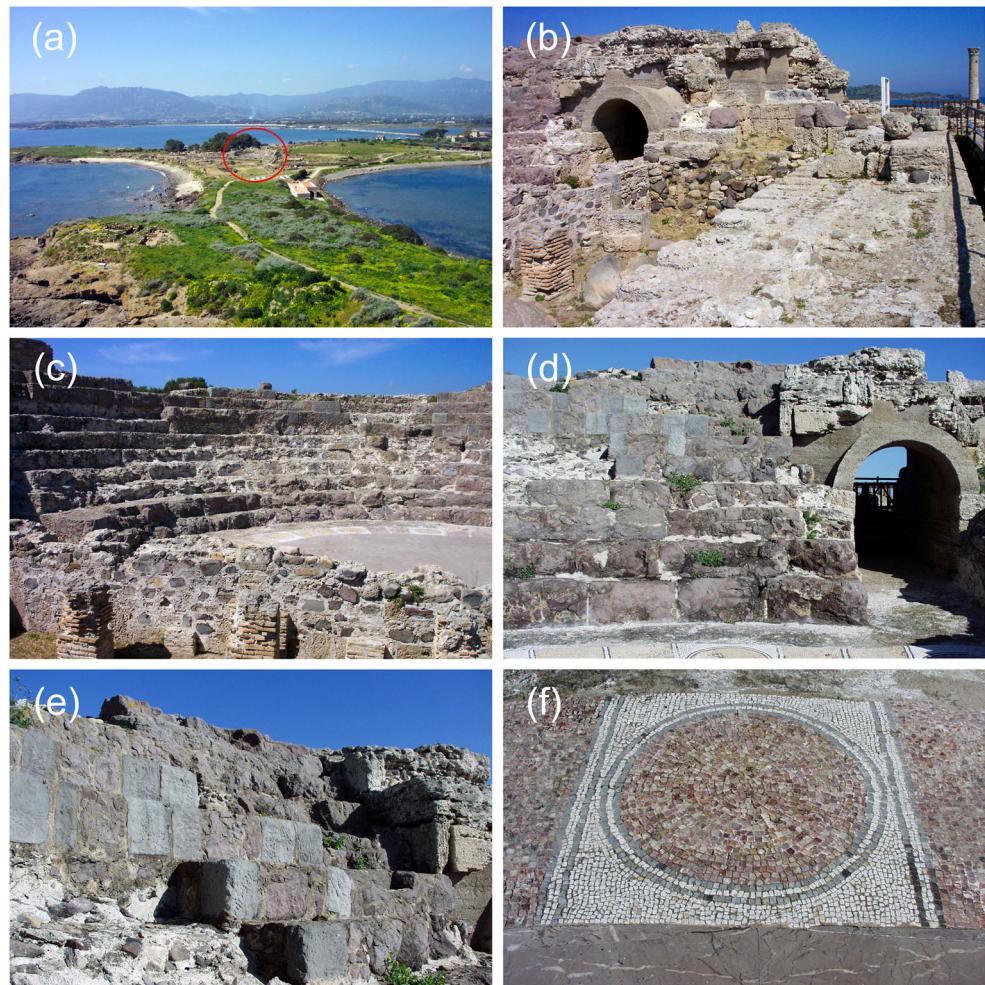
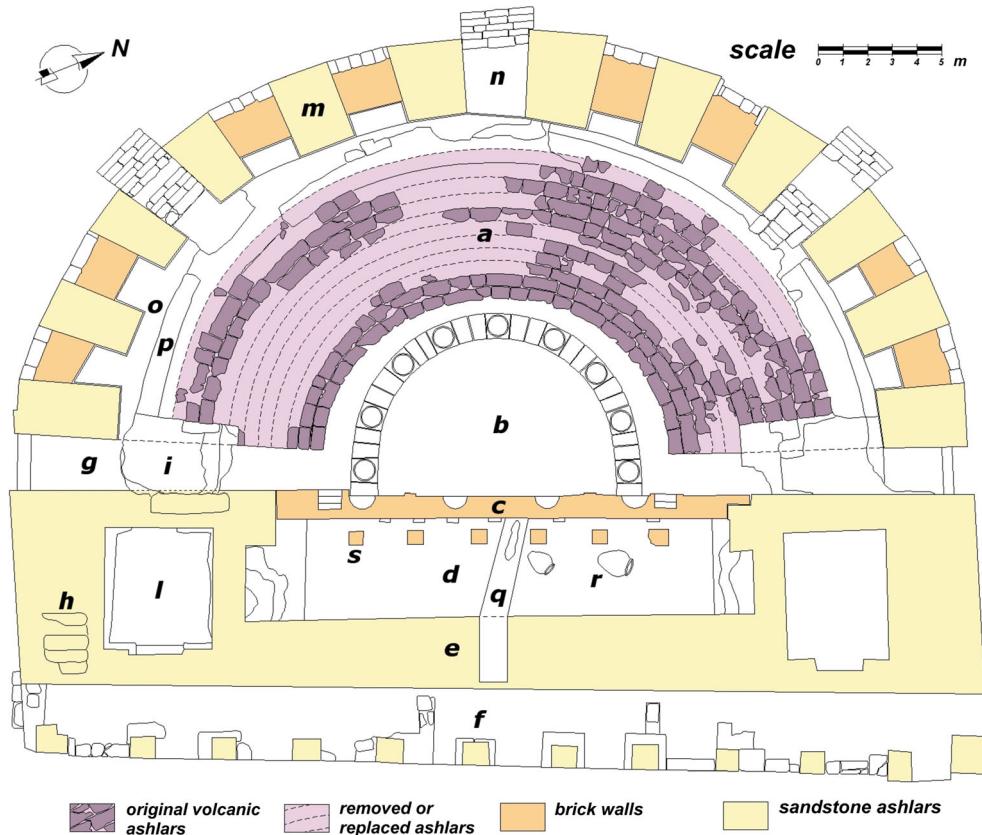


Fig. 3 Plan of the Nora Roman theatre. Legend of sectors: (a) *cavea* (auditorium); (b) *orchestra*; (c) wall of stage; (d) *hyposcenium* (space under the *palcoscenium*); (e) front scene; (f) portico behind the scene; (g) west archway entrance; (h) access ladder at the west *tribunalia*; (i) west *tribunalia*; (l) *parasceni*; (m) external niches; (n) enclosure; (o) via (corridor atop the *cavea*); (p) scalaria; (q) *euripus* (underground channel for water drainage); (r) *dolia*; (s) small pillars under the *palcoscenium* (from Columbu and Garau 2017, modified)



evidence from Neolithic to Bronze Age processing of obsidian.

More than 250 rock samples from both the outcrops (Mt. Arci and St. Antioco areas) and volcanic glasses of mortars from the main sectors of the theatre were analysed. The results of chemical analysis together with the petrographic characterisation were used in order to (a) geochemical classify the volcanic glasses from the mortars of Nora theatre, according to different diagrams; (b) define compositional inhomogeneity internal to the same glass samples; (c) identify framing of glasses in the magmatic series, analysing the geochemical trend of trace elements and the rare earth pattern; and (d) identify the geographical origin of these glasses employed in the mortars, to understand their supply in Sardinia in the Roman period.

Materials and analytical methods

Fifty pozzolanic volcanic glass fragments of aggregate among 48 selected and representative samples of mortars were analysed and studied. The mortar samples come from the following sectors of the theatre: *tribunalia* (9 samples, divided into 7 concretes of two vaults, 2 bedding mortars of ashlar structure); *cavea* (14 jointing/foundation mortars of volcanic and sandstone ashlars); external niches (16 samples, divided

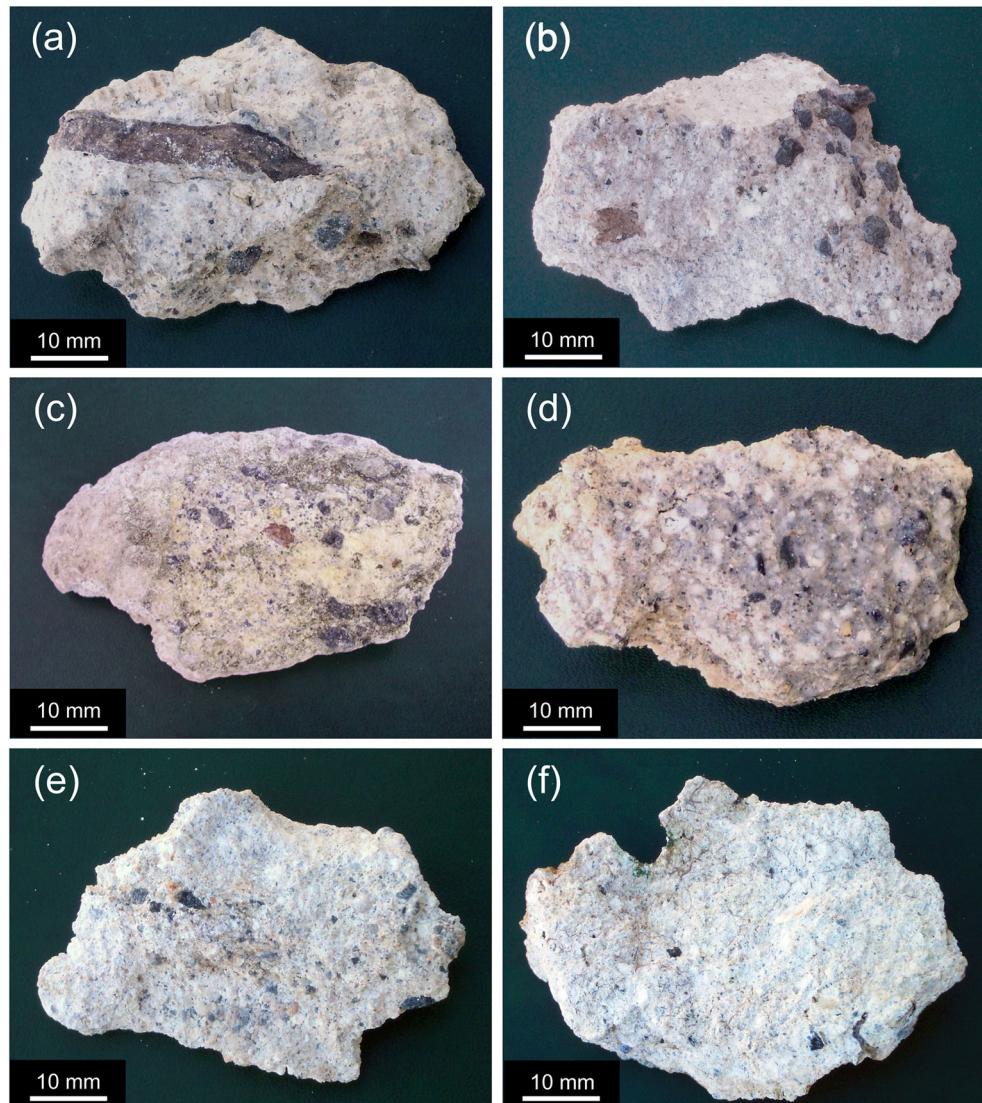
into 9 bedding mortars of outer brick-walls, 3 concrete mortars of inner structure-wall, 2 concrete of basement of via, corridor around the external side of the *cavea*, 1 concrete of only one vault overlying the niche); and *pulpitum* (7 bedding mortars and 4 samples of *arriccia* plasters of the *ribalta* wall and pillar of *hyposcenium*).

The mineralogical and petrographic analysis of volcanic rocks and mortars was performed on thin sections under the polarising microscope (Zeiss photomicroscope Pol II).

The major chemical elements of volcanic glass from the mortars were analysed in thin section under an electron microprobe with a Cambridge S360 scanning electron microscope, equipped with an energy-dispersive spectrometer Link QX2000, Pentafet detector and IBM 686 computer equipped with appropriate software for the acquisition of scanned images. Microanalyses were collected at 15 kV using a 3 μA beam current and a 25 μm spot size.

The analysis of the trace elements (including the full pattern of rare earth) of volcanic glasses included in the mortars was carried out with inductively coupled mass spectrometry combined with laser ablation as a sampling system. It has necessitated an ad hoc sample preparation: some volcanic glass fragments isolated from each mortar sample were embedded in two-component epoxy resin (RenLam M-1, viscosity 1300 mPa s at 25 °C) of cylindrical shape. The obtained test specimen was gradually treated with abrasives of silicon

Fig. 4 Mortar samples from different sectors of Nora theatre. (a) Bedding mortar of Tirrenian sandstone ashlar of theatre structure with a flattened rock fragment of local Oligo-Miocenic volcanic stone; (b) bedding mortar of tier volcanic ashlar belonging to “Su Casteddu” outcrops (see Melis and Columbu 2000; Columbu and Garau 2017); (c) mortar sample from Roman concrete of *cavea* foundation; (d) entrapment mortar of *caementium* (Roman concrete) from east-side *tribunalia* vault; (e) entrapment mortar from Roman concrete of *cavea* foundation; (f) joint-mortar taken between the volcanic ashlar of *cavea* tiers



carbide and alumina powders to bring to the surface and polishing the embedded glass fragments. The diameter of the laser beam used is of $40\text{ }\mu\text{m}$, with a frequency of 10 Hz and a fluence of about 15 J/cm^2 . Data reduction was performed using software “Glitter” (Van Achterbergh et al. 1999). As external standards, synthetic glass NIST 610 and BCR-2 basalt have been used, while as a variable, internal standard ^{44}Ca was used. In this method, the intensity signals of the elements depend both on the concentration changes and the mass ablated in subsequent spot. To make independent analysis by mass variations, the internal standard technique with variable concentrations should be used: the concentration of the analyte is a linear function of the intensity ratio of the analyte in the unknown sample relative to that of the reference standard for the same element, with a correction linearly dependent on the ratio of concentration of the same element (internal standard) content in the unknown sample with respect to a fixed concentration of the same element in the reference sample.

Consequently, the knowledge for each point analysis of the concentration of internal standard assumes great importance. The glasses, which have been preliminarily subjected to analysis by electron microprobe, were given an average concentration for Ca element of 01.34 ± 0.13 at 1σ . The content $^{29}\text{Si}\%$ was used as a variation index (see the diagrams of Fig. 13a–c). Nevertheless, clearly the concentrations in $^{29}\text{Si}\%$ (average 49.14%) obtained by this method have a high standard deviation (± 16.24 at 1σ) in relation to the variability of the concentration of calcium in each fragment and are consistently higher than those obtained in the electron microprobe.

The chemical composition of volcanic rock samples from St. Antioco and (a part) from Mt. Arci was determined with a spectrometer in X-ray fluorescence Philips PW1400 with a Rh tube to analyse the major elements and some trace elements (Rb, Sr, Pb, Zn, Y, Nb, Zr), and with a W tube to analyse Ni, Cr, Ba, V, La and Ce. Data reduction of major elements was

performed by the method proposed by Franzini et al. (1975). Data reduction of trace elements was performed by the method of Criss (1977), modified. The measurement accuracy is $\pm 1\%$ for SiO_2 , TiO_2 , Al_2O_3 , Fe_2O_3 , CaO , K_2O and MnO and $\pm 4\%$ for MgO , Na_2O and P_2O_5 . The detection limits are about 3 ppm to 3σ for most of the elements; the accuracy of trace elements is $\pm 2 \div 3\%$ to 1000 ppm; $\pm 5 \div 10\%$ at 100 ppm and $\pm 10 \div 20\%$ to 10 ppm. The weight loss for calcination (L.o.I., Loss on Ignition) was determined by calculating the loss in wt.% at 1100°C , while the FeO was determined by volumetric titration with KMnO_4 10 N in acid solution.

The analysis of the major elements of obsidians and perlites from Mt. Arci was performed by electron probe microanalysis using Wavelength Dispersive Spectrometry with a device ARL-SEMQ, using standards such as silicates and natural oxides; the data reduction was performed with the ZAF method (Colby 1971). Detection limits of ~ 100 –300 ppm are readily attained. During a typical multi-element analysis of a few minutes duration, 1σ precision of 0.3–1.5% relative is normally attained for major elements (i.e., those present at concentrations $> 1\%$ by weight). If desired, detection limits and precision may both be improved by increasing counting times, by increasing beam current and/or by assigning multiple spectrometers to a single element.

Characteristics of mortar aggregate

At the macroscopic observation, the mortars of the theatre (Fig. 4) show a reddish-grey-black and white/beige-grey aggregate (belonging to volcanic rock fragments and sialic mineral sands, respectively) with variable size and amounts, according to the different mortar functions in the sectors.

The main compositional characteristics of the aggregate determined by microscopic modal analysis are reported in Table 1, along with the binder/aggregate ratio (B/A) expressed in vol.% (by modal analysis) and in wt.% (after mechanical disintegration and acid attack of binder). The mortars show a greatest variability of vol.% B/A, due to the small size of the thin section that did not include the coarse fragments observed macroscopically, which probably do not reflect the real mixing proportions set by the manufacturer. B/A ratio calculated using the wt.% data is much closer to those recommended by ancient sources (0.3–0.5 vol.%; Vitruvio Pollicone 1521).

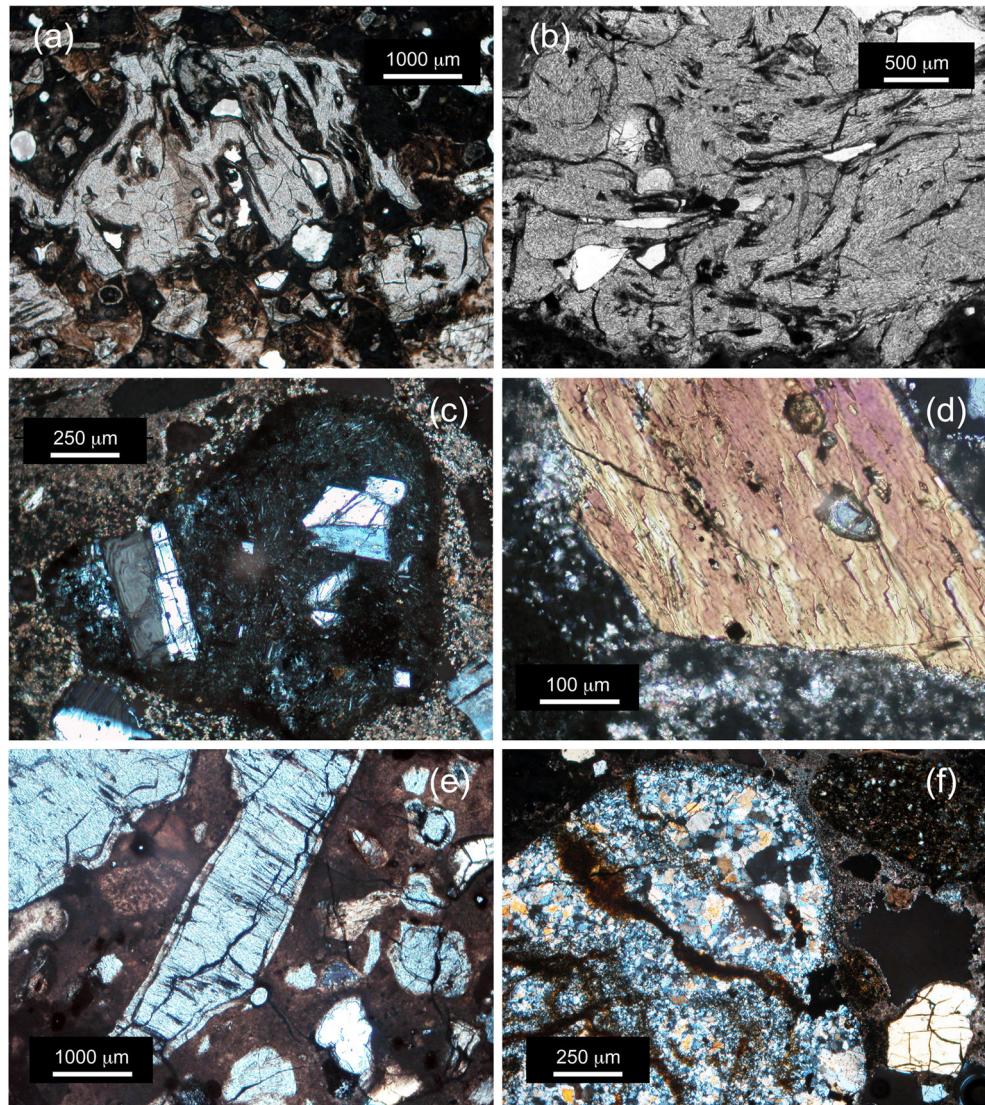
The mortar aggregate consists mainly of quartz, orthoclase (Fig. 5e), microcline, plagioclase, black-grey volcanic glasses (Fig. 5a, b) and fragments of purplish volcanic rocks (Fig. 5c) with a local origin (according to Columbu and Garau 2017). Subordinately, crystalline rocks from the Palaeozoic basement (Fig. 5f), occasional mafic crystal-clasts (as pyroxene, Fig. 5d, biotite and opaque oxides), rare bioclasts and fragments of carbonate rocks (e.g., marble, limestone) were also used in the mortars. Not local volcanic glasses were used as aggregate

Table 1 Composition defined by polarized microscope analysis on thin sections of mortar samples taken from *tribunalia*, *caveda*, structure-walls and vault of niches, *hyposcenium* and *pulpitum* (stage walls (from Columbu and Garau 2017, modified). The binder/aggregate ratio (B/A as wt.% after dissolution of binder and as vol.% by modal analysis) has also been reported

Theatre sector	Mortar function	B/A (wt.%)	B/A (vol.%)	B	\pm	A	\pm	Qz	\pm	Fds	\pm	Qz/Fds	\pm	Mafic cryst.	\pm	Glass	\pm	Volc.	\pm	Paleoz.	\pm	Coccio-	\pm	Bioclast	\pm		
		Mean	Mean	0.97	1.58	59.61	3.98	40.39	3.98	4.88	1.6	4.11	1.31	1.97	0.41	0.37	23.79	3.2	2.77	1.18	2.05	1.05	1.37	0.94	1.01		
		$\pm \sigma$	$\pm \sigma$	0.41	0.61	9.25	0.89	9.25	0.89	3.92	0.83	4.17	1.04	1.45	0.69	0.47	16.29	1.21	2.25	0.6	1.93	0.61	0.66	0.31	1.05		
<i>Tribunalia</i>	Ashlar bedding,	Mean	0.74	1.54	59.13	3.04	40.87	3.04	13.92	2.12	6.17	1.49	2.34	1.14	0.48	13.42	1.95	1.91	0.73	3.21	0.92	0.63	0.42	0.47	0.38		
	ashlars	$\pm \sigma$	0.21	0.49	8.49	0.22	8.49	0.22	5.66	0.37	1.61	0.22	0.85	0.27	0.53	10.17	0.7	1.83	0.46	3.55	0.58	0.72	0.32	0.4	0.21		
	Bedding of bricks	Mean	0.90	1.48	59.22	3.36	40.78	3.36	10.98	2.01	5.79	1.5	2.09	0.55	0.41	16.06	2.09	2.13	0.82	3.08	1.08	0.96	0.59	1.22	0.62		
	Roman concrete	Mean	0.80	1.36	57.16	3.21	42.84	3.21	9.24	1.78	0.89	3.7	0.6	1.03	0.52	0.39	12.03	1.08	2.15	0.57	2.62	0.69	0.76	0.3	1.92	0.73	
<i>Cavea</i>	Bedding of ashlar	Mean	0.74	1.54	59.13	3.04	40.87	3.04	13.92	2.12	6.17	1.49	2.34	1.14	0.48	13.42	1.95	1.91	0.73	3.21	0.92	0.63	0.42	0.47	0.38		
	Niche walls	Mean	0.90	1.48	59.22	3.36	40.78	3.36	10.98	2.01	5.79	1.5	2.09	0.55	0.41	16.06	2.09	2.13	0.82	3.08	1.08	0.96	0.59	1.22	0.62		
	Niche vaults	Mean	0.80	1.36	57.16	3.21	42.84	3.21	9.24	1.78	0.89	3.7	0.6	1.03	0.52	0.39	12.03	1.08	2.15	0.57	2.62	0.69	0.76	0.3	1.92	0.73	
	concrete	$\pm \sigma$	0.27	0.28	4.76	0.34	4.76	0.34	5.38	0.6	3.06	0.54	2.04	0.37	0.16	10.72	0.93	3.13	0.51	1.86	0.5	0.49	0.28	0.67	0.29		
<i>Hyposcenium</i>	Bedding of brick/stone	Mean	0.95	1.03	49.07	3.1	50.93	3.1	14.41	2.19	6.94	1.55	2.21	0.43	0.31	11.26	1.91	7.72	1.68	6.89	1.45	1.17	0.58	2.02	0.88		
	Plasters (arriccia)	Mean	2.52	2.38	66.15	2.77	33.85	2.77	15	1.97	5.91	1.37	2.33	0.47	0.36	0.08	0.09	4.68	1.31	4.77	0.32	2.04	0.21	0.75	0.56	1.97	0.84

B, binder; A, aggregate; Qz, quartz; Fds, feldspar; Paleoz, Paleozoic crystalline basement; σ, standard deviation; ± 2 s, absolute error

Fig. 5 Photograph details of mortar aggregate on polarized microscope. (a, b) Plain polars: fragment of volcanic glass with evident vacuolar (and fluidal) structure and borders of reaction with the binder; (c) cross Nicol: fragment of local Oligo-Miocenic dacitic volcanic rock with binder-reaction borders; (d) plain polars: orthopyroxene crystal; (e) cross Nicol: altered orthoclase crystals; (f) cross Nicol: rounded fragment of meta-sandstone from Palaeozoic crystalline basement



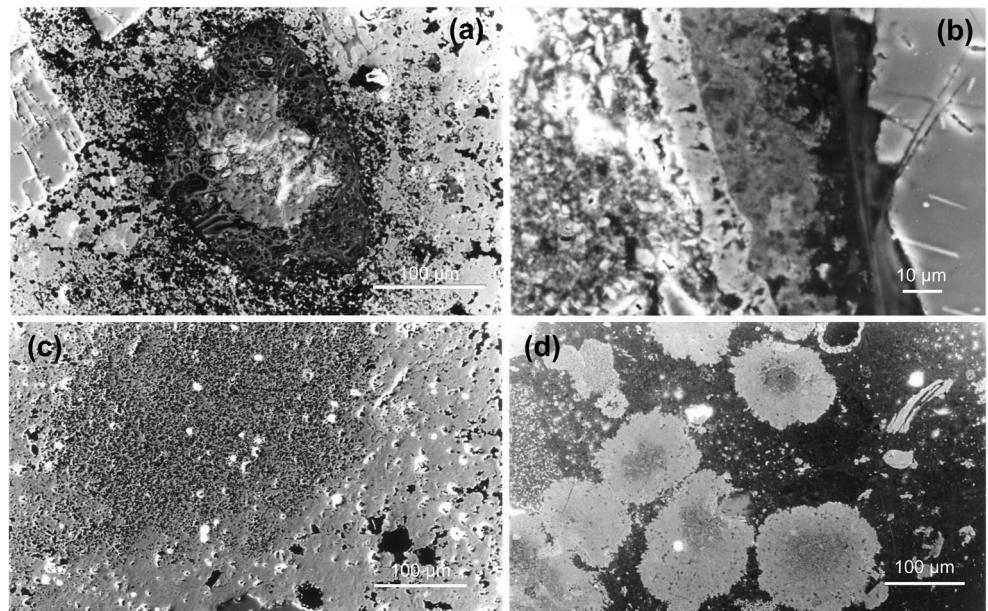
but also with pozzolanic function, as highlighted by the reaction edges with the binder (Figs. 5a and 6b). Then, *cocciopesto* has also been used as pozzolanic material but overall in very low percentages (Table 1). The binder consists mainly of calcite, often present as spherules (Fig. 6d), where occasionally there are immersed lumps of bad-carbonated lime (Fig. 6c).

The local volcanic rocks belong to the Sarroch-Pula volcanism, related to the Late Eocene–Miocene Sardinian magmatic activity that occurred between 38 and 15 Ma (Advokaat et al. 2014; Antonelli et al. 2014a; Beccaluva et al. 1985, 1989, 1994, 2005a, b, 2011; Cherchi et al. 2008; Columbu et al. 2011; Lustrino et al. 2004, 2009, 2011, 2013). Considering the medium-coarse size, it is probably that the purplish volcanic rocks were used mainly as (inert-) aggregate, although they also show pozzolanic characteristics (Figs. 5c and 6a) (see Türkmenoglu and Tankut 2002).

The different distribution of the main components in the aggregate has been showed in the ternary diagram of Fig. 7 where the modal percentages of quartz (Qz), feldspar (Fds) and volcanic glass (V) were reported. The volcanic glasses were used in almost all samples in varying proportions, according to the function of mortar in the theatre; they are less present in the plasters while they are more abundant in the structural concretes of *cavea* foundation and of the *tribunalia* vaults, where in some cases represent about 90% of the aggregate.

The sandy component is widely used in the bedding mortars of the wall bricks and in the plasters (Fig. 7), while it is found less frequently in the concretes of the *tribunalia* vaults and variously present in the *cavea* samples and external niches. It shows an almost constant ratio of quartz and feldspar (2:1, Fig. 7) in almost all mortar samples thus highlighting a unique sampling point of these sands (Columbu and Garau 2017).

Fig. 6 Photograph details of mortars on electronic microscope (SEM). (a) Binder-reaction borders between volcanic aggregate and binder; (b) binder-reaction borders between a fragment of volcanic glass and the binder; (c) lump of bad-carbonated lime; (d) spherules of calcite



Regarding the particle size, according to the Folk (1968) classification, the aggregate is made from sand, slightly

gravelled sands, gravelly sands and, in some cases, sandy gravel, while according to the Wentworth (1922)

Fig. 7 Aggregate compositional distribution of quartz (Qz), feldspar (Fds) and volcanic glass (V) in the mortars from different sectors of the theatre (from Columbu and Garau 2017, modified)

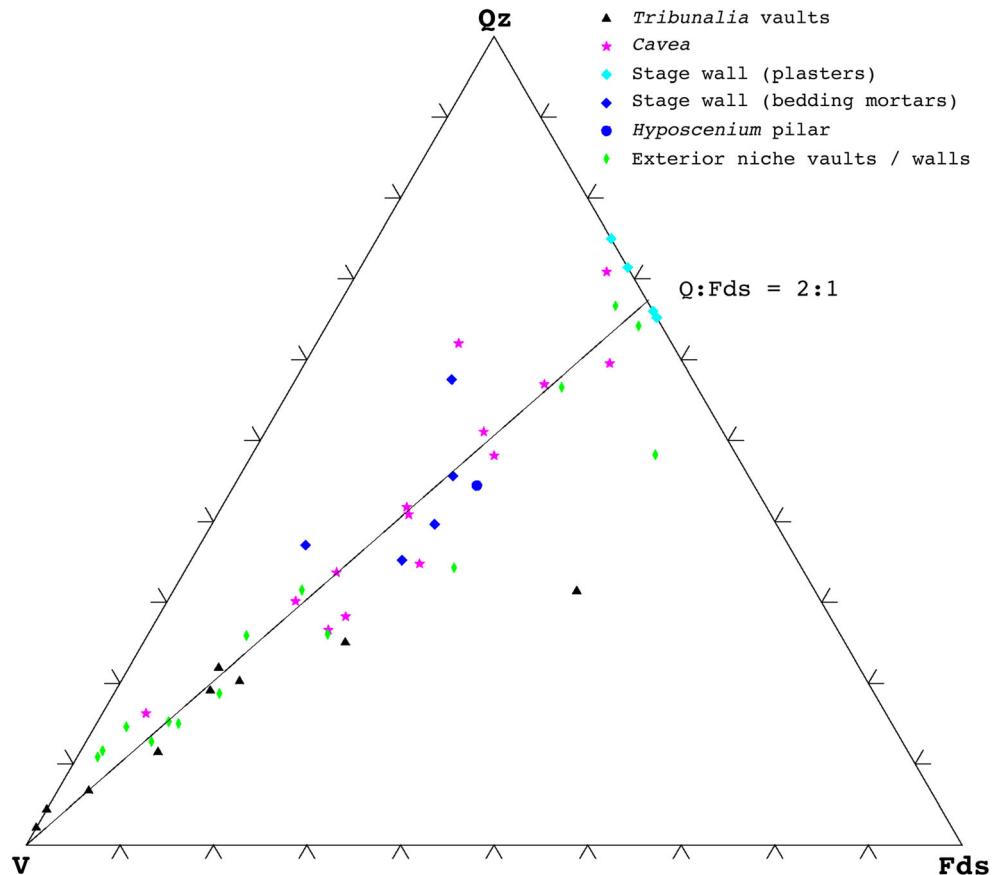


Table 2 Chemical analysis of volcanic glasses from the theatre mortars, where reported the rock classification (according to De La Roche et al. 1980), wt.% of major elements and C.I.P.W. norm according to Cross et al. (1903)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Sample Class.	Sp142 Rhy	Sp19 Rhy	Sp4 Rhy	Sp120 Rhy	Sp7 Rhy	Sp129 Rhy	Sp2 Rhy	Sp22 Rhy	Sp18 Rhy	Sp1 Rhy	Sp32 Rhy	Sp3 Rhy	Sp23 Rhy	Sp35 Rhy	Sp34 Rhy	Sp138 Rhy	Sp8 Rhy	Sp144 Rhy	Sp128 Rhy	Sp143 Rhy	Sp177 Rhy	Sp114 Rhy	Sp70 Rhy	Sp125 Rhy	Sp154 Rhy
SiO ₂	71.58	74.22	72.53	71.65	72.23	72.69	73.19	70.54	71.65	72.75	73.33	73.81	72.04	72.70	73.78	74.41	72.46	75.13	75.07	74.45	74.49	74.32	75.04	75.17	74.79
TiO ₂	0.17	0.19	0.12	0.18	0.29	0.08	0.23	0.16	0.11	0.19	0.07	0.07	0.18	0.29	0.11	0.13	0.05	0.21	0.21	0.15	0.09	0.15	0.08	0.12	0.15
Al ₂ O ₃	17.27	16.13	16.13	17.78	16.13	16.50	16.11	17.49	17.69	16.65	15.82	15.84	15.47	16.09	15.11	14.28	16.60	14.48	14.07	14.42	14.09	14.09	13.96	14.11	14.16
Fe ₂ O ₃	1.31	1.07	1.61	1.15	1.43	1.55	1.28	1.19	0.88	0.92	1.28	1.15	1.75	1.06	1.20	1.23	0.96	1.12	1.47	1.39	1.18	1.37	1.35	1.10	1.33
FeO	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
MnO	0.05	0.14	0.02	0.05	0.07	0.04	0.02	0.11	n.d.	0.08	0.07	0.10	0.03	0.12	0.15	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	0.16	0.18	0.13	0.09	0.12	n.d.
MgO	0.07	0.15	0.16	0.05	0.17	0.12	0.09	0.06	0.07	0.06	n.d.	0.01	0.25	0.08	0.10	n.d.	0.04	0.13	0.07	0.11	0.06	0.03	0.05	0.21	
CaO	1.39	1.21	1.56	1.11	1.57	1.27	1.42	1.44	1.56	1.33	1.49	1.29	1.38	1.22	1.35	1.83	1.36	1.30	1.36	1.37	1.37	1.34	1.43	1.33	
Na ₂ O	2.13	1.82	2.68	1.98	2.82	2.43	2.33	2.83	3.39	2.58	2.73	2.40	2.74	2.83	2.88	3.55	2.79	2.71	2.68	3.06	3.04	3.13	3.00	2.77	3.25
K ₂ O	5.18	4.40	4.37	5.11	4.54	4.65	4.48	5.39	3.97	4.59	4.65	4.59	5.49	4.75	4.87	3.99	4.93	4.66	4.67	4.74	4.80	4.69	4.80	4.73	4.63
P ₂ O ₅	0.43	0.44	0.66	0.61	0.50	0.47	0.62	0.51	0.67	0.54	0.35	0.47	0.40	0.54	0.23	0.31	0.67	0.12	0.28	0.17	0.20	0.27	0.02	0.28	0.08
L.o.I.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total	99.58	99.77	99.84	99.67	99.75	99.80	99.77	99.72	99.99	99.69	99.79	99.73	99.73	99.68	99.78	99.73	99.86	99.86	99.88	99.91	99.55	99.58	99.71	99.88	99.93
S.I.	0.82	2.04	1.84	0.61	1.92	1.39	1.12	0.64	0.85	0.74	0.00	0.12	2.48	0.93	1.12	0.00	0.46	1.53	0.80	0.00	1.22	0.66	0.33	0.58	2.26
A.I.	0.53	0.48	0.57	0.49	0.59	0.55	0.54	0.60	0.56	0.55	0.60	0.56	0.68	0.61	0.66	0.71	0.60	0.66	0.67	0.70	0.72	0.73	0.73	0.69	0.73
Q	36.78	44.59	37.58	39.23	35.52	38.26	40.43	31.01	34.72	38.27	36.65	40.09	31.92	36.32	35.21	34.79	35.73	38.36	38.63	35.18	35.09	35.06	35.51	37.92	34.52
C	6.66	7.23	5.74	8.43	4.92	6.29	6.33	5.60	6.58	6.31	4.43	5.70	3.47	5.37	3.20	1.54	5.81	2.90	2.80	2.17	1.88	2.02	1.44	2.50	1.58
Or	30.61	26.00	25.82	30.20	26.83	27.48	26.47	31.85	23.46	27.12	27.48	27.12	32.44	28.07	28.78	23.58	29.13	27.54	27.60	28.01	28.36	27.71	28.36	27.95	27.36
Ab	18.02	15.40	22.68	16.75	23.86	20.56	19.71	23.94	28.68	21.83	23.10	20.31	23.18	23.94	24.37	30.04	23.61	22.93	22.68	25.89	25.72	26.48	25.38	23.44	27.50
An	4.09	3.13	3.43	1.52	4.52	3.23	2.99	3.81	3.36	3.07	5.10	3.33	4.23	2.52	5.19	7.05	2.37	5.67	4.92	5.69	5.49	5.03	6.52	5.26	6.08
Ac	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ns	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Di	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
En	0.17	0.37	0.40	0.12	0.42	0.30	0.22	0.15	0.17	0.15	0.00	0.02	0.62	0.20	0.25	0.00	0.10	0.32	0.17	0.00	0.27	0.15	0.07	0.12	0.52
Fs	1.59	1.40	2.02	1.36	1.59	2.05	1.39	1.56	1.01	1.08	1.75	1.63	2.13	1.18	1.73	1.46	1.22	1.17	1.65	1.94	1.79	1.85	1.87	1.52	1.56
Hy	1.76	1.77	2.42	1.48	2.02	2.35	1.62	1.71	1.19	1.23	1.75	1.66	2.76	1.38	1.98	1.46	1.32	1.50	1.82	1.94	2.06	2.00	1.94	1.64	2.08
Mt	0.23	0.18	0.28	0.20	0.25	0.27	0.22	0.21	0.15	0.16	0.22	0.20	0.30	0.18	0.21	0.21	0.17	0.19	0.25	0.24	0.20	0.24	0.23	0.19	0.23
Il	0.32	0.36	0.23	0.34	0.55	0.15	0.44	0.30	0.21	0.36	0.13	0.13	0.34	0.55	0.21	0.25	0.09	0.40	0.40	0.28	0.17	0.28	0.15	0.23	0.28
Ap	1.00	1.02	1.53	1.41	1.16	1.09	1.44	1.18	1.55	1.25	0.81	1.09	0.93	1.25	0.53	0.72	1.55	0.28	0.65	0.39	0.46	0.63	0.05	0.65	0.19
D.I.	85.4	86.0	86.1	86.2	86.2	86.3	86.6	86.8	86.9	87.2	87.2	87.5	87.6	88.3	88.4	88.4	88.5	88.8	88.9	89.1	89.2	89.3	89.3	89.4	
SAL	96.2	96.3	95.2	96.1	95.7	95.8	95.9	96.2	96.8	96.6	96.8	96.6	95.3	96.2	96.8	97.0	96.6	96.9	96.6	96.3	97.2	97.1	97.0		
FEM	3.3	3.3	4.5	3.4	4.0	3.9	3.7	3.4	3.1	3.0	2.9	3.1	4.3	3.4	2.9	2.6	3.1	2.4	3.1	2.9	3.2	2.4	2.7	2.8	
26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	
Sample Class.	Sp140 Rhy	Sp50 Rhy	Sp51 Rhy	Sp130 Rhy	Sp83 Rhy	Sp145 Rhy	Sp126 Rhy	Sp141 Rhy	Sp152 Rhy	Sp94 Rhy	Sp25 Rhy	Sp169 Rhy	Sp165 Rhy	Sp121 Rhy	Sp166 Rhy	Sp155 Rhy	Sp71 Rhy	Sp77 Rhy	Sp82 Rhy	Sp91 Rhy	Sp10 Rhy	Sp81 Rhy	Sp156 Rhy	Sp101 Rhy	
SiO ₂	75.34	74.84	74.06	74.66	74.85	75.31	75.46	74.74	75.35	75.31	75.22	75.25	75.24	74.98	74.9	75.25	75.18	74.87	75.16	75.25	74.69	75.02	74.89	74.7	
TiO ₂	0.26	0.24	0.33	0.07	0.24	0.07	0.28	0.11	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.12	0.24	0.18	0.06	0.19	0.2	0.07	0.2	0.17	0.16	0.31	0.09		
Al ₂ O ₃	14.09	14.12	13.88	14.24	14.22	14	14.1	14.31	13.88	14.06	13.93	15.63	13.92	13.85	13.7	13.89	13.82	13.92	14.02	13.86	13.91	14.64	13.84	13.75	14.22
Fe ₂ O ₃	1.13	1.2	1.36	1.4	1.15	1.28	0.98	1.26	1.15	1.02	1.12	1.08	1.1	1.17	1.22	1.07	1.22	0.85	1.14	1.15	0.98	0.78	1.04	0.88	
FeO	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
MnO	0.06	0.02	0.26	0.22	n.d.	0.07	n.d.	0.21	0.05	0.13	0.04	0.14	0.03	0.01	0.07	0.1	0.04	0.11	0.14	0.04	0.11	0.05	0.03	n.d.	n.d.
MgO	0.03	0.11	0.06	0.03	0.01	0.03	n.d.	0.09	0.05	0.02	0.07	0.13	n.d.	0.07	0.04	0.05	n.d.	0.05	0.02	0.1	0.07	n.d.	n.d.	0.04	
CaO	1.37	1.26	1.47	1.37	1.29	1.34	1.33	1.27	1.23	1.32	1.4	1.05	1.46	1.4	1.33	1.29	1.4	1.33	1.28	1.27	1.18	1.25	1.31	1.18	1.06
Na ₂ O	2.46	2.8	3.56	3	3.03	2.87	2.54	2.77	2.86	2.37	2.97	3.01	2.92	3.15	2.65	3.11	3.25	3.02	3.26						

Table 3 Chemical analysis of selected volcanic rocks from Monte Arci (central-western Sardinia), where reported the rock classification (according to De La Roche et al. 1980), wt% of major elements and C.I.P.W. nom. according to Cross et al. (1903)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Class.	Rhy	AIRhy	AIRhy	AIRhy	AIRhy	AIRhy	AIRhy	AIRhy	AIRhy	AIRhy	AIRhy	AIRhy	AIRhy	AIRhy	AIRhy	AIRhy	AIRhy	AIRhy	AIRhy	AIRhy	AIRhy	AIRhy	Rhy	Rhy	
SiO ₂	74.99	72.49	75.53	75.58	74.07	74.93	75.47	75.65	75.53	75.02	75.12	74.88	75.45	74.93	74.80	73.04	73.00	74.34	74.12	73.28	73.76	73.91	75.47	75.47	
TiO ₂	0.10	0.09	0.08	0.16	0.12	0.14	0.14	0.10	0.13	0.07	0.09	0.11	0.10	0.10	0.12	0.08	0.12	0.10	0.13	0.18	0.14	0.14	0.09	0.16	
Al ₂ O ₃	13.64	12.08	12.32	12.44	12.21	12.34	12.46	12.41	12.39	12.36	12.43	12.21	12.43	12.38	12.18	13.26	13.24	13.56	13.38	13.03	13.37	13.32	13.47	13.47	
Fe ₂ O ₃	1.24	1.25	1.27	1.32	1.27	1.29	1.25	1.39	1.25	1.28	1.27	1.24	1.26	1.29	1.24	1.22	1.22	1.18	1.17	1.12	1.02	1.14	1.04	0.94	
FeO	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	
MnO	0.10	0.02	0.09	0.06	0.06	0.08	0.07	0.06	0.07	0.03	0.08	0.09	0.07	0.08	0.07	0.05	0.03	0.05	0.08	0.07	0.08	0.03	0.03	0.04	
MgO	0.08	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.05	0.01	0.06	0.05	0.02	0.06	0.07	0.09	0.04	0.08	0.06	0.12	0.14	0.09	0.07	
CaO	0.60	0.44	0.47	0.49	0.45	0.47	0.45	0.47	0.45	0.47	0.48	0.46	0.47	0.45	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.60	0.61	0.60	0.58	0.59	0.64	
Na ₂ O	2.54	4.33	4.32	4.31	4.29	4.27	4.26	4.16	4.14	4.11	3.63	3.36	3.33	3.27	3.02	2.97	3.48	3.28	3.21	2.67	2.06	2.14	2.49	2.51	
K ₂ O	5.51	5.04	5.05	5.02	5.08	5.16	5.11	5.07	5.16	5.11	5.10	5.15	5.12	5.02	5.07	5.45	5.44	5.45	5.71	5.15	5.71	5.95	5.90	6.09	
P ₂ O ₅	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	0.02	
L.o.I.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total	98.80	95.81	99.19	99.38	97.55	98.60	99.42	99.17	99.20	98.63	98.28	98.07	97.96	98.22	97.34	97.05	97.27	96.97	98.62	97.50	94.55	96.18	97.64	99.68	
S.I.	0.86	0.57	0.47	0.47	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	
A.I.	0.74	1.04	1.02	1.01	1.02	1.01	1.01	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.93	0.90	0.88	0.88	0.84	0.85	0.87	0.82	0.84	0.85	0.82	0.79	0.79	0.83	
Q	36.95	27.99	30.22	29.89	29.28	29.65	29.77	30.49	30.81	30.04	32.64	34.67	33.93	35.06	36.29	36.23	29.98	30.96	32.70	35.73	38.29	36.91	34.35	34.12	
C	2.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Or	32.56	29.78	29.84	29.84	29.66	30.02	30.49	30.20	29.96	30.49	30.20	30.14	30.43	30.25	29.66	29.96	31.97	32.20	32.15	30.43	33.74	35.16	34.86	35.59	
Ab	21.49	34.07	35.25	35.87	34.85	35.19	35.36	35.20	35.03	34.78	34.78	30.71	28.43	28.18	27.67	27.55	25.13	29.44	27.75	27.16	22.59	17.43	18.11	21.07	23.44
An	2.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.25	0.04	2.28	2.33	2.23	2.23	2.28	2.28	2.28	2.28	2.98	3.03	2.98	3.08	3.09
Ac	0	0.43	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.48	0.48	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ns	0	0.48	0.19	0.02	0.22	0.10	0.03	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Di	0	0.18	0.15	0.15	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.03	0.20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mt	0.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
H	0.19	0.17	0.15	0.30	0.23	0.27	0.19	0.27	0.19	0.25	0.25	0.13	0.17	0.21	0.19	0.23	0.15	0.23	0.19	0.25	0.34	0.27	0.17	0.30	
Sl	0	1.92	2.06	2.15	1.98	2.07	1.98	1.85	2.06	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
En	0.20	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.02	0.02	0.05	0.01	0.05	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.12	0.05	0.15	0.17	0.22	0.10	0.20	0.15	0.30	0.35	0.22
Fs	1.70	0.76	0.85	0.84	0.68	0.76	0.90	0.66	0.76	0.59	1.66	1.74	1.83	1.72	1.73	1.77	1.54	1.62	1.55	1.57	1.44	1.24	1.37	1.32	1.09
Hy	1.90	0.83	0.91	0.89	0.70	0.78	0.92	0.77	0.77	0.65	1.78	1.74	1.95	1.77	1.88	1.94	1.72	1.72	1.75	1.72	1.54	1.72	1.64	1.54	1.26
FEM	2.3	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.1	3.0	3.2	2.3	2.1	2.4	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.2	1.9	1.8
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	25
Class.	Al ² O ₃	75.70	75.39	75.69	75.52	75.49	75.67	75.43	75.57	75.18	75.25	75.59	75.61	75.42	75.84	75.57	75.29	75.68	75.34	75.54	75.50	75.40	75.40	75.40	75.40
SiO ₂	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.08	0.11	0.11	0.12	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	
TiO ₂	0.13	0.13	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	
Al ₂ O ₃	13.07	13.32	13.11	12.98	13.04	13.19	13.07	13.05	13.07	13.01	13.11	12.91	13.03	13.12	12.99	13.12	13.06	13.07	13.04	13.09	13.05	13.00	12.97	12.97	
Fe ₂ O ₃	0.31	0.17	0.32	0.31	0.32	0.29	0.39	0.33	0.30	0.37	0.30	0.37	0.34	0.44	0.27	0.48	0.39	0.32	0.42	0.30	0.24	0.38	0.23	0.30	0.24
FeO	1.18	1.30	1.20	1.21	1.18	1.22	1.16	1.14	1.16	1.23	1.13	1.14	1.11	1.14	1.11	1.25	1.05	1.11	1.16	1.19	1.23	0.99	1.28	1.20	1.25
MnO	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	
MgO	0.07	0.11	0.09	0.08	0.10	0.08	0.07	0.11	0.09	0.08	0.07	0.08	0.07	0.08	0.07	0.08	0.07	0.08	0.07	0.08	0.07	0.08	0.07	0.08	
CaO	0.60	0.60	0.61	0.62	0.60	0.61	0.60	0.61	0.60	0.61	0.60	0.61	0.60	0.61	0.60	0.61	0.60	0.61	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.59	
Na ₂ O	3.35	3.37	3.50	3.36	3.48	3.47	3.47	3.50	3.50	3.64	3.63	3.65	3.60	3.50	3.63	3.62	3.58	3.62	3.58	3.72	3.72	3.58	3.66	3.76	
K ₂ O	5.05	5.06	5.10	5.14	5.01	5.07	5.02	5.08	5.03	5.10	5.09	4.98	5.13	4.99	5.08	5.06	5.01	5.20	5.04	4.97	5.08	5.08	5.05	5.05	5.06
P ₂ O ₅	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	
L.o.I.	0.42	0.33	0.43	0.36	0.39	0.34	0.34	0.39	0.34	0.40	0.41	0.46	0.55	0.41	0.46	0.45	0.49	0.33	0.46	0.38	0.36	0.31	0.28	0.36	0.47
Total	100.00	99.98	99.99	99.99	100.01	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.01	100.01	99.98	100.00	100.00	99.99	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
S.I.	0.7	1.10	0.98	0.79	0.99	0.79	0.70	1.08	0.89	0.78	0.97	1.26	1.33	1.24	1.22	1.18	1.17	1.12	1.02	1.14	1.04	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94
A.I.	0.84	0.84	0.86	0.85	0.86	0.85	0.85	0.87	0.86	0.87	0.8														

Table 3 (continued)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Di	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Ed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Sl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
En	0.17	0.27	0.22	0.20	0.25	0.20	0.17	0.27	0.22	0.20	0.25	0.20	0.17	0.20	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.15	0.22	0.22	0.17	0.20	
Fs	2.15	2.14	2.19	2.16	2.20	2.18	2.20	2.15	2.19	2.13	2.22	2.16	2.20	2.18	2.15	2.15	2.27	2.15	2.13	2.21	2.19	2.17	2.17	2.16	
Hy	2.32	2.41	2.42	2.39	2.41	2.40	2.36	2.47	2.37	2.39	2.40	2.35	2.42	2.34	2.20	2.31	2.33	2.35	2.44	2.33	2.28	2.44	2.19	2.34	2.36
Mt	0.28	0.28	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28
Il	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21
Ap	0.16	0.16	0.14	0.14	0.16	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.16	0.16	0.14	0.14
D.I.	92.91	92.9	93.0	93.0	93.0	93.1	93.1	93.1	93.1	93.2	93.2	93.3	93.3	93.3	93.3	93.3	93.4	93.4	93.4	93.5	93.5	93.5	93.5	93.5	93.6
SAL	96.59	96.6	96.5	96.6	96.5	96.6	96.7	96.4	96.6	96.5	96.4	96.4	96.5	96.5	96.6	96.7	96.7	96.7	96.8	96.6	96.6	96.8	96.6	96.6	96.5
FEM	2.97	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.0	2.9	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.0	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.1	2.9	3.1	3.0	3.0

Abbreviations as caption in Table 2a

classification, it is mostly composed of large and medium sands. The aggregate shows a moderately selected sorting (according to Folk 1954).

By analysis under a reflection microscope, the volcanic glass makes up the majority of the aggregate fraction below 2000 µm, along with the more rare andesitic-dacitic rocks aggregate from local volcanic outcrops. The sand fraction is mostly represented by quartz, feldspar, Palaeozoic rock fragments, Oligo-Miocenic volcanic rocks, volcanic glass and rare *cocciopesto*.

Results

Petrographic features of volcanic rocks

In the mortars and concretes of the theatre, two different kind of volcanic stones were employed: (1) medium-welded rocks, mainly used as medium-coarse aggregate and (2) grey-black obsidian glasses with no local origin, used as aggregate and also as pozzolanic material.

(1) Medium-welded rocks By macroscopic observation, the first rocks, characterised by chromatisms varying from grey-reddish to purplish-brown, show an evident self-clastic structure typical of a volcanic autobreccia, with sub-centimetric lava-clasts. By microscopic analysis, these volcanic rocks show a hypo-crystalline porphyritic structure (with variable porphyritic index between 5 and 8) for phenocrysts of early opaque, dominant plagioclase, pyroxene and hornblende. Due to the squat form, the opaque minerals are formed, presumably, by titan-magnetite or magnetite.

On the base of volcanological and petrographical features, these rocks show a similarity with the dacitic rocks of territory around the Nora village (e.g., “Perdu Pranu” outcrop, NE to the site) and especially with the volcanic stones used for the tiers of the theatre (*cavea*, see Fig. 3) belonging to the ancient quarry of “Su Castedu” (Melis and Columbu 2000; Prevato 2016; Columbu and Garau 2017; Columbu 2018). The latter is a volcanic structure (of which today essentially remains just at the neck) located about 1.5 km northwest from the Nora site. In fact, the outcrop rock shows the same characteristics already observed in the volcanic-coarse aggregates, characterised by the chaotic presence of large lava-clasts (usually sharp-edged) and smaller lava-clasts with rounded contour, with maximum dimensions of 1 cm immersed in a glassy matrix with a lower degree of welding, compared to the clasts.

(2) Grey-black obsidian glasses The grey-black obsidian glasses show a hyaline structure with rare phenocrysts of

Table 4 Chemical analysis of selected volcanic rocks from St. Antico area (Sulcis, south-western Sardinia), where reported the rock classification (according to De La Roche et al. 1980), wt.% of major elements and C.I.P.W. norm according to Cross et al. (1903)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Class.	Rhy	Rhy	Rhy	Rhy	Rhy	Rhy	Rhy	AIRhy	AIRhy	AIRhy	AIRhy	AIRhy	AIRhy	AIRhy	AIRhy										
SiO ₂	70.45	67.67	73.69	67.68	70.05	71.09	76.58	68.90	73.98	77.01	70.14	71.42	70.76	70.94	70.75	71.39	73.39	72.10	71.05	73.39	73.83	71.38	76.70		
TiO ₂	0.14	0.49	0.10	0.47	0.45	0.26	0.21	0.17	0.47	0.28	0.36	0.37	0.44	0.44	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.44	0.46	0.41	0.16	0.18	0.16	0.18	
Al ₂ O ₃	13.74	15.18	13.48	15.07	14.07	14.13	9.43	15.22	11.14	9.45	13.76	15.34	14.05	14.48	14.53	15.41	14.45	14.25	13.91	14.51	13.61	13.55	13.89	11.06	
Fe ₂ O ₃	2.12	2.65	0.70	2.59	2.33	4.38	2.49	4.09	4.05	2.06	2.53	2.41	2.10	1.82	2.09	1.09	1.27	2.00	2.31	2.15	2.00	0.83	2.97		
n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	
FeO	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.07	0.06	0.04	0.22	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.										
MnO	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.07	0.06	0.10	0.06	0.06	0.09	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.03	0.03	0.05	0.03	0.03	0.04		
MgO	0.16	0.25	0.37	0.27	0.44	1.02	0.22	0.24	0.09	0.12	0.16	0.16	0.53	0.17	0.04	0.12	0.22	0.10	0.30	0.09	0.10	0.23	0.20		
CaO	1.32	1.21	1.90	1.28	1.83	0.70	0.27	0.78	0.16	0.17	0.79	0.86	0.82	0.84	0.65	0.48	0.57	0.83	0.70	0.53	0.61	0.78	0.55	0.09	
Na ₂ O	2.94	3.82	3.64	4.47	4.23	4.05	3.94	4.90	3.94	3.81	4.46	3.92	4.78	4.66	4.62	4.35	3.98	4.68	3.57	3.94	4.35	4.29	4.10		
K ₂ O	4.53	5.26	3.13	5.70	4.58	5.71	3.97	6.13	4.55	3.88	5.70	5.45	5.73	5.36	5.38	6.03	5.48	5.67	5.79	5.59	5.53	5.58	6.01		
P ₂ O ₅	0.03	0.09	0.05	0.03	0.04	0.06	0.02	0.05	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.08	0.05	0.06	0.02	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.03		
L.O.I.	4.51	3.32	1.26	3.20	1.69	0.24	0.66	1.48	0.76	1.06	3.13	0.52	1.01	0.36	0.73	0.79	0.91	0.77	0.48	0.25	0.61	0.56	0.34		
Total	100.00	100.00	99.99	100.02	100.00	99.98	100.01	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	99.99	99.99	100.00	99.99	100.00			
S.I.	1.67	2.13	3.92	2.26	3.79	7.80	1.79	1.87	0.68	1.03	1.04	1.29	1.33	1.12	1.37	0.96	1.72	1.83	0.86	2.33	0.78	0.90	1.77		
A.I.	0.71	0.79	0.73	0.81	0.87	0.93	1.16	0.86	1.17	1.13	0.90	0.86	0.90	0.94	0.93	0.83	0.94	0.96	0.88	0.92	0.88	0.98			
Q	31.77	21.29	33.10	20.34	21.77	20.70	38.33	19.27	30.07	39.40	23.43	20.07	23.55	19.07	20.60	24.03	24.03	20.60	19.40	21.20	24.43	19.77	34.78		
C	1.67	1.22	0.31	0.66	0.00	0.00	0.81	0.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			
Or	26.77	31.08	18.50	33.68	27.06	33.74	23.46	26.89	22.93	33.68	32.20	33.86	31.67	31.79	35.63	32.38	33.50	34.21	34.21	33.03	32.68	32.97	35.51		
Ab	24.88	32.32	33.17	30.80	37.82	35.79	26.40	33.34	31.97	27.00	32.24	37.74	33.17	40.44	39.43	32.32	39.01	39.09	36.81	33.68	39.60	33.34	30.21		
An	6.35	5.41	9.10	6.15	4.80	2.70	0.00	3.54	0.00	3.61	4.14	3.55	2.22	2.83	2.50	1.40	1.33	2.50	1.53	3.12	0.89	0.00			
Ac	0	0	0	0	0	1.52	0	1.41	1.39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Ns	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.43	0	1.84	1.11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.14		
Di	0	0	0	0	1.13	0.17	0.10	0	0.02	0.04	0	0	0	0.48	0	0	0	0.37	0.30	0	0.23	0	0.46		
Ed	0	0	0	0	0	2.29	0.15	0.97	0	0.59	0.19	0	0	0.89	0	0	0	1.71	1.22	0	0.78	0.50	0		
Sl	0	0	0	0	0	3.42	0.31	1.06	0	0.53	0.21	0	0	1.37	0	0	0	2.08	1.52	0	1.01	0.55	0.22		
En	0.40	0.62	0.92	0.67	0.57	2.46	0.50	0.60	0.21	0.28	0.29	0.40	0.40	1.10	0.42	0.1	0.38	0.43	0.25	0.64	0.20	0.25	0.49		
Fs	2.78	2.90	2.93	2.85	1.33	2.49	5.68	3.00	5.50	5.38	2.53	2.75	3.02	2.33	2.75	2.84	2.02	2.51	2.47	2.51	2.47	2.51	2.40		
Hy	3.18	3.52	3.85	3.52	1.91	4.95	6.19	3.60	5.72	5.67	2.81	3.15	3.41	3.17	3.28	3.14	2.40	2.45	2.76	3.11	2.65	2.11	4.48		
Mt	0.37	0.46	0.38	0.45	0.40	0.40	0.00	0.47	0.00	0.36	0.44	0.43	0.42	0.43	0.43	0.42	0.34	0.44	0.37	0.34	0.42	0.42	0.00		
Il	0.27	0.93	0.19	0.89	0.85	0.82	0.49	0.95	0.40	0.42	0.32	0.89	0.53	0.68	0.70	0.32	0.70	0.84	0.30	0.72	0.34	0.30	0.78		
Ap	0.07	0.21	0.12	0.07	0.09	0.14	0.05	0.12	0.07	0.05	0.02	0.19	0.12	0.14	0.12	0.12	0.14	0.12	0.12	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.07		
D.I.	83.4	84.7	84.8	84.8	86.7	90.2	88.2	88.8	88.9	89.3	90.6	91.2	91.8	92.0	92.0	92.3	92.4	92.5	92.6	93.1	93.1	93.5	93.1		
SAL	91.4	91.3	94.2	91.6	91.5	92.9	88.2	93.2	88.9	89.3	94.7	94.2	93.4	94.7	96.0	94.5	93.4	93.5	95.6	95.8	95.6	95.8	93.1		
FEM	3.9	5.1	4.5	4.9	6.7	6.6	10.7	5.1	10.0	9.3	3.7	4.5	4.6	6.0	4.4	3.1	4.4	5.7	5.4	4.0	3.5	5.4	5.9		

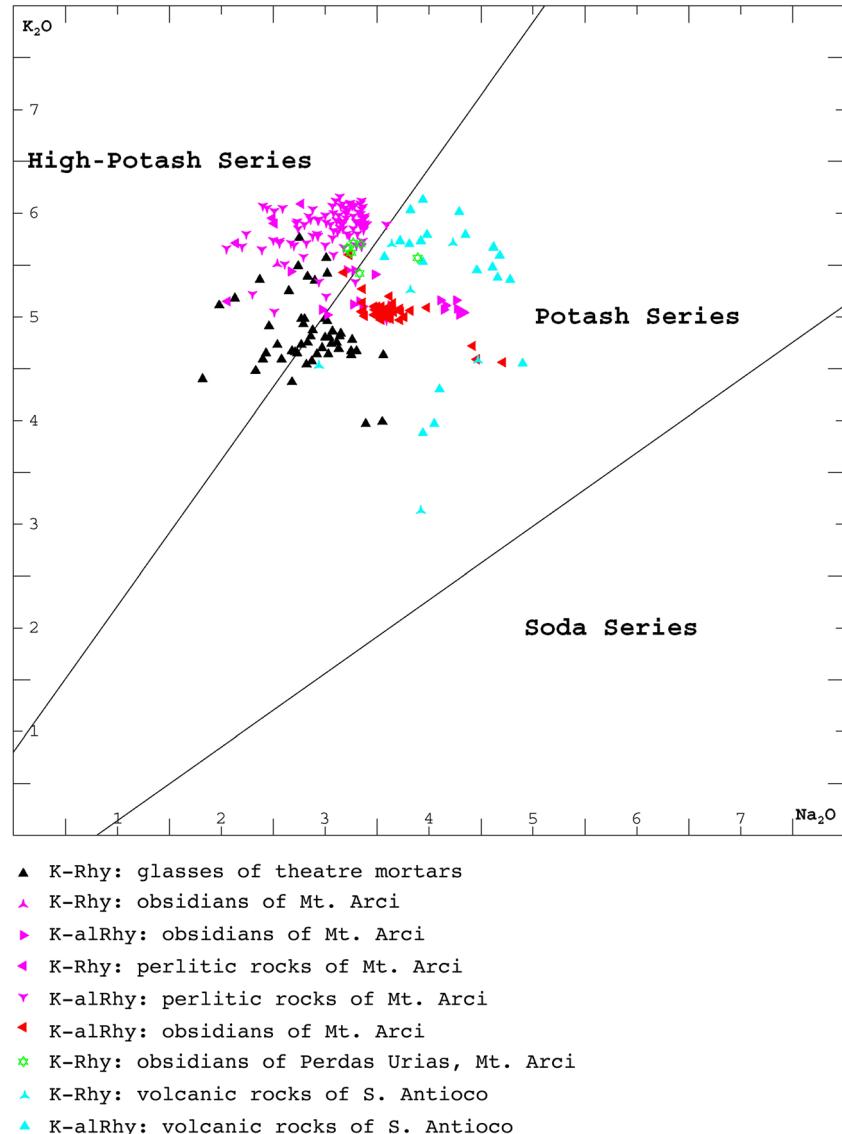
Abbreviations as caption in Table 2a

Table 5 Distribution of analysed volcanic samples within sodium (Na), potassium (K) and high in potassium (HK) series, according to Middlemost (1975) and De La Roche et al. (1980) rock classification

Origin of rock samples	Geochemical characteristics			
	Classification	Volcanic series affinity		
		Na	K	HK
Volcanic glass aggregates from the mortars of Nora theater	Rhy	—	25	25
Volcanic rocks (perlites and obsidians) from Monte Arci outcrops (central-west Sardinia)	Rhy	—	1	5
	AlRhy	—	17	94
	<i>Subtotal</i>	—	18	99
	AIRhy	—	35	2
Volcanic rocks from Sant'Antioco outcrops (south-west Sardinia)	Rhy	—	6	—
	AlRhy	—	20	—
	<i>Subtotal</i>	—	26	—
	Total samples	—	104	126

Abbreviations as caption in Table 2a

Fig. 8 Na_2O vs. K_2O wt.% classification diagram of Middlemost (1975) between the high-potash, potash and soda volcanic series, where plotted the volcanic samples from the outcrops and aggregate glasses from the mortars of the Nora theatre. Abbreviations of the legend: K-Rhy, potash rhyolite; K-alRhy, potash alkali-rhyolite



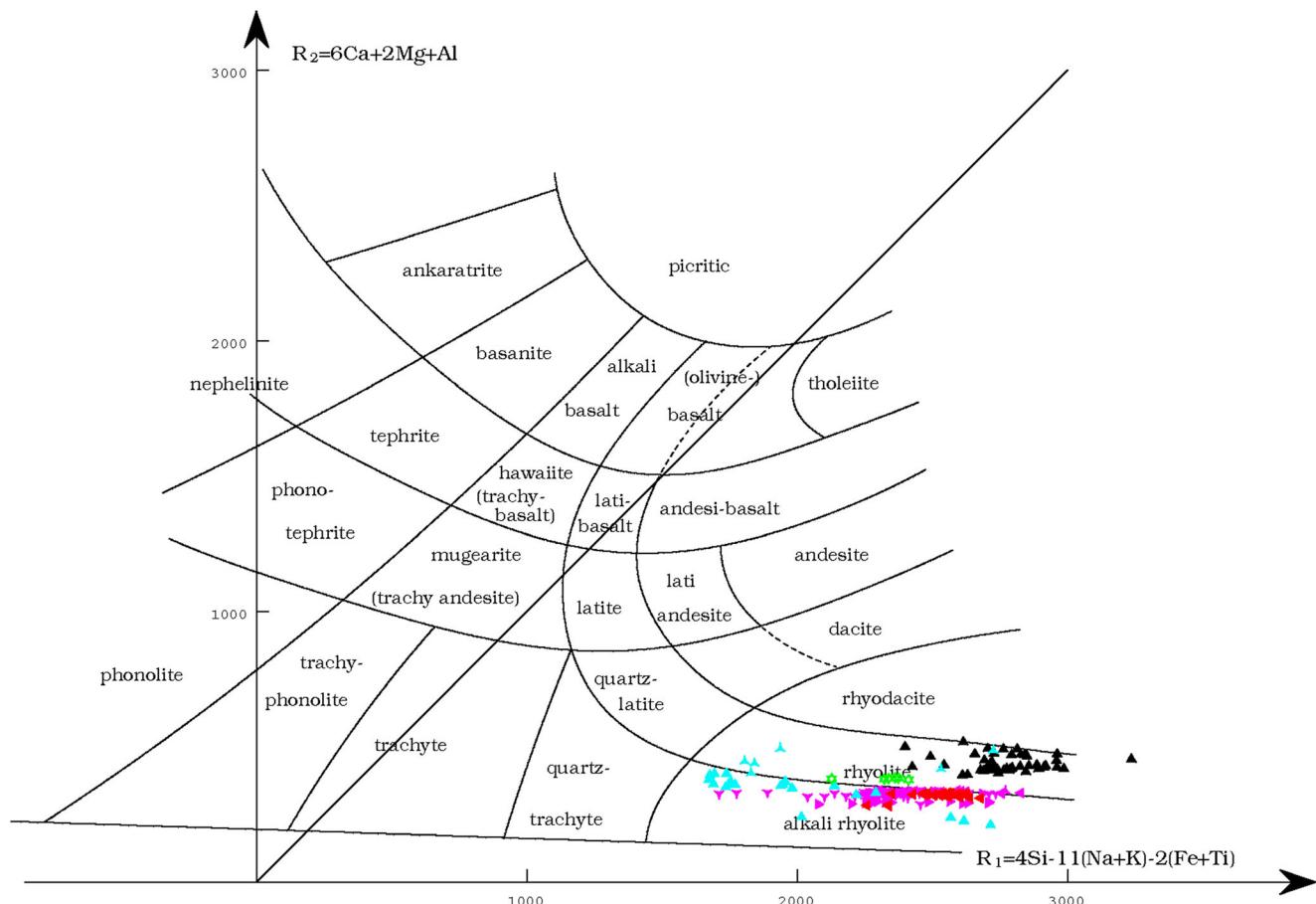
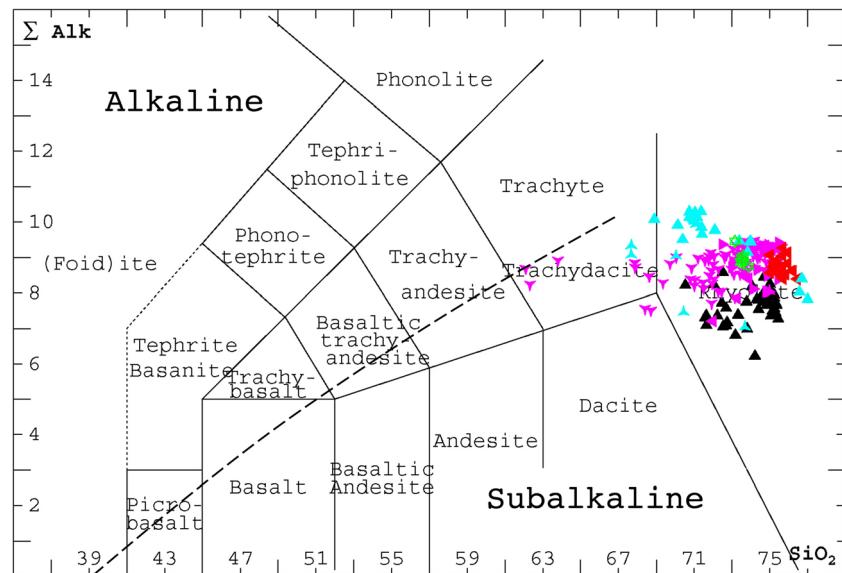


Fig. 9 R_1 vs. R_2 classification diagram of De La Roche et al. (1980), where plotted the volcanic samples from the outcrops and aggregate glasses from the mortars of the Nora theatre. Symbols as legend in Fig. 8

plagioclase and biotite. These glasses are characterised by pearlitic fractures or from a vacuolar and/or fluidal

texture. In some cases, there are typical devitrification structures as spherulites (in agreement with Lofgren

Fig. 10 Total alkali-silica diagram [$(\text{Na}_2\text{O} + \text{K}_2\text{O})$ vs. SiO_2 wt.%] of Le Maitre et al. (2002), where plotted the volcanic samples from the outcrops and aggregate glasses from the mortars of the Nora theatre. Symbols as legend in Fig. 8



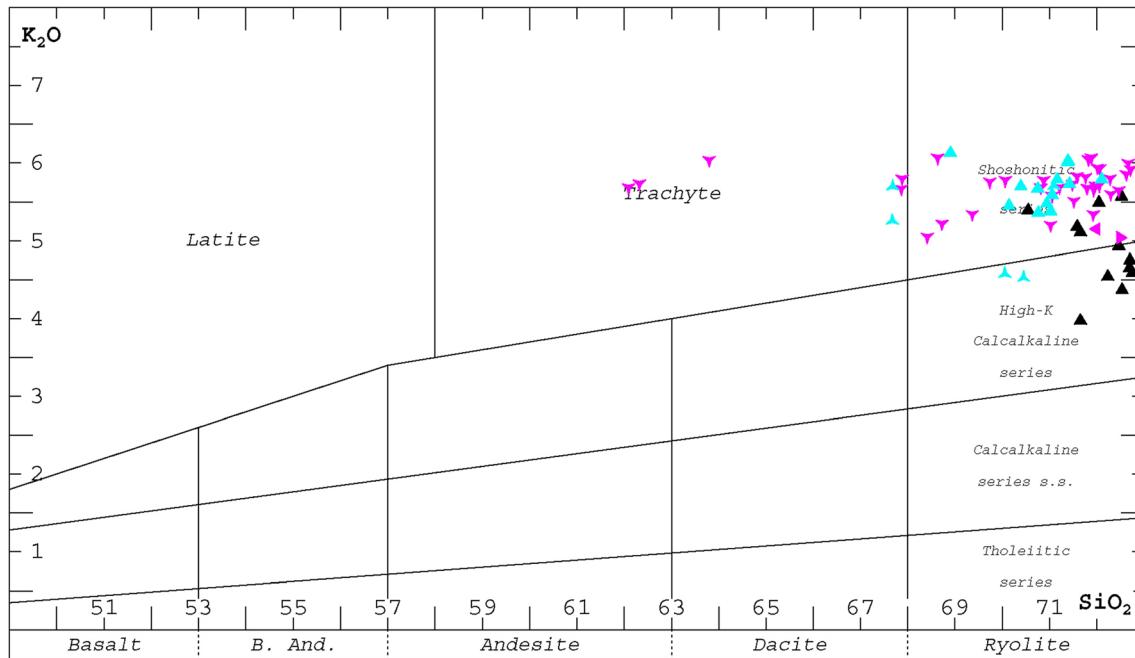


Fig. 11 K_2O vs. SiO_2 wt.% classification diagram of Peccerillo and Taylor (1976) where plotted the volcanic samples from the outcrops and aggregate glasses from the mortars of the Nora theatre. Note: it was

not possible to plot all analyses, because some samples have higher values of SiO_2 to 73%. Symbols as legend in Fig. 8

1971). These volcanic fragments are always characterised by the presence of reaction rims between the glass and the binder of mortar (Fig. 6b).

Geochemical characteristics of obsidian glasses

Analysis of major elements and rock classification

Table 2a, b shows the results of the chemical analysis of the glasses used in the mortars of Roman theatre, where the analytical values of major elements and the C.I.P.W. norm are reported (according to Cross et al. 1903). Table 3a, b shows the results of chemical analysis on the volcanics (perlites and obsidians) of Mt. Arci (Fig. 1). Table 4 shows the analytical values of the volcanics from St. Antioco area (Fig. 1).

Table 5 shows a summary of the rock classification of the glasses from the theatre mortars and volcanic samples from Mt. Arci and St. Antioco, according to the diagrams of Middlemost (1975) (Fig. 8) and De La Roche et al. (1980) (Fig. 9). According to the latter diagram, the glasses of the mortars are classified as rhyolites. The samples of perlite and obsidian from Mt. Arci are classified as alkali-rhyolites and (as transition products) to the rhyolites. The acidic volcanics of St. Antioco constitute a separate group with respect to both the mortar glasses and the samples from the Mt. Arci outcrops.

According to the TAS (Total Alkali Silica) diagram of Le Maitre et al. (2002); Fig. 10), most of the samples fall within the field of the rhyolites, while only some perlites from Mt. Arci and some volcanics from St. Antioco fall within the trachy-dacite and dacite fields.

All samples fall under the dashed discriminant line of Irvine and Baragar (1971) between the alkaline and subalkaline series, which have been overlapped to the TAS diagram in Fig. 10.

Also, the diagram of De La Roche et al. (Fig. 9) shows the subalkaline character of the volcanics which, falling between the line of the critical plane of unsaturation (and away from it) and the abscissa axis, are strongly supersaturated.

In the classification diagram of Peccerillo and Taylor (1976); Fig. 11), most of the samples fall within the field of shoshonitic series and subordinately of K-high series. Almost all samples are classified as rhyolites, except some perlites of Mt. Arci and Sant'Antioco, which are classified as trachytes of shoshonitic series.

Figure 12 reports the variation diagrams of major elements versus the differentiation index (D.I.) of Thornton and Tuttle (1960). Regarding the volcanic glasses of the mortars, the typical trend of common magmatic series, with a decidedly positive correlation between SiO_2 and D.I. is observed. Even the K_2O and Na_2O are positively correlated with D.I., although weakly. A negative correlation exists, however, between

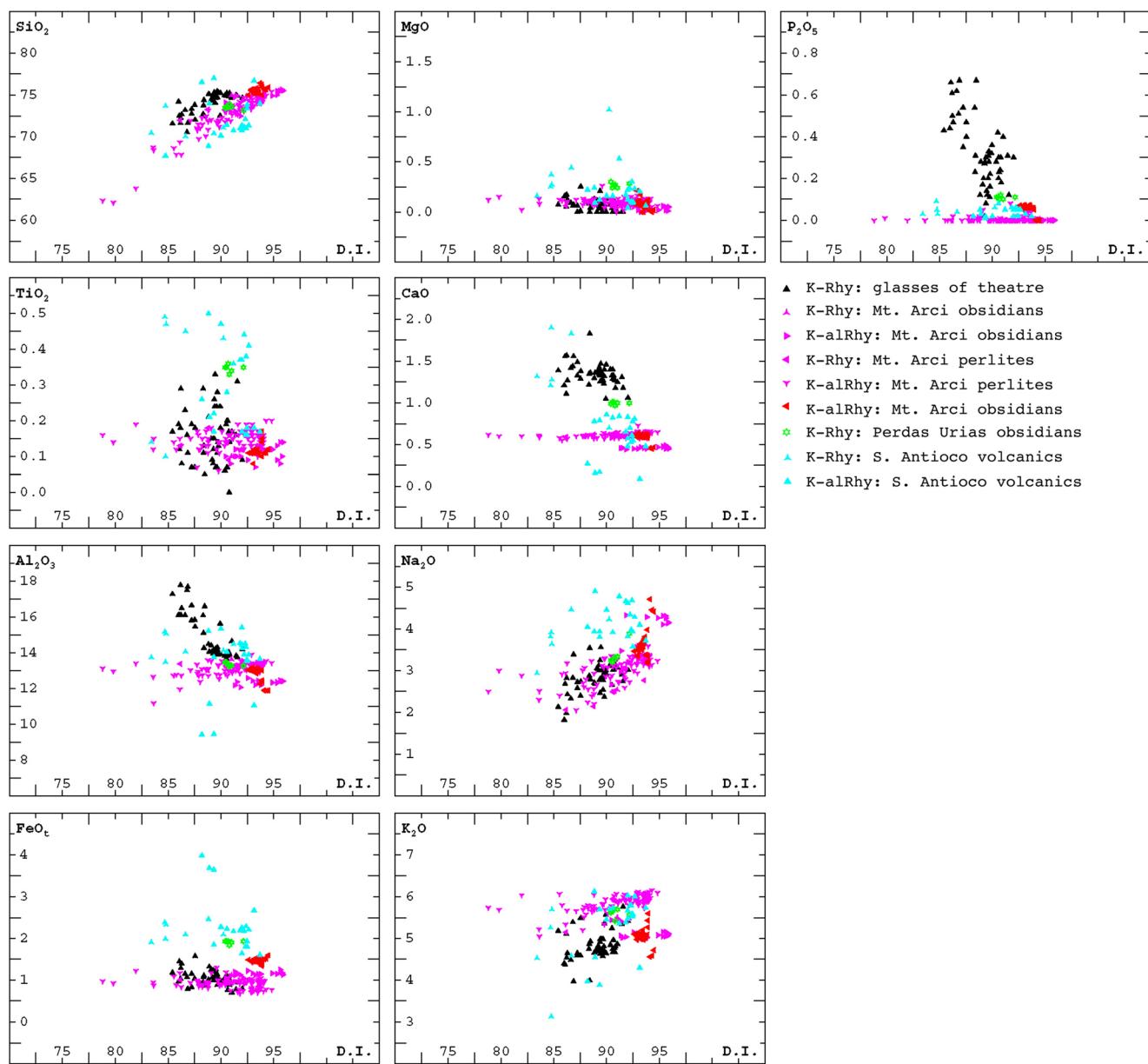


Fig. 12 Variation diagrams: major elements (wt.%) vs. differentiation index (D.I.) of Thornton and Tuttle (1960) (where D.I. = normative Q + Ab + Or + Ne + Kp + Lc) for the volcanic samples from the outcrops and aggregate glasses from the mortars of the Nora theatre

Al_2O_3 and P_2O_5 , typical of the evolved rocks which splits the apatite. Other oxides, such as MgO and TiO_2 , are quite dispersed.

Almost always, similar trends are even noted for the elements of obsidian and perlite samples from Mt. Arci, except for Al_2O_3 and CaO that remain almost constant. All diagrams of Fig. 12 show a different behaviour of the mortar glasses (that form a distinct group) compared to the samples from St. Antioco and Mt. Arci. Even among samples from Mt. Arci, it is possible to distinguish two different groups: the perlites and the obsidians. In particular, the perlite samples are characterised by higher values

of Al_2O_3 , CaO and K_2O and from lower values of P_2O_5 and Na_2O .

The behaviour of K_2O and Na_2O has already been highlighted by Cioni et al. (2001), according to which the interaction between the anhydrous volcanic glasses (obsidian) and the meteoric waters lead to the formation of hydrate glass (perlite) with leaching of Na_2O and relative enrichment in K_2O .

Instead, the samples of the Perdas Urias outcrops (eastern side of Mt. Arci) form a group almost always superimposed on the mortar glass samples, as already

Table 6 Chemical analysis of three plagioclase phenocrystals from the aggregate of theatre mortars

Sample	36_ob15-5	39_ob15-8	13_ob40-1
⁷ Li	82.2	61.13	67.21
¹¹ B	1.15	1.31	1.33
²³ Na	96,621.82	92,136.09	89,979.59
²⁵ Mg	152.49	273.24	106.18
²⁹ Si	614,887.75	572,032.5	556,738.69
⁴⁵ Sc	1.87	1.78	2.47
⁴⁹ Ti	73.48	94.56	72.99
⁵¹ V	0.61	0.3	<0.1410
⁵³ Cr	<1.20	10.94	<1.9300
⁵⁹ Co	0.44	0.08	0.14
⁶⁰ Ni	0.44	0.75	<0.0000
⁶⁶ Zn	30.08	43.14	18.69
⁸⁵ Rb	1.82	2.58	1.48
⁸⁸ Sr	1372.23	1311.37	1512.18
⁸⁹ Y	0.22	0.29	0.28
⁹⁰ Zr	<0.0360	0.81	0.06
⁹³ Nb	<0.0206	0.2	<0.031
¹³³ Cs	<0.0107	0.03	0.01
¹³⁷ Ba	545.66	560.16	580
¹³⁹ La	19.86	19	20.86
¹⁴⁰ Ce	31.11	28.86	29.18
¹⁴¹ Pr	1.93	1.86	1.89
¹⁴⁶ Nd	5.3	4.26	4.66
¹⁴⁹ Sm	0.13	0.27	0.19
¹⁵¹ Eu	4.03	3.82	4.37
¹⁵⁷ Gd	0.1	0.33	<0.00
¹⁵⁹ Tb	0.03	<0.0073	<0.0180
¹⁶³ Dy	0.14	<0.0500	0.19
¹⁶⁵ Ho	<0.0068	0.01	<0.0107
¹⁶⁷ Er	<0.00	0.07	<0.0540
¹⁶⁹ Tm	<0.00	0.01	<0.0099
¹⁷³ Yb	<0.0410	<0.0440	0.09
¹⁷⁵ Lu	<0.0116	<0.0073	<0.0075
¹⁷⁷ Hf	<0.048	0.08	<0.055
¹⁸¹ Ta	<0.0072	0.06	<0.0142
²⁰⁸ Pb	17.41	14.43	15.55
²³² Th	<0.0072	0.01	<0.0165
²³⁸ U	0.02	<0.0060	9.6

noted in the above-mentioned diagrams, showing a certain similarity geochemistry with them.

Analysis of trace elements

Tables 6 and 7a–e show the results of the chemical analysis of trace elements of the obsidian glasses from the mortars, where

also some major elements are reported. The analytical values are plotted in the diagrams of Fig. 13a–c versus ²⁹Si (expressed in % for graphic reasons). The patterns are comparable with those of common magmatic series, highlighting the validity of the ²⁹Si% as variation index.

There was a positive correlation between ²⁹Si% and ²³Na, ⁶⁶Zn, ⁴⁹Ti, ⁸⁵Rb, ¹³³Cs, ¹³⁷Ba, ⁹³Nb, ¹³⁹La, ²⁰⁸Pb and ²³⁸U, while there is a negative correlation with the ⁸⁸Sr; the values of the other elements are dispersed.

The analytical values of some elements (Table 7a–e) are far higher than the average of the same element in the other analysed points; these values, which may depend on the presence of phases within the micro volume of vaporised sample by the laser, or by a lack of homogeneity at the microscopic level in the distribution of the elements, were regarded as outsiders and therefore excluded from the variation diagrams.

The trends of some rare earth elements normalized to chondrites (factors taken from Anders and Grevesse 1989) are shown in Fig. 14a. They are characterised by a moderate variability (minimum 157.47 ± 9.49 ppm/chondrite for Ce; maximum: 13.66 ± 3.2 ppm/chondrite for Eu), indicating that they belong to a single magmatic series. Furthermore, while the light rare earths have parallel trends that do not intersect between them, the trends of the heavy rare earths are less correlated and tend to interbreed. Table 8 shows the correlation matrix for the rare earths showed in Fig. 14a; the maximum correlation for light rare earths coarsely tends to decrease for heavy rare earths, as highlighted by the variation diagrams vs. ²⁹Si% in Fig. 13a–c.

In general, the patterns are characterised by a negative peak in correspondence with europium, which indicates in all probability the fractionation of plagioclase, in good agreement with the petrographic observations and chemical analysis of some plagioclase phenocrystals of mortar glasses; in fact, in the plagioclases, there is a greater europium content with respect to the content of the same element in the glasses (Table 6). The Eu negative peak also indicates the apatite fractionation (Cox et al. 1979), according to the trend of P₂O₅ vs. D.I. (Fig. 12).

The pattern of the rare earths is characteristic of the final stages of the magmatic series and it is comparable with the pattern already observed in Sardinia for the dacitic and comenditic rocks from Sulcis area (Morra et al. 1994) and for dacites and rhyolites of Mt. Arci (Beccaluva et al. 1984).

Similarly, the pattern of trace elements normalized to primitive mantle according to Wood 1979 (Fig. 14b) shows that the whole sequence analysis has a regular distribution, with a not very wide range of variation (minimum 5.69 ± 0.31 ppm/primitive mantle for Sr; maximum 13.22 ± 2.48 ppm/primitive mantle for Hf); only some samples deviate on the performance more generally in correspondence of the tantalum and niobium, hafnium and zirconium. The pattern is characterised by an

Table 7 Chemical analysis of trace (and some major) elements of volcanic glasses from the theatre mortars. The values are reported in ppm

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
⁷ Li	31.88	45.17	23.03	54.95	39.09	41.16	33.74	40.77	49.18	41.12	45.96	53.93	46.77	47.48	47.39	40.67	37.31	26.96	40.65	53.80	47.21	47.65	41.73
¹¹ B	40.83	41.31	45.29	46.94	45.15	43.81	46.35	43.70	48.47	49.72	50.24	51.22	44.95	42.80	36.87	43.59	46.11	40.47	46.91	46.02	44.40	42.34	43.62
²³ Na	31230	30511	29406	34897	30191	31725	30168	29524	34315	31528	32595	35654	34375	34979	23927	33908	34349	31520	32275	35156	36508	34222	32610
²⁵ Mg	892	977	789	1174	924	976	956	904	1078	1070	1010	1022	1000	2337	1002	866	911	841	1061	1132	912	973	
²⁹ Si	418274	413153	442866	507975	442950	426193	435235	416267	450405	431837	448281	449651	455746	462573	488815	451910	469982	500246	469368	444181	482501	439085	453683
⁴⁵ Sc	4.72	4.52	4.72	5.82	4.81	4.50	4.72	4.65	5.13	4.57	4.36	4.83	4.90	5.03	4.01	4.77	4.63	5.05	4.50	3.48	4.27	3.97	
⁴⁹ Ti	899.78	866.32	965.88	1102.21	997.52	902.24	942.47	899.10	1006.13	952.63	938.47	947.30	876.03	1038.17	1337.02	947.98	958.46	989.39	985.65	927.68	990.51	909.72	947.54
⁵¹ V	1.01	1.11	1.24	0.83	2.90	1.14	1.12	1.02	1.40	0.93	1.05	0.83	1.35	1.26	1.65	0.88	0.99	5.30	1.09	1.43	1.65	1.31	1.05
⁵³ Cr	<1.66	<1.37	<1.46	0.92	<1.28	<1.04	<1.40	<1.09	<0.98	<1.37	<1.23	<1.71	<0.95	<2.02	<2.04	3.02	2.84	<1.77	2.61	2.03	<1.42	<1.67	
⁵⁹ Co	0.69	1.02	0.67	0.64	0.82	0.86	1.10	0.86	0.79	0.74	0.89	0.84	0.80	0.75	0.89	0.75	0.87	0.84	0.89	0.92	0.89	0.71	
⁶⁰ Ni	0.22	0.36	0.37	1.30	11.97	0.09	<0.124	0.25	0.56	0.74	0.26	0.41	0.11	<0.36	0.21	0.66	0.93	416.04	0.66	0.15	0.86	0.47	<0.24
⁶⁶ Zn	63.69	60.44	60.27	118.45	72.70	64.90	63.50	61.44	68.36	71.67	65.43	68.95	70.00	67.44	68.61	71.33	64.45	52.89	65.01	67.81	70.30	78.64	66.13
⁸⁵ Rb	189.74	180.90	194.30	202.84	209.53	193.68	196.53	189.33	201.87	196.62	206.41	200.45	209.38	198.02	197.58	227.75	264.74	185.90	209.93	200.20	212.24	192.92	206.25
⁸⁸ Sr	128.98	130.47	134.21	127.31	129.22	127.43	131.16	132.26	129.25	131.15	131.96	130.75	122.79	137.82	115.68	129.06	121.24	135.96	127.40	130.49	126.86	125.02	134.47
⁸⁹ Y	17.02	16.70	17.39	16.54	16.26	16.38	17.44	17.34	16.76	17.48	18.75	17.82	17.59	18.28	15.33	17.76	16.82	20.74	15.76	17.35	16.89	16.80	18.77
⁹⁰ Zr	159.94	155.51	190.06	183.31	164.91	153.68	164.02	162.18	170.93	174.58	165.64	158.10	193.21	291.34	174.68	171.90	232.88	162.01	166.60	173.37	162.99	181.31	
⁹³ Nb	17.63	17.29	19.04	23.24	19.87	18.66	19.24	19.20	19.16	19.59	20.23	19.63	20.61	20.77	23.57	19.53	19.46	21.22	19.05	19.73	20.48	19.22	19.41
¹³³ Cs	5.11	4.84	5.29	6.47	5.23	5.19	5.30	4.94	5.14	5.24	5.27	5.31	5.27	6.68	5.02	5.37	5.08	5.27	5.28	5.55	5.24	5.20	
¹³⁷ Ba	790.60	763.31	839.92	771.69	847.88	781.86	816.42	815.92	802.34	830.84	832.41	828.87	807.24	852.51	663.46	849.39	839.96	797.72	817.87	809.48	821.15	807.95	842.30
¹³⁹ La	47.76	46.26	50.18	46.16	49.88	45.49	49.06	47.70	44.79	49.51	49.79	47.65	46.61	52.65	41.76	49.31	49.09	54.28	46.80	47.43	48.37	47.62	51.52
¹⁴⁰ Ce	92.04	91.91	94.94	93.99	100.32	94.81	95.33	93.28	96.80	95.96	99.53	98.15	95.16	100.42	75.54	98.19	98.69	93.14	96.53	97.36	96.07	93.68	100.35
¹⁴¹ Pr	8.26	8.22	8.40	7.77	8.79	8.06	8.81	8.47	8.74	8.91	8.85	8.26	8.14	9.22	7.17	9.15	8.75	8.37	8.50	8.80	8.46	9.09	
¹⁴⁶ Nd	27.55	26.21	28.35	30.27	29.14	25.90	27.40	27.46	26.63	29.99	30.12	29.48	26.31	31.81	26.23	29.74	31.45	27.62	27.46	29.25	26.86	29.17	
¹⁴⁸ Sm	4.19	4.96	5.21	4.47	3.85	3.92	4.30	4.96	4.93	5.09	4.67	4.49	5.60	5.42	4.16	4.96	4.81	5.30	4.49	3.95	4.30	4.77	4.36
¹⁵¹ Eu	0.71	0.88	0.61	0.76	0.75	0.75	0.71	0.75	0.86	0.80	0.90	0.75	0.64	0.92	0.30	0.75	0.83	0.77	0.85	0.65	0.83	0.85	
¹⁵⁷ Gd	2.86	3.35	3.26	3.29	3.75	3.15	3.40	3.26	3.53	2.98	3.57	3.23	2.89	2.95	2.65	3.02	2.98	3.82	2.63	2.86	2.85	2.88	
¹⁵⁹ Tb	0.46	0.47	0.53	0.59	0.58	0.44	0.51	0.51	0.53	0.46	0.63	0.55	0.53	0.53	0.41	0.44	0.49	0.62	0.43	0.44	0.48	0.53	0.55
¹⁶³ Dy	2.71	3.00	3.01	2.51	2.49	2.67	3.13	3.15	3.00	2.85	2.73	2.88	3.52	3.15	2.61	3.25	2.75	3.77	2.94	2.55	3.05	2.96	3.49
¹⁶⁶ Ho	0.62	0.60	0.58	0.62	0.63	0.56	0.62	0.70	0.59	0.50	0.64	0.60	0.60	0.76	0.55	0.68	0.51	0.58	0.65	0.67	0.64	0.64	
¹⁶⁷ Er	1.43	1.48	2.02	1.25	1.30	1.55	1.61	1.77	1.78	1.79	1.76	1.99	1.55	1.94	1.39	2.01	1.45	1.95	1.53	1.60	1.68	1.65	1.63
¹⁶⁹ Tm	0.23	0.26	0.31	0.20	0.24	0.25	0.26	0.28	0.24	0.24	0.26	0.28	0.27	0.30	0.23	0.29	0.24	0.32	0.21	0.28	0.25	0.27	0.23
¹⁷⁷ Yb	1.97	1.83	1.86	2.52	1.94	1.98	2.41	1.69	1.92	2.30	2.12	1.80	1.45	2.10	1.75	2.01	1.77	2.21	1.80	2.08	1.97	1.52	1.70
¹⁷⁵ Lu	0.29	0.29	0.33	0.24	0.27	0.27	0.28	0.33	0.27	0.30	0.34	0.34	0.35	0.36	0.31	0.25	0.29	0.36	0.26	0.29	0.26	0.28	
¹⁷⁷ Hf	4.59	4.27	5.33	4.38	3.78	3.73	4.24	4.74	4.68	4.83	4.93	4.19	4.41	5.31	7.51	4.09	4.63	6.59	4.62	4.80	4.90	4.95	4.63
¹⁸¹ Ta	1.23	1.18	1.35	1.33	1.29	1.13	1.37	1.29	1.39	1.29	1.56	1.52	1.61	2.14	1.29	1.47	1.78	1.22	1.25	1.55	1.34	1.26	
²⁰⁸ Pb	24.09	22.38	23.26	30.22	27.29	24.38	23.97	26.56	26.45	25.88	25.50	24.85	28.21	25.57	26.92	26.71	28.07	26.46	25.26	33.76	29.06	27.73	
²³² Th	17.06	17.15	18.65	17.50	18.05	16.61	18.54	17.94	17.74	18.95	19.42	18.10	18.25	20.11	16.61	18.84	18.31	20.41	16.60	16.92	18.45	17.46	19.32
²³⁸ U	4.81	4.68	4.88	4.30	5.04	4.90	4.88	5.30	5.05	4.84	5.08	5.35	5.00	3.73	5.26	5.36	4.81	5.41	4.76	5.15	4.74	5.33	
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
⁷ Li	33.29	29.17	31.90	43.08	35.25	33.26	39.75	25.47	21.23	26.46	39.17	39.40	65.37	44.56	39.12	39.19	33.00	39.45	35.19	53.30	40.90	56.55	38.49
¹¹ B	28.66	38.89	40.87	37.84	37.59	35.96	36.45	37.61	46.85	43.79	37.70	44.32	47.34	46.15	41.74	38.33	52.36	44.24	42.94	44.10	43.69	44.15	36.85
²³ Na	28517	31811	31661	31869	32473	31556	31537	31741	30538	32138	36776	35556	34408	33091	37001	35013	33661	36102	34351	32829	40506	35604	31776
²⁵ Mg	867	784	832	936	866	909	832	690	837	1005	903	1146	1032	873	993	882	1007	918	1000	869	973	815	
²⁹ Si	351543	450465	426647	431538	451171	419737	401243	429918	447503	404081	453428	450741	458061	44823	474845	437064	501317	451888	451195	444741	498190	455833	381816
⁴⁵ Sc	3.55	4.26	4.38	3.85	4.29	3.98	3.65	4.00	3.96	3.75	4.20	4.00	4.03	3.28	4.12	3.60	3.50	3.84	3.78	3.68	3.87	3.26	
⁴⁹ Ti	725.47	923.99	894.00	922.49	820.94	861.24	866.36	897.40	814.90	972.53	907.27	879.11	896.18	962.50	874.46	923.25	869.91	886.81	876.39</td				

	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	
⁷ Li	44.02	55.10	54.57	43.35	60.07	30.83	41.92	29.06	51.73	52.95	30.86	28.53	39.91	21.59	43.05	33.92	57.23	21.58	27.12	20.64	45.55	31.99	43.18	
¹¹ B	45.28	45.72	42.80	48.19	60.58	48.54	48.13	41.54	41.38	47.68	44.54	45.65	46.14	49.45	44.27	45.81	48.50	48.43	44.60	39.12	37.31	40.64	40.58	
²³ Na	35214	37491	38501	36149	36460	30568	34978	29949	33239	33988	33804	33511	37220	33701	32593	30807	37980	35372	34886	34052	32806	34070	34568	
²⁵ Mg	1104	1219	977	926	911	901	1020	943	908	1050	909	1103	908	877	862	884	1035	727	781	732	1025	866	1001	
²⁹ Si	456129	471532	434988	465321	485840	478494	556002	485609	463397	452543	470865	476245	452636	486411	428616	476826	467360	492075	499628	442972	433669	470357	443228	
⁴⁵ Sc	3.63	3.65	4.41	4.09	4.10	3.28	4.43	4.85	4.02	3.65	3.76	3.17	3.52	4.08	3.53	3.91	4.13	3.75	4.21	2.98	3.28	3.49	3.52	
⁴⁹ Ti	900.82	948.85	876.34	872.10	922.27	983.47	1036.20	1036.02	926.49	904.61	950.27	1148.89	926.96	970.84	876.18	935.92	963.39	1123.02	1070.28	878.60	955.79	990.65	946.76	
⁵¹ V	0.81	1.92	0.76	1.02	1.37	1.11	1.48	1.04	0.87	1.37	0.87	1.49	1.22	1.04	1.13	1.02	1.31	1.02	1.23	0.49	1.38	0.72	1.43	
⁵³ Cr	<1.57	<1.82	<2.10	<1.68	<1.14	2.14	<1.54	1.71	<1.92	2.15	<1.91	<1.58	<1.70	<1.60	<1.48	<1.38	<1.96	<1.72	<2.37	<1.91	<1.80	<1.90	<1.67	
⁵⁹ Co	0.86	1.14	0.84	0.67	0.97	0.85	0.87	0.73	0.81	1.06	1.02	0.87	0.83	0.82	0.84	1.13	0.72	0.55	0.63	0.76	1.13	0.89	0.76	
⁶⁰ Ni	0.55	0.85	<0.23	0.86	0.46	<0.26	1.11	<0.29	0.35	0.13	<0.163	0.99	<0.187	<0.181	0.99	12.05	<0.146	0.12	<0.50	<1.56	0.33	0.19	0.83	
⁶⁶ Zn	66.47	77.53	62.78	71.41	84.95	69.14	74.98	69.74	72.53	70.51	69.33	77.81	67.72	68.32	72.80	70.74	70.54	82.25	76.33	68.99	64.54	71.95	65.01	
⁸⁵ Rb	197.66	206.71	190.20	205.51	224.10	190.89	218.69	192.90	199.50	201.39	213.96	214.16	210.75	226.01	195.38	205.35	217.84	229.48	230.05	194.93	199.47	227.44	208.14	
⁸⁸ Sr	129.36	126.10	126.29	126.54	129.36	129.72	143.54	134.02	127.90	133.56	133.96	128.81	133.33	137.35	119.91	116.57	126.69	135.46	136.55	127.51	129.84	139.33	137.02	
⁸⁹ Y	15.15	17.29	16.56	15.57	15.71	16.94	16.16	18.22	15.67	16.89	17.21	16.75	16.57	21.91	15.94	14.60	16.04	15.62	16.95	16.24	16.84			
⁹⁰ Zr	155.72	160.47	162.47	158.91	159.14	180.64	181.98	279.43	159.36	166.21	168.44	162.19	163.31	168.38	154.16	154.62	155.19	170.65	166.50	164.06	167.19	171.63	161.01	
⁹³ Nb	18.85	18.81	18.46	19.33	19.30	22.46	21.30	23.37	20.02	18.78	19.48	24.48	19.03	21.24	18.63	20.18	19.28	20.37	20.36	18.04	18.48	19.02	18.43	
¹³³ Cs	4.86	5.08	5.04	5.20	5.84	5.04	5.27	5.17	5.21	5.55	5.80	5.27	5.66	5.53	5.19	5.12	5.53	5.64	5.86	5.04	4.78	5.57	5.72	
¹³⁷ Ba	782.07	795.02	783.51	789.44	800.44	758.93	1029.00	797.02	782.09	819.20	835.54	866.38	826.85	896.40	788.74	734.64	838.92	855.45	852.77	797.47	790.49	825.78	815.67	
¹³⁹ La	44.99	47.63	47.40	46.48	46.95	48.86	48.06	52.64	47.00	48.74	48.41	48.94	49.51	46.00	42.53	47.24	47.78	47.66	46.89	47.78	48.34	47.98		
¹⁴⁰ Ce	93.32	95.69	94.00	94.72	99.01	89.80	92.09	92.07	96.17	95.34	100.08	98.54	98.74	102.69	92.91	89.41	99.18	98.56	99.02	90.36	93.49	96.93	98.59	
¹⁴¹ Pr	8.34	8.60	8.47	8.70	8.08	7.73	8.62	8.53	8.29	8.68	8.73	8.57	8.68	8.04	7.52	8.42	8.25	8.20	8.05	8.37	8.60	8.30		
¹⁴⁶ Nd	26.77	30.10	27.31	27.64	28.06	27.33	27.22	30.01	26.35	29.10	27.59	26.84	27.98	27.82	28.41	23.42	28.13	26.45	25.32	25.20	28.67	26.10	26.83	
¹⁴⁹ Sm	4.26	4.61	4.33	3.84	4.14	4.39	5.57	4.77	3.78	4.41	4.80	4.21	5.03	4.67	3.68	3.63	4.64	4.56	5.14	4.63	4.89	4.72	4.17	
¹⁵¹ Eu	0.66	0.80	0.79	0.74	0.90	0.85	0.93	0.84	0.62	0.90	0.79	0.70	0.57	0.86	0.78	0.75	0.86	0.74	0.60	0.79	0.77	0.78		
¹⁵⁷ Gd	2.64	2.67	2.93	2.44	2.68	2.97	3.32	3.39	2.67	2.67	2.79	3.21	2.67	3.05	3.19	2.57	3.07	2.61	2.42	2.69	2.80	2.38	2.87	
¹⁵⁹ Tb	0.50	0.53	0.48	0.50	0.52	0.50	0.43	0.55	0.51	0.42	0.49	0.42	0.54	0.50	0.49	0.38	0.44	0.45	0.55	0.45	0.49	0.48	0.41	
¹⁶³ Dy	3.26	2.87	3.13	2.94	2.91	2.64	3.24	2.64	2.97	2.98	2.97	2.41	2.61	2.92	2.78	2.66	2.49	2.53	2.36	3.16	2.88	2.84		
¹⁶⁵ Ho	0.55	0.48	0.53	0.49	0.57	0.57	0.55	0.69	0.51	0.64	0.52	0.63	0.60	0.72	0.53	0.52	0.57	0.52	0.65	0.50	0.66	0.60	0.67	
¹⁶⁷ Er	1.55	1.75	1.90	1.71	1.28	2.01	1.57	1.61	1.76	1.66	1.73	1.50	1.51	1.98	1.73	1.32	2.06	1.32	1.57	1.55	1.67	1.58	1.53	
¹⁶⁹ Tm	0.25	0.27	0.24	0.24	0.31	0.25	0.24	0.29	0.17	0.31	0.25	0.26	0.28	0.33	0.22	0.21	0.30	0.22	0.27	0.29	0.26	0.24		
¹⁷³ Yb	1.97	1.95	1.90	1.62	1.32	2.06	2.78	2.22	1.88	2.02	1.80	1.82	1.51	2.29	1.76	1.79	1.92	1.75	1.88	1.91	2.53	1.73	1.86	
¹⁷⁵ Lu	0.29	0.30	0.34	0.21	0.25	0.31	0.20	0.28	0.21	0.28	0.28	0.29	0.32	0.35	0.31	0.29	0.28	0.19	0.25	0.36	0.28	0.26		
¹⁷⁷ Hf	4.30	5.54	4.30	4.11	3.95	5.03	5.33	9.26	4.06	4.44	4.45	4.73	4.57	3.92	3.66	4.29	3.71	4.20	4.67	4.80	4.35	4.24	4.16	
¹⁸¹ Ta	1.31	1.07	1.48	1.47	1.35	1.42	1.62	1.70	1.25	1.35	1.37	1.54	1.34	1.42	1.31	1.40	1.26	1.37	1.39	1.33	1.33	1.19		
²⁰⁸ Pb	25.11	29.61	24.86	26.56	31.85	27.58	31.57	28.29	27.34	29.45	26.08	26.94	25.82	27.90	25.27	28.60	27.41	26.79	24.48	24.56	26.49	24.73		
²³² Th	16.23	17.33	17.18	17.19	18.04	17.70	18.84	22.12	15.83	16.66	17.19	17.28	17.74	16.29	14.53	15.96	16.90	16.55	16.15	16.69	16.69	15.36		
²³⁸ U	4.77	5.41	5.08	5.39	6.04	4.71	5.46	4.81	5.16	5.24	5.15	5.37	5.31	5.50	5.06	5.12	5.41	5.45	5.34	4.66	4.42	4.97	4.80	

of Sr (in ppm) in plagioclase is much higher than the value of Sr present in the glass. It also shows an impoverishment compared to the primordial mantle, due probably to the fractionation of iron and titanium oxides.

Provenance of pozzolanic glasses

Considering that in the areas adjacent to Nora's site there are no rock outcrops with similar geochemical-petrographic

	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92
⁷ Li	48.13	40.20	38.32	33.35	31.13	33.49	65.86	38.21	62.70	43.19	66.05	68.02	68.50	74.86	56.87	44.73	55.30	56.95	43.61	27.02	22.86	38.51	35.25
¹¹ B	39.92	44.88	36.67	45.51	42.72	35.94	52.41	42.54	40.82	41.70	46.06	42.55	74.42	58.44	45.53	44.97	51.70	45.95	43.19	37.22	43.69	41.42	38.38
²³ Na	36579	35974	38370	36074	32078	30246	35906	31426	34883	34080	38414	38173	45942	38537	38635	34093	36252	35833	34613	32166	31498	32757	36656
²⁵ Mg	949	908	930	878	936	1032	990	891	1041	966	1151	1218	1878	1336	1051	1012	988	999	979	830	703	1034	1023
²⁹ Si	465937	457216	467500</																				

	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112
⁷ Li	45.73	58.30	35.47	57.06	40.81	68.11	44.10	70.68	23.84	29.51	38.46	53.24	36.54	62.16	33.70	38.67	25.30	57.85	44.59	37.92
¹¹ B	44.20	41.52	44.71	40.80	38.10	53.42	40.95	44.02	48.13	37.36	42.23	38.03	40.77	44.71	45.21	38.42	52.30	37.11	43.16	47.90
²³ Na	37060	33683	32720	34941	28614	38825	36903	39680	38064	32457	38060	31993	35274	35942	35986	35308	34556	38462	35261	37641
²⁵ Mg	995	883	895	969	686	1002	733	927	684	945	1377	908	910	1080	900	1107	936	1059	910	1012
²⁹ Si	431630	437493	466787	454435	362093	488190	444460	491218	445426	492724	694862	423837	415526	471776	474512	452758	613992	423275	467731	472478
⁴⁵ Sc	3.86	4.11	3.94	3.77	3.24	4.50	4.58	3.61	3.62	3.27	4.94	3.57	2.92	4.45	3.26	3.41	4.36	3.45	3.55	3.35
⁴⁹ Ti	906.44	885.77	949.18	925.55	694.49	930.48	1038.90	1112.19	1017.01	1188.28	1240.13	952.73	948.40	1039.80	987.92	956.58	1364.70	893.07	1022.21	956.40
⁵¹ V	1.18	1.39	0.88	<0.22	0.76	1.27	1.12	1.51	1.00	0.95	1.49	0.99	0.87	1.42	1.14	1.34	1.81	0.97	1.15	0.92
⁵³ Cr	<2.69	<1.45	<1.72	<1.83	<1.45	<1.94	<3.54	<3.58	<3.74	1.97	<2.42	<1.64	<2.02	<1.38	<1.92	<2.21	3.59	<2.43	3.75	<2.05
⁵⁹ Co	0.72	0.65	0.92	0.78	0.64	0.90	0.73	<0.32	0.86	0.55	1.38	0.82	0.65	1.01	0.41	0.91	0.68	0.73	0.73	<0.24
⁶⁰ Ni	<0.33	0.76	<9.19	<0.31	0.75	0.95	<0.37	<0.00	<0.47	0.64	1.27	<0.21	0.71	0.79	<0.31	1.59	3.79	<0.00	0.71	<0.192
⁶⁶ Zn	93.25	62.58	66.40	75.85	44.47	67.15	55.80	59.26	55.31	52.79	85.55	55.95	57.15	73.83	76.33	154.56	185.32	70.33	65.27	65.42
⁸⁵ Rb	191.13	195.39	206.51	198.13	157.98	230.46	226.40	273.64	211.38	175.53	197.98	192.77	185.55	216.72	199.12	189.05	215.41	197.48	197.93	203.31
⁸⁸ Sr	121.34	128.39	130.62	135.18	118.14	120.14	143.21	127.26	145.79	130.42	143.40	129.09	136.11	129.34	140.50	129.41	129.32	129.50	134.42	134.51
⁸⁹ Y	17.04	16.39	16.54	17.28	12.51	15.77	18.79	20.48	18.24	15.57	20.07	16.65	19.42	19.36	17.58	16.73	19.93	18.82	16.90	18.17
⁹⁰ Zr	168.85	155.46	170.95	177.74	117.29	158.79	190.21	209.42	191.21	211.33	199.05	166.64	189.27	175.41	185.95	169.05	309.66	184.11	173.50	179.21
⁹³ Nb	18.60	18.11	19.07	19.90	14.32	19.47	23.10	26.16	24.44	28.68	35.80	21.78	22.85	23.93	20.88	21.07	30.88	21.31	22.37	22.34
¹³³ Cs	4.94	5.04	5.33	5.32	3.85	5.46	5.45	6.01	5.38	4.60	5.33	5.23	4.99	5.98	5.15	5.21	6.05	4.93	4.83	5.53
¹³⁷ Ba	777.50	775.91	826.05	828.12	585.73	784.36	916.54	969.69	896.51	762.62	793.07	797.21	817.10	848.63	833.65	774.09	800.43	802.00	819.68	829.90
¹³⁹ La	48.61	45.34	48.57	49.63	34.19	44.20	48.27	51.29	48.36	40.05	44.55	42.58	47.22	44.78	47.61	41.83	44.34	46.67	43.05	45.54
¹⁴⁰ Ce	92.60	92.90	98.02	97.98	69.03	95.35	98.44	106.02	93.95	82.53	85.73	89.18	91.39	97.16	95.94	88.63	88.61	88.42	89.20	93.27
¹⁴¹ Pr	8.25	7.94	8.40	8.48	6.03	8.04	9.66	9.86	10.06	7.86	8.70	8.63	8.93	8.56	9.24	8.37	8.18	8.69	8.62	9.36
¹⁴⁶ Nd	27.27	24.73	28.03	28.40	19.19	26.43	28.86	30.97	29.65	25.81	29.52	27.21	29.41	27.92	30.83	27.26	24.89	28.65	28.40	29.07
¹⁴⁸ Sm	4.31	4.50	4.53	5.24	3.52	5.05	5.21	5.00	4.60	3.88	4.77	5.25	4.95	4.85	4.11	4.24	4.66	5.43	4.29	4.98
¹⁵¹ Eu	0.60	0.80	0.70	0.78	0.61	0.53	0.69	0.74	0.85	0.72	0.80	0.64	0.74	0.70	0.66	0.44	0.70	0.81	0.70	0.74
¹⁵⁷ Gd	2.60	2.44	3.84	3.27	2.57	2.97	2.55	3.57	2.95	2.37	3.42	2.79	4.03	2.42	2.74	3.44	2.67	3.17	2.99	2.77
¹⁵⁹ Tb	0.45	0.50	0.52	0.55	0.36	0.45	0.49	0.45	0.42	0.44	0.45	0.50	0.58	0.50	0.51	0.44	0.39	0.60	0.40	0.48
¹⁶² Dy	2.91	2.74	3.02	2.87	2.21	2.72	3.36	3.43	2.77	2.73	3.72	3.13	2.45	2.88	3.05	2.93	2.92	3.13	2.98	3.29
¹⁶⁵ Ho	0.58	0.51	0.61	0.60	0.41	0.54	0.73	0.68	0.71	0.51	0.76	0.51	0.63	0.62	0.69	0.49	0.59	0.69	0.63	0.61
¹⁶⁷ Er	1.45	1.56	1.60	2.03	1.19	1.80	2.07	1.91	2.16	1.70	2.26	1.77	1.70	1.84	2.23	1.71	2.25	1.92	1.73	2.22
¹⁶⁹ Tm	0.21	0.25	0.27	0.23	0.20	0.27	0.31	0.31	0.29	0.23	0.32	0.25	0.23	0.22	0.30	0.27	0.27	0.32	0.22	0.26
¹⁷³ Yb	1.99	1.35	2.24	2.06	1.32	1.92	1.75	2.20	1.86	1.29	1.96	2.02	1.86	1.90	2.03	1.49	1.83	2.13	1.94	2.08
¹⁷⁵ Lu	0.19	0.25	0.27	0.34	0.22	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.26	0.21	0.35	0.17	0.32	0.31	0.27	0.29	0.26	0.31	0.30	0.30
¹⁷⁷ Hf	4.77	4.60	4.54	5.10	3.05	4.33	5.24	4.96	5.26	5.79	6.43	3.85	5.13	4.37	4.71	4.57	8.77	4.87	4.68	3.85
¹⁸¹ Ta	1.51	1.26	1.41	1.39	1.05	1.25	1.66	1.85	1.75	2.01	2.40	1.85	1.36	1.67	1.34	1.49	2.17	1.57	1.69	1.52
²⁰⁸ Pb	27.93	25.91	26.17	25.40	19.46	26.67	22.93	24.76	22.74	20.75	32.99	21.11	24.34	28.28	26.29	27.65	37.65	24.95	24.24	25.61
²³² Th	17.70	16.31	18.28	18.47	12.72	16.43	18.42	19.63	18.71	15.18	17.28	16.35	17.63	17.99	19.35	16.17	16.99	18.08	17.76	17.62
²³⁸ U	5.03	5.35	5.30	4.99	3.92	5.51	5.31	5.59	5.14	4.39	4.74	4.93	4.88	5.74	5.65	5.24	5.31	5.31	5.31	5.87

characteristics, in order to identify the sources of supply, the composition geochemistry of these glasses with new and literature analytical data of similar volcanic rocks (rhyolites/alkali-rhyolites) from Mt. Arci and St. Antioco areas was compared, using the linear discriminant analysis.

Discriminant analysis using major elements

The discriminant analysis (performed using the Statistical Mac program) was applied to subdivide the groups defined a priori that are represented by the glasses used as aggregate and pozzolan in the theatre mortars, the volcanic samples (obsidians and perlites) from Mt. Arci and the volcanics coming from the St. Antioco.

In detail, 232 analyses (divided as in Table 9) were considered. The variables chosen for the discrimination of the groups are represented by the following major elements: SiO₂, TiO₂, Al₂O₃, FeO_T, MnO, MgO, CaO, Na₂O, K₂O and P₂O₅. Among them, those that are found to be significant (based on the discriminant analysis) are the following: CaO, FeO, Al₂O₃ and P₂O₅.

The samples will be classified as belonging to the group that has the higher score (Table 10a).

The classification score of a sample for a group, for example from the Nora theatre (TN), is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Score(TN)} = -295,945 + \text{CaO} + \text{FeO}_T * 16,546 * 63,419 + \text{P}_2\text{O}_5 * (191,734) * 37784 + \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3.$$

Table 10b shows the summary diagram of the classification results, according to the classification score groups. All analyses of the mortar glasses are properly classified as belonging to the “Theatre” group. Also, all analyses of samples from “Mt. Arci” are properly classified. For “St. Antioco” samples, 92.86% of the total analysis was correctly classified, and single analysis was attributed to the theatre group and a second one to the Mt. Arci group.

Table 11a shows the canonical functions, which are equal to the number of groups minus one. For each sample, each variable must be multiplied by the coefficient shown in the table according to the following scheme:
Root 1 = 3.9207 + CaO + FeO_T * 4.52979 * (-0.79973)
+ Al₂O₃ + P₂O₅ * 10.70594 – 0.54622.

In the diagram in Fig. 15 are projected the points of the canonical score R1 and R2, calculated according to the functions given in Table 11a.

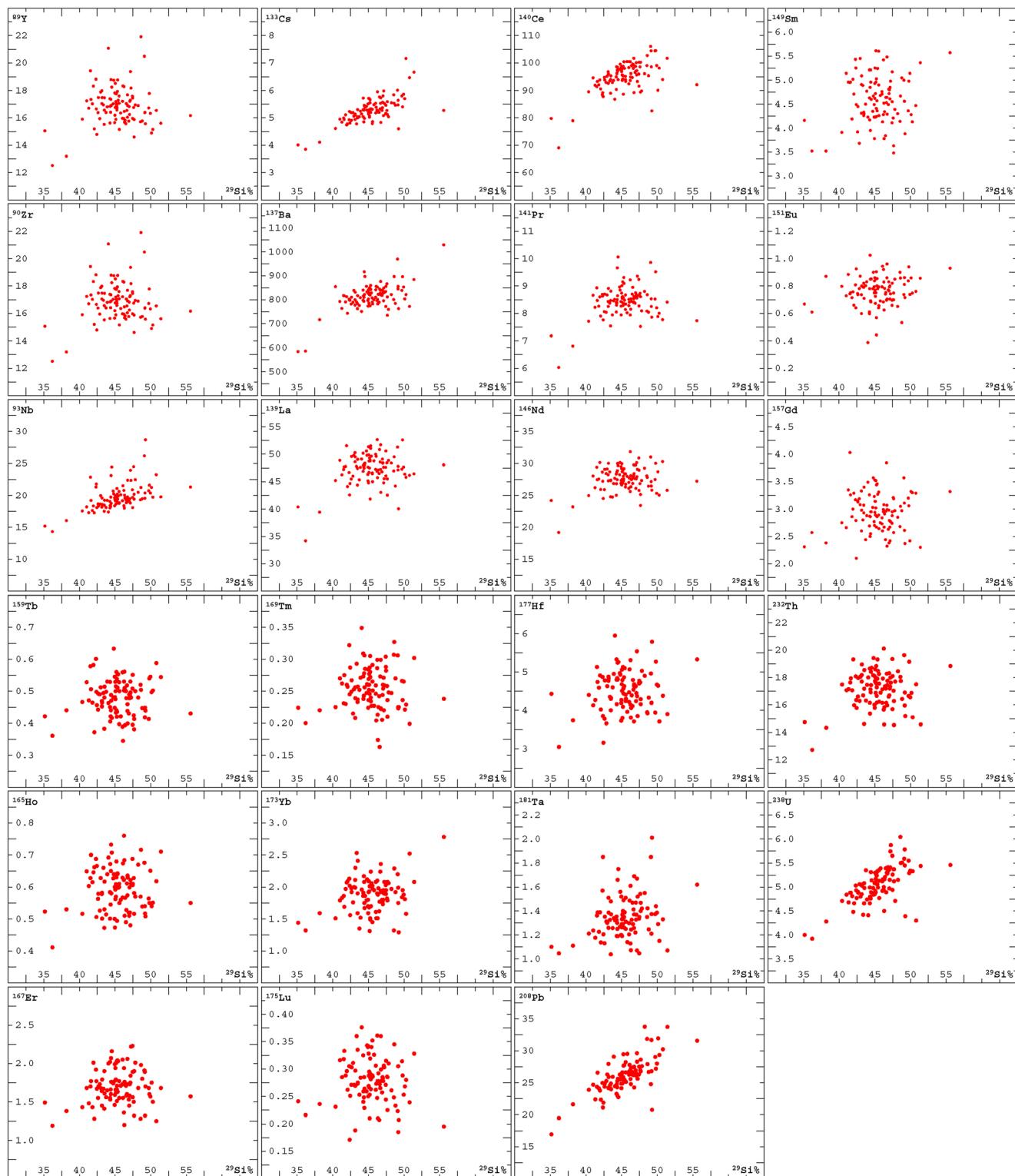


Fig. 13 (a–c) Variation diagrams: selected major and trace elements (ppm) vs. $^{29}\text{Si}\%$ for the volcanic samples from the outcrops and aggregate glasses from the mortars of the Nora theatre

In Table 11b, the three equations (with $y = ax + b$) of straight lines dividing between the three groups are reported.

Observing the discriminating diagram of Fig. 15, the volcanic glasses used in the mortars constitute a distinct

group compared with those of other samples from Mt. Arci and St. Antioco. The analysed samples from Perdas Urias outcrops (belonging to the Mt. Arci area), though falling within the field of St. Antioco group

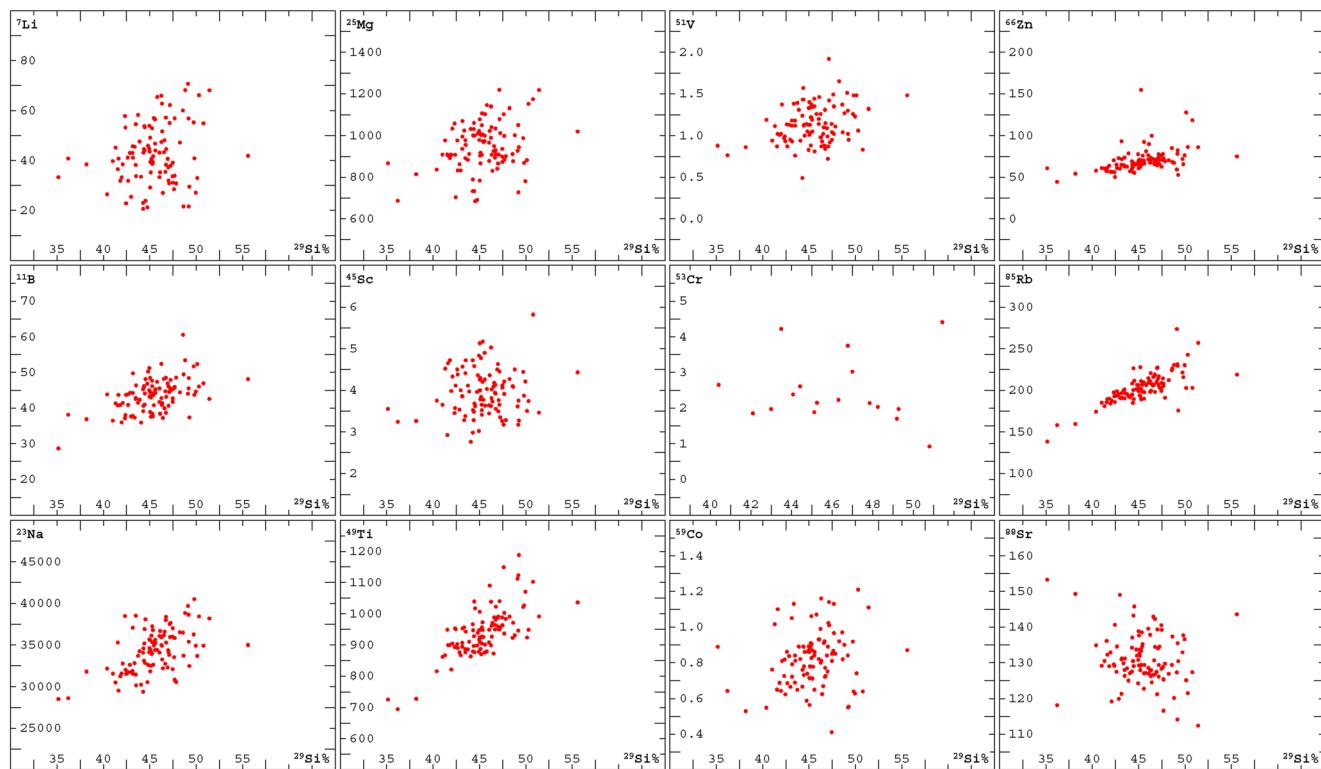


Fig. 13 (Continued)

(Fig. 15), are very close to the analysis of mortar glasses.

Discriminant analysis using trace elements

The discriminant analysis was applied using the trace elements of the mortar glasses, obsidians of Mt. Arci and volcanics of St. Antioco.

One hundred and sixty-three analyses were considered, among which 112 were related to mortar glasses, 37 obsidians to Mt. Arci and 12 to St. Antioco. The variables chosen for the discrimination of the groups are represented by the following elements: Ti, V, Cr, Zn, Rb, Sr, Y, Zr, Nb, Cs, Ba, La, Ce and Pb. Among them (based on discriminant analysis), those that perform most significant results are as follows: Sr, Ce, V, Ba, Rb and Y. Similarly to the case of major elements, each sample is classified as belonging to the group that shows the higher score, calculated using the coefficients in Table 12a.

Table 12b shows a summary diagram of the classification results, according to the classification score groups. In the case of the mortar glasses, obsidians of Mt. Arci and volcanics of St. Antioco, the classification is correct in 100% of cases.

Table 13a shows the canonical functions, which, also in this case, are equal to two (number of groups minus one). For each sample, each variable must be multiplied by the

coefficient shown, according to the scheme of previous paragraph.

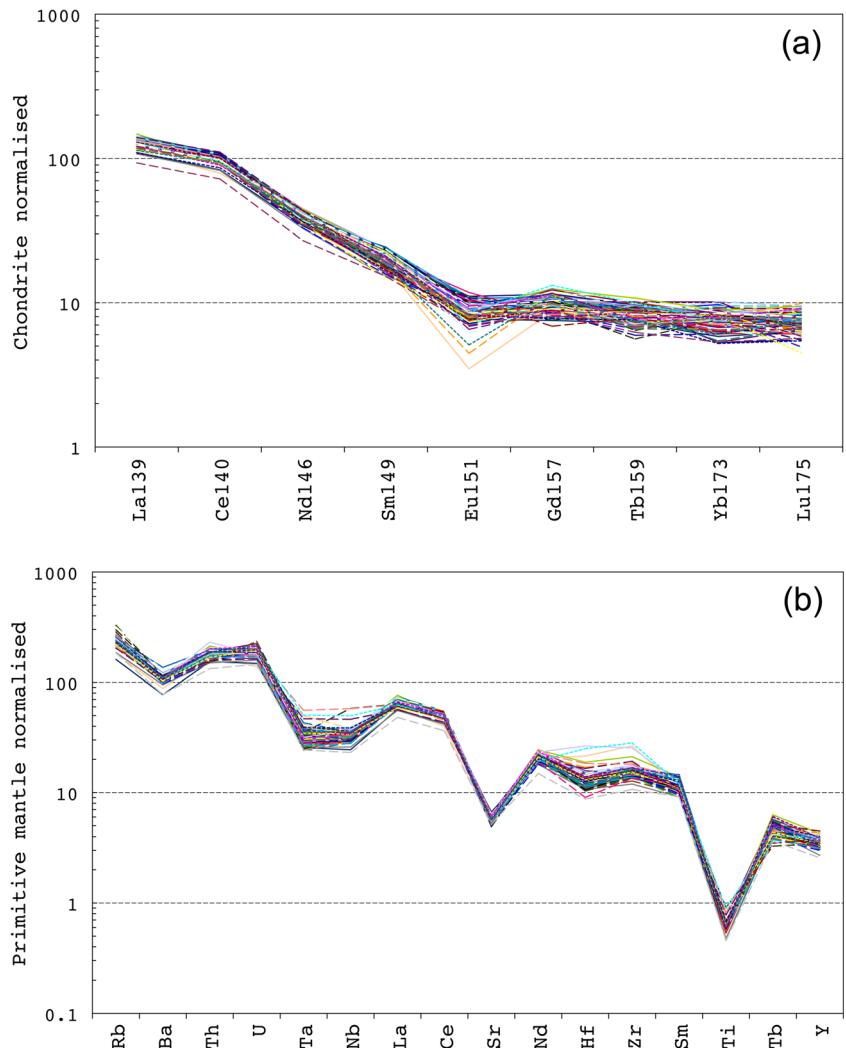
In Fig. 16 are projected the points of the canonical score R1 and R2. In Table 13b, the three equations (with $y = ax + b$) of straight lines dividing between the three groups are reported.

The analysis of samples from the mortars of the theatre, from Mt. Arci and St. Antioco, constitutes separate fields, while the analysis of samples from Perdas Urias falls under the volcanic glasses from the mortars of the theatre with a good overlap.

Discussion of results

Inside the Nora Roman theatre, a great amount of obsidian glasses together with quartz/feldspar sands is mainly used as aggregate in the hydraulic mortars. These glasses have been also used as pozzolan materials, although their characteristics are different with respect to the natural pozzolans normally used in the Roman period. Thus, the volcanic glass gives good hydraulic characteristics to the mortars, as shown by the constant presence of reaction edges with the binder (Fig. 6b) with consequent chemical exchanges: a decrease of Si, Al and K and a simultaneous increase of Ca and volatiles compared with glass (Columbu and Garau 2017). Given the good pozzolanic characteristics of the volcanic glass, it is conceivable that the Romans voluntarily used this type of material in place

Fig. 14 (a, b) Geochemical characteristics of the mortar glasses: (a) pattern of selected rare earths normalized to chondrite (factors from Anders and Grevesse 1989); (b) spider diagram of selected elements normalized to primitive mantle, according to Wood (1979)



of *cocciopesto* (scarcely present in the mortars or absent in some samples) to make as much resistant mortar from the structure of the theatre, an open work subject to weathering processes.

The use of these volcanic glasses in the archaeological site of Nora, as well as in other Sardinian Roman monuments, at

the moment was not known. Differently from the other components of the aggregate, these obsidian rocks do not belong to the vicinity of the Nora site, because there are no outcrops bearing these petro-volcanological characteristics. However, their wide use in the theatre mortars may suggest either a local availability or a not very distant origin. The geochemical

Table 8 Correlation matrix for some rare earths of volcanic glasses from the theatre mortars

Variable	LA139	CE140	ND146	SM149	EU151	GD157	TB159	YB173	LU175
¹³⁹ La	1	0.6649	0.7133	0.4746	0.2950	0.3404	0.4364	0.4580	0.3527
¹⁴⁰ Ce	0.6649	1	0.4862	0.2514	0.3817	0.1514	0.1603	0.3011	0.1525
¹⁴⁶ Nd	0.7133	0.4862	1	0.441	0.2148	0.4084	0.4284	0.4943	0.3718
¹⁴⁹ Sm	0.4746	0.2514	0.4410	1	0.1470	0.1611	0.4301	0.2755	0.3164
¹⁵¹ Eu	0.2950	0.3817	0.2148	0.1470	1	-0.0092	0.1018	0.1328	0.0409
¹⁵⁷ Gd	0.3404	0.1514	0.4084	0.1611	-0.0092	1	0.3511	0.3104	0.2397
¹⁵⁹ Tb	0.4364	0.1603	0.4284	0.4301	0.1018	0.3511	1	0.1904	0.2632
¹⁷³ Yb	0.4580	0.3011	0.4943	0.2755	0.1328	0.3104	0.1904	1	0.2955
¹⁷⁵ Lu	0.3527	0.1525	0.3718	0.3164	0.0409	0.2397	0.2632	0.2955	1

Table 9 Subdivision of 232 chemical analyses in the groups identified in advance to make the discriminant analysis on the basis of the major elements

Rock	#	De La Roche et al. (1980) classification
Volcanic glasses from mortars	50	Rhyolites
Volcanics from Mount Arci	7	Rhyolites
	111	Alkali-rhyolites
	37	Alkali-rhyolites
Volcanics from Saint Antioco	6	Rhyolites
	22	Alkali-rhyolites

comparison of data suggests that the mortar glasses have a source from the volcanic complex of Mt. Arci (central-western Sardinia; Fig. 1) where there are volcanic rocks with similar characteristics. As showed by statistical step-wise linear discriminant analysis, the samples from the locality of *Perdas Urias* (east of Mt. Arci volcanic complex) show a geochemical similarity (especially on the basis of trace elements) with the volcanic glasses from the mortars, suggesting a provenance from *Perdas Urias* of the obsidian glasses used in the mortars of Nora theatre. The Mt. Arci obsidian deposits are well-known both in the archaeological and geological literature, (Barca et al. 2007; De Francesco et al. 2008, 2011; Freund 2014; Freund and Batist 2014; Le Bourdonnec et al. 2006, 2010, 2015; Léa 2012; Lilliu 1988; Lugliè 2003, 2009a, 2010; Lugliè 2013; Lugliè et al. 2006, 2007, 2008, 2011; Macciotta et al. 2004; Mackey and Warren 1983; Marchi et al. 2005; Tykot 1996, 1997, 2002; Tykot et al. 2008). The obsidian rocks (emphatically called the “black gold” of the prehistoric period) is an important lithic raw material that has been used since the Early Neolithic with a high diffusion in many Neolithic to Chalcolithic sites in Sardinia and in a part of the Western Mediterranean area. This type of volcanic

material was commonly reduced to produce chipped tools (e.g., cutting tools such as axes and arrowheads).

From an archaeological point of view, two possible hypotheses on their procurement in the Roman period can be made: (a) the obsidian was already present in the vicinity of the site of Nora (e.g., as a waste or residue of previous processing of the material) and (b) it was extracted from an ancient quarry of Mt. Arci outcrops, which was well-known for the high presence of obsidians.

Considering the widespread Sardinian road network in the Roman time (Fig. 1; Mastino 2005) and their intensive use in the theatre of Nora, it is conceivable to imagine a procurement of these obsidians from the Mt. Arci area. In fact, in agreement with the archaeological literature, the road connecting the Roman villages of *Karales* (today Cagliari city, south Sardinia; Fig. 1) and *Turris Lybisonis* (today Porto Torres, NW Sardinia; Fig. 1) passed near the eastward side of Monte Arci volcanic complex. Moreover, in the middle of this ancient road stood the archaeological site of *Forum Traiani* (today Fordongianus village; Fig. 1) and the Roman village of Mulargia (Fig. 1), both well-known for its thermal baths and for its ancient quarries of ignimbrite rocks, respectively. Mulargia is a very important

Table 10 (a) Classificative functions for the discriminant analysis on the basis of the major elements. (b) Summary of the classification of sample groups

(a)				
Variable		TN	MA	SA
CaO		16.546	-10.842	-2.697
FeOT		63.419	63.97	85.609
P2O5		-191.734	-246.048	-282.898
Al2O3		37.784	39.945	45.11
Constant		-295.945	-289.794	-401.319
(b)				
Group	Correct percent	# TN	# MA	# SA
Theatre	100	50	0	0
Mt. Arci	100	0	155	0
S. Antioco	92.86	1	1	26
Total	99.14	51	156	26

TN, Nora Theater; MA, Mt. Arci; SA, St. Antioco; #, number of samples

Table 11 (a) Coefficients of canonical functions (root 1 and root 2) for the discriminant analysis on the basis of the major elements. (b) Equations (as $y = ax + b$) of dividing straight lines (1, 2, 3)

(a)		Root 1	Root 2
Variable			
CaO		4.5298	1.755
FeOT		-0.7997	3.9348
P2O5		10.7059	-6.1706
Al2O3		-0.5462	0.9192
Constant		3.9207	-18.0525
(b)			
$y = ax + b$		a	b
Straight line 1		-5.606425	10.015314
Straight line 2		1.347037	0.469467
Straight line 3		0.056704	2.24111

Fig. 15 Discriminant diagram (root 1 vs. root 2) on the basis of the major elements of volcanic glasses from the mortars and volcanic samples from Mt. Arci and St. Antioco areas. Abbreviations as the legend in Fig. 8

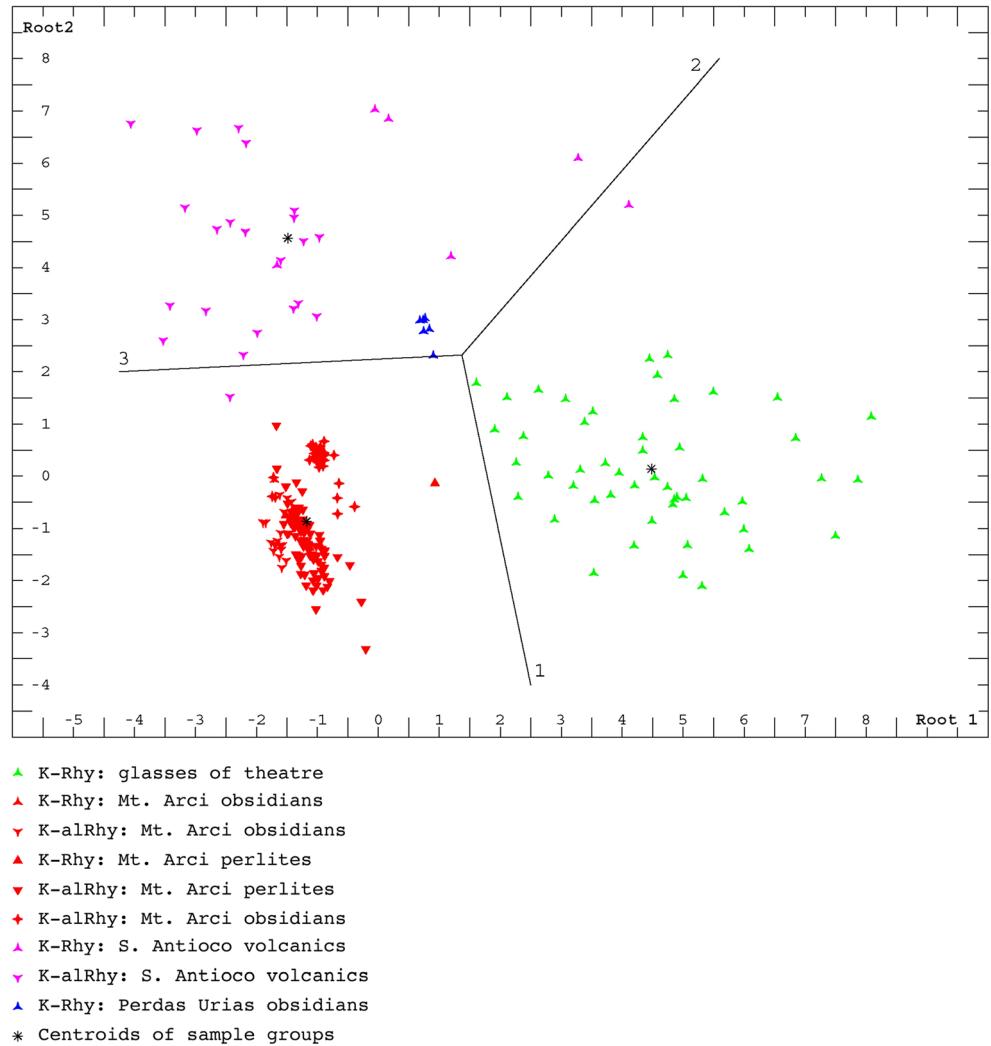


Table 12 (a) Classificative functions for the discriminant analysis on the basis of the trace elements

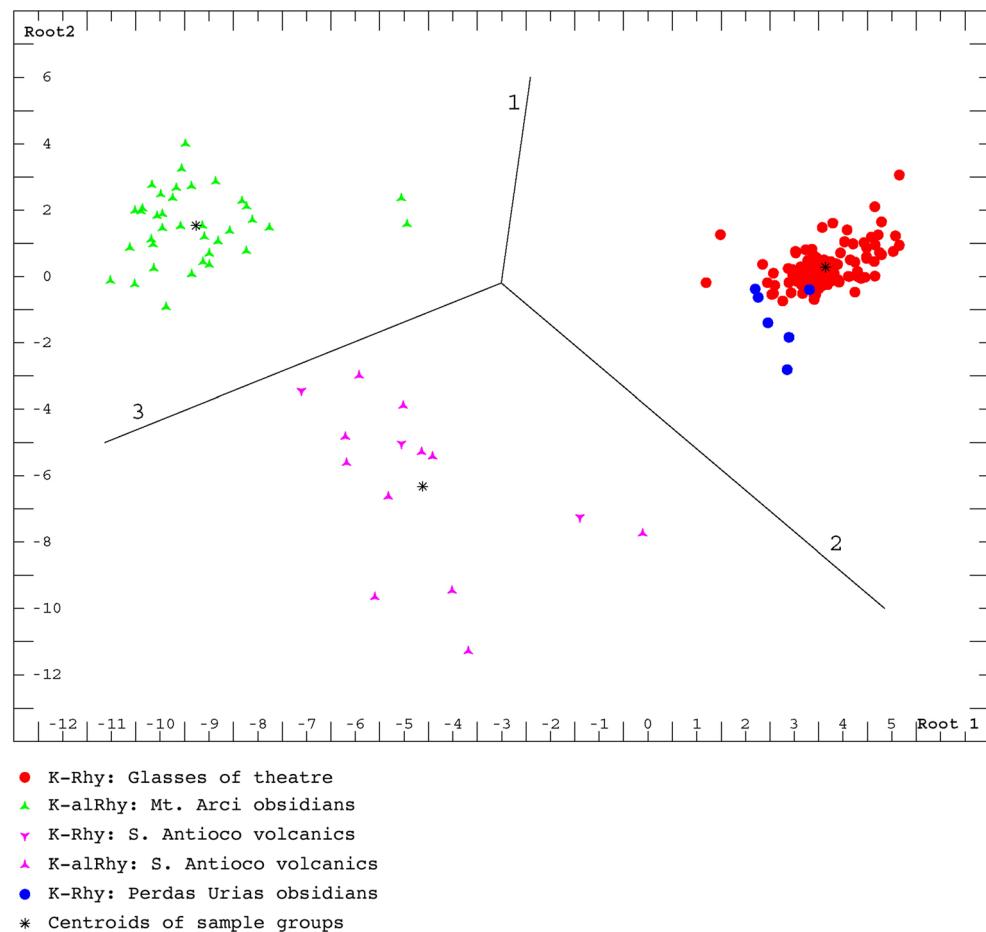
(a)		TN	MA	SA
Sr		2.041	0.904	0.685
Ce		1.071	0.275	0.766
V		0.593	0.846	-0.196
Ba		-0.092	-0.069	0.01
Rb		0.752	0.687	0.444
Y		-1.865	-1.032	-0.712
(b)		# TN	# MA	# SA
Group	Percent correct			
Theatre	100	112	0	0
Mt. Arci	100	0	37	0
S. Antioco	100	0	0	14
Total	100	112	37	14

Abbreviations as caption in Fig. 9

Table 13 (a) Coefficients of canonical functions (root 1 and root 2) for the discriminant analysis on the basis of the trace elements. (b) Equations (as $y = ax + b$) of dividing straight lines (1, 2, 3)

(a)		Root 1	Root 2
Variable			
Sr		0.0963	0.085
Ce		0.059	-0.0275
V		-0.0072	0.1284
Ba		-0.0029	-0.0118
Rb		0.0085	0.036
Y		-0.0726	-0.0838
Constant		-12.6758	-4.7147
(b)		a	b
$y = ax + b$			
Straight line 1		10.327408	30.872576
Straight line 2		-1.24852	-3.943814
Straight line 3		0.591842	1.588636

Fig. 16 Discriminant diagram (root 1 vs. root 2) on the basis of the trace elements of volcanic glasses from the mortars and volcanic samples from Mt. Arci



Roman site for the production of Roman millstones, exported in various parts of the Mediterranean (e.g., North Africa, Antonelli et al. 2014a) and for the existence of ancient commercial routes of different kinds of stone. Moreover, many Roman public buildings, *villae* and rural settlements are known in close proximity to the many obsidian sources scattered along the western, southern and north-western flanks of the Monte Arci volcanic massif. For these reasons, it is not unlikely to assume a gathering and transportation activity, even if occasional, of obsidians along the Roman road network.

However, in the frame of a long-term archaeological project on Monte Arci obsidians carried out since 2002 (Lugliè 2003, 2013), including systematic and careful surveys along the north-eastern flanks of the mounting around the so-named Perdas Urias outcrop, no evidence was found thus far to support the local exploitation of this raw material during later historic times. In spite of this intense archaeological exploration of the direct supply area, the possibility of an intended gathering activity of obsidian by Romans still remains in the state of an *argumentum ex silentio*.

Therefore, the first hypothesis on the obsidian origin seems to be by far more likely, because of the unicity of this case and due to the presence of some prehistoric settlement in the Nora area or its surroundings as in the *S'Abuleu* region (Migaleddu 1996) and, possibly, in the same site of Nora (Lugliè 2009b). In fact, during the last prehistory in these two settlements, the obsidian reduction of shaped cores transported from the Monte Arci workshops was a daily activity to produce a plentiful of artefacts and specialized tools. Moreover, obsidian is commonly found in the form of finished tools in Nora territory even in later Nuragic times; in fact, indeed, all around the Roman Nora town, many Nuragic sites are scattered in the plain and on the hills, among which stands out the complex tower and village of *Antigori* (near to the Sarroch city). This is a large site occupied from the 14th to 8th centuries B.C. (Russell 2010; Balmuth 1992) with castle-like structures, heavy multi-towered walls and associated villages, which Webster (1996) labeled as one of 14 known Class III settlements in Sardinia. Like in this last case, reoccupation of Bronze age Nuragli in Roman times for civil and ritual purposes is a common behaviour that for sure could have put in contact Roman people with abundant obsidian elements.

Conclusions

The research allowed us to define the geochemical characteristics and the probable provenance of obsidian glasses used in the ancient mortars of the Roman Nora theatre.

This kind of volcanic glass, together with a quartz-feldspar sandy and subordinately local Oligo-Miocenic calc-alkaline volcanics and Palaeozoic rocks, was used as mortar aggregate for the different sectors of the theatre (i.e., *tribunalia* vaults, *cavea* foundation, vaults and inner walls of the external niches, brick and stone walls). Considering its low bulk density, it is probable that it was used also to lighten some structures (e.g., concrete of *tribunalia* vaults), together with sub-decimetric fragments of other local stones (i.e., volcanic rocks and sandstones), which has also low bulk density due to their high porosity. Given its chemical–physical features, characterised by an amorphous state reacting with the binder, it was also used as pozzolana, conferring hydraulic properties and high mechanical strengths to the mortars and concretes of the monument, especially in the structural parts where it has been intensively used.

Given the good hydraulic features and their massive use in the theatre, it is probable that the Romans intentionally used the volcanic glasses in place of *cocciopesto*, to make the mortars much resistant to weathering. Moreover, the unusual presence of volcanic fine aggregate in the plasters of the open-air *cavea* sector of the theatre confirms the intention of Roman constructors to improve the hydraulic characteristics of the mortars and their resistance to decay processes. It is not accident that the theatre, an open construction designed without roofing, is also one of the best preserved buildings in the Nora site.

The use of these obsidian glasses as pozzolana today represents a novelty in the production of Roman mortars in the archaeological site of Nora, especially considering that in the area surrounding Nora, the obsidian is not available as a raw material.

The results of discriminant analysis highlights that the volcanic glasses show a geochemical similarity with the volcanics of *Perdas Urias* outcrops, indicating a provenance from Mt. Arci volcanic complex, a well-known source as early as the Neolithic period (Lilliu 1988; Lugliè 2009a). Since an archaeological evidence for the obsidian procurement directly from the source in Roman times is still lacking, this hypothesis on the origin of glasses opens new scenarios from a historical and cultural point of view, raising up new and interesting issues.

From a technical-constructive point of view, it opens up further interesting research topics to understand if the use of obsidian rocks as aggregate in the mortars of a theatre (a) was a local experiment to make the hydraulic mortars of theatre or

(b) extends to other buildings of the Nora site and/or in other Sardinian Roman settlements. Considering that currently there is no archaeological evidence about both the use of these obsidian glasses in other Sardinian Roman sites and about the presence of any Roman raw material procurement in the source area, at the moment it is unlikely to suppose that the Romans supplied obsidians directly from Mt. Arci. Assuming the first case, Romans probably used shattered and discarded artefacts from a local pre-existing “source” of obsidian, consisting in an earlier production activity during Neolithic times in the Nora area. In fact, the obsidian processing wastes are usually abundant in these prehistoric sites and well known in the archaeological literature, so it is easy to suppose a later exploitation of crushed earlier obsidian artefacts as temper for the mortars to be used in a single building like the theatre.

In any case, the detection of these glasses inside the mortars of the theatre raises a strong interest in the development of new archaeological investigation and further geochemical and petrographic studies either to check the possible use of Mt. Arci obsidians in other Roman Sardinian sites or, more likely, to find further evidence of their prehistoric storage and processing in the Nora area.

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