

The contribution of aerial photography and field survey to the study of urbanization in the Potenza valley (Picenum)

Frank Vermeulen and Geert Verhoeven

The Potenza Valley Survey

Systematic survey work has been conducted since 2000 in the central Italian region of Marche.¹ This multi-disciplinary, geoarchaeological project, organised by the University of Ghent, aims to study changes in the landscape and occupation patterns in the period c.1000 B.C.–A.D. 1000 throughout the Potenza river valley² (fig. 1). The intensive survey of the valley embraces full aerial photographic coverage of 400 sq km between the Apennines and the Adriatic and systematic fieldwalking in three carefully-selected sample areas in which we also assess the differentiation of landscape types and their influence on human settlement systems.³ These landscapes comprise, amongst others, the narrow valleys of the Apennines, the wood-

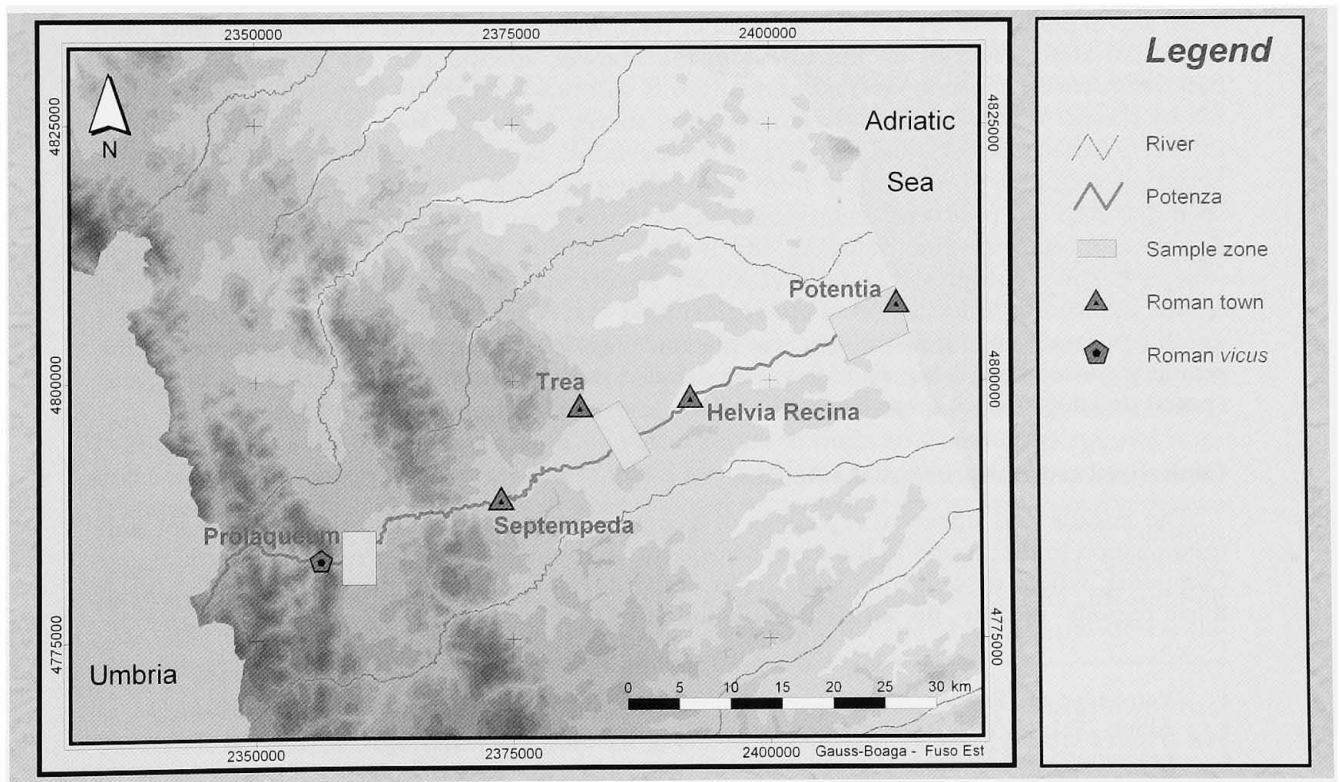


Fig. 1. Localization of Roman towns and areas of systematic field survey by the Potenza Valley Survey team.

- 1 According to Augustus's division of Italy, the modern Marche falls within *Regio V (Picenum)* and *Regio VI (Umbria et Ager Gallicus)*, a division which is based on the border in the 4th c. B.C. between the Italic Picentes and the Gallic Senones, located in the area between Musone and Chienti (Deplacé 1993, 1).
- 2 The Potenza valley lay almost completely in the N part of *Regio V (Picenum)*; only its upper valley (where our first sample zone is located) was part of *Regio VI (Umbria)*.
- 3 Vermeulen, De Dapper *et al.* 2003.