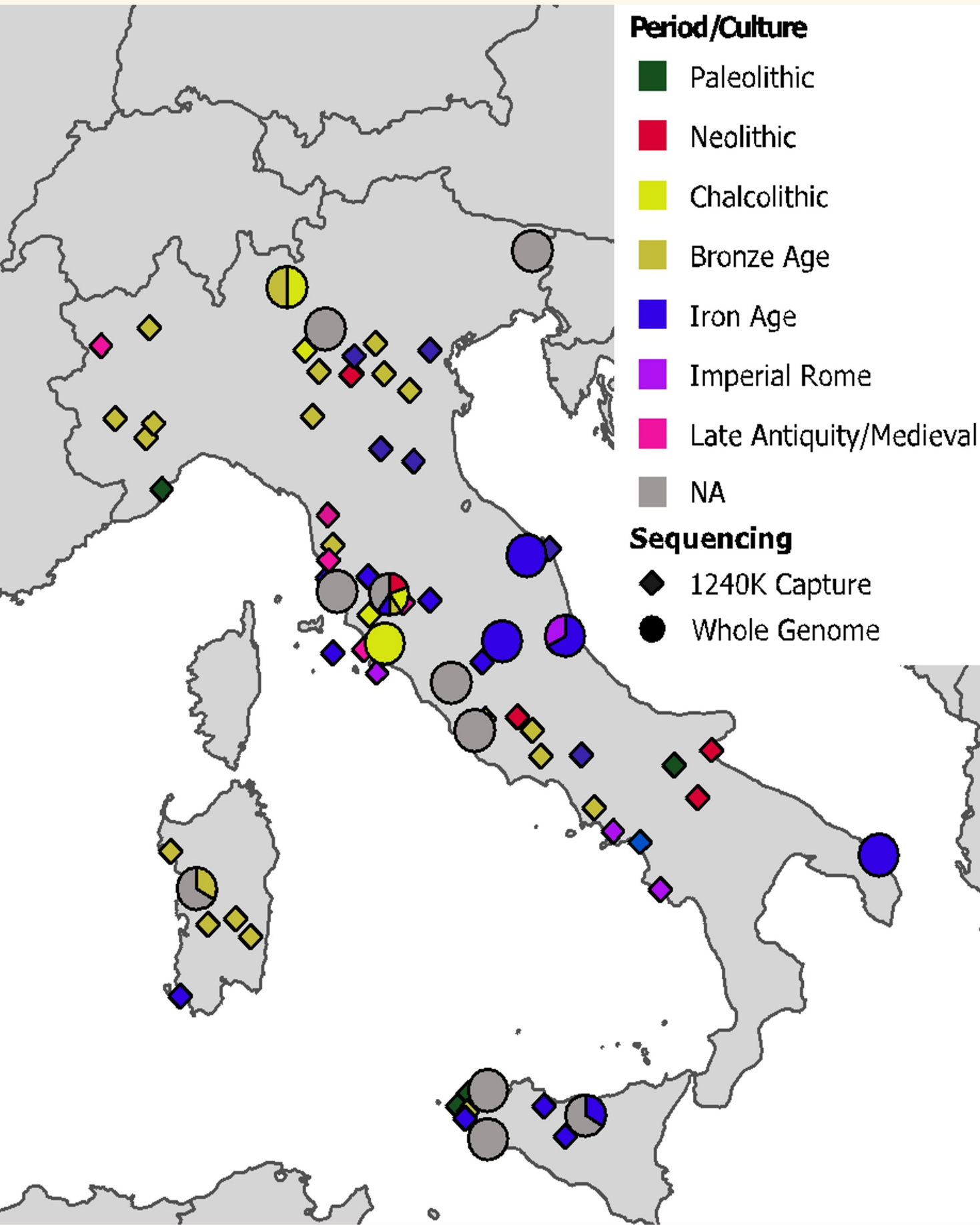


THE EVOLUTIONARY HISTORY OF ITALY FROM THE MESOLITHIC TO THE MIDDLE AGES: LESSONS FROM ANCIENT GENOMES

Rajiv Boscolo Agostini¹, Stefania Vai², Maria Teresa Vizzari¹, Silvia Perretti¹, Federico De Pizzol¹, Margherita Vanni², Alissa Mittnik^{3,4,5,6,7}, Donata Luiselli⁸, Olga Rickards⁹, Cristina Labarga⁹, Luca Sineo¹⁰, Nicoletta Volante¹¹, David Reich^{3,4,5,6,12,13}, Silvia Ghirotto¹, David Caramelli²

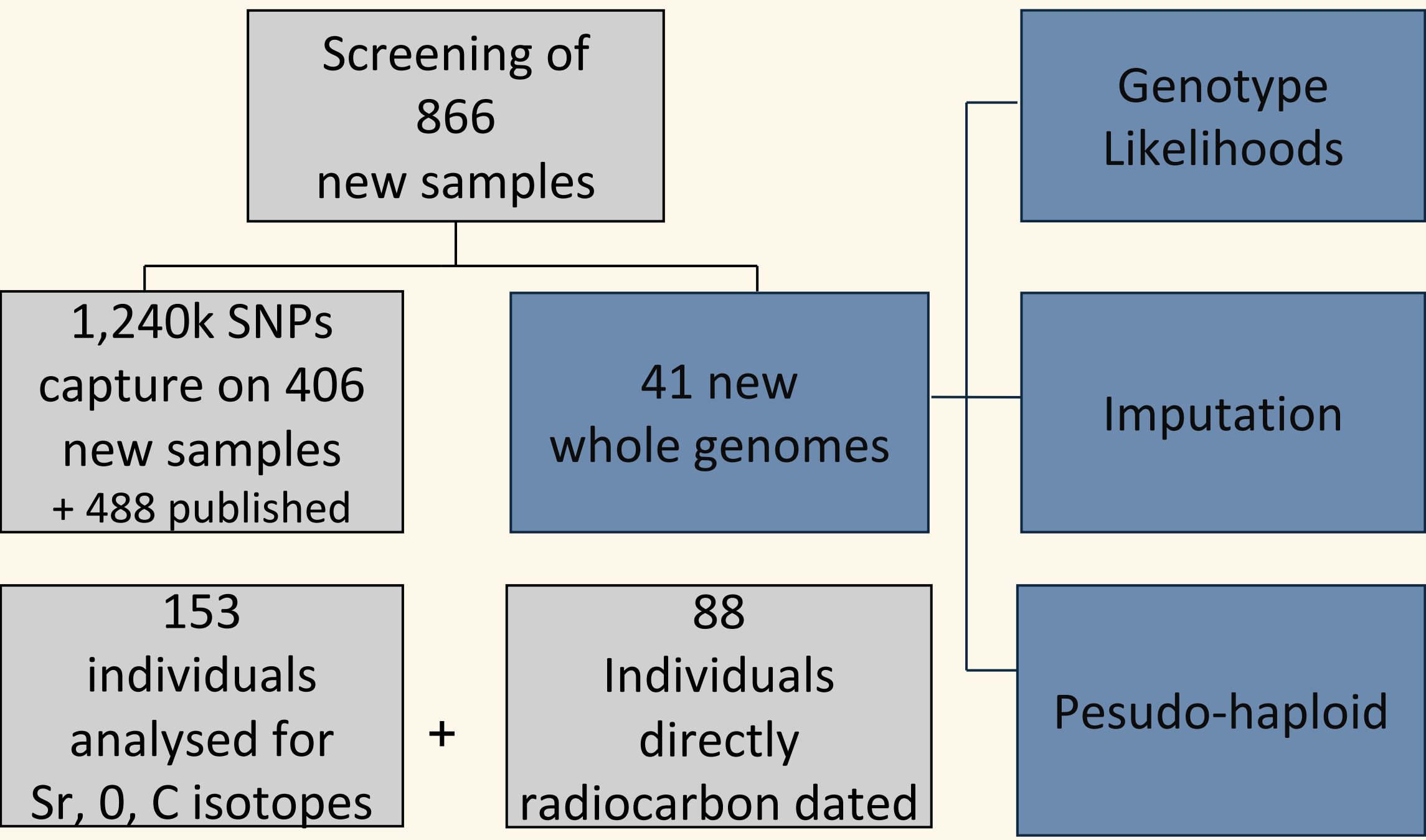
¹Department of Life Sciences and Biotechnology, University of Ferrara, Italy; ²Department of Biology, University of Florence, Italy; ³Department of Human Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA; ⁴Department of Genetics, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA 02115, USA; ⁵Max Planck–Harvard Research Center for the Archaeoscience of the Ancient Mediterranean, 04103 Leipzig, Germany; ⁶Max Planck–Harvard Research Center for the Archaeoscience of the Ancient Mediterranean, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA; ⁷Department of Archaeogenetics, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, 04103 Leipzig, Germany; ⁸Department of Cultural Heritage, Ravenna, University of Bologna, Italy; ⁹Department of Biology, University of Rome Tor Vergata, Italy; ¹⁰Department of Biological, Chemical and Pharmaceutical Sciences and Technologies, University of Palermo, Italy; ¹¹Department of History and Cultural Heritage, University of Siena, Italy; ¹²Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI), Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA 02115, USA; ¹³Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Cambridge, MA 02142, USA.



Background

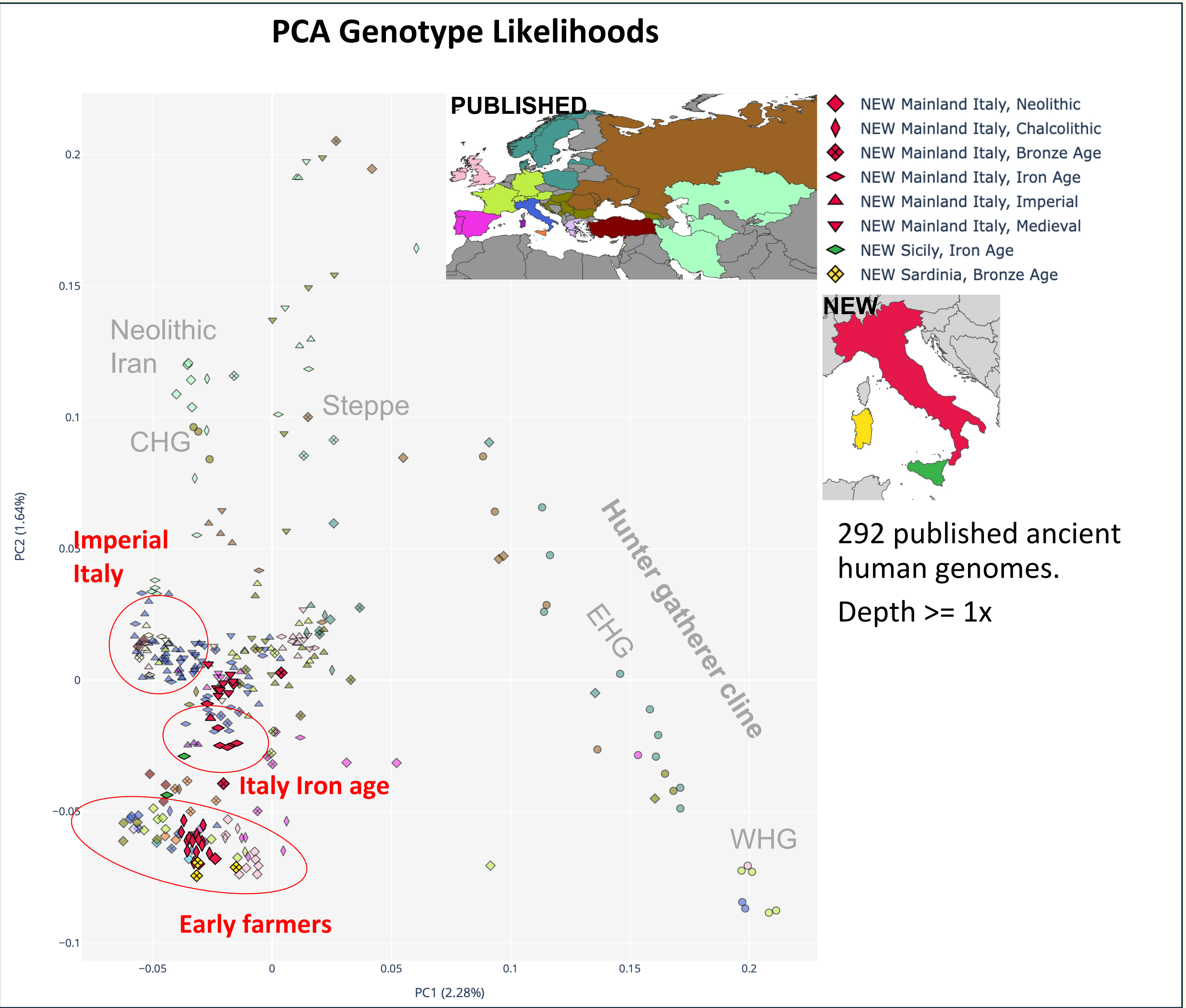
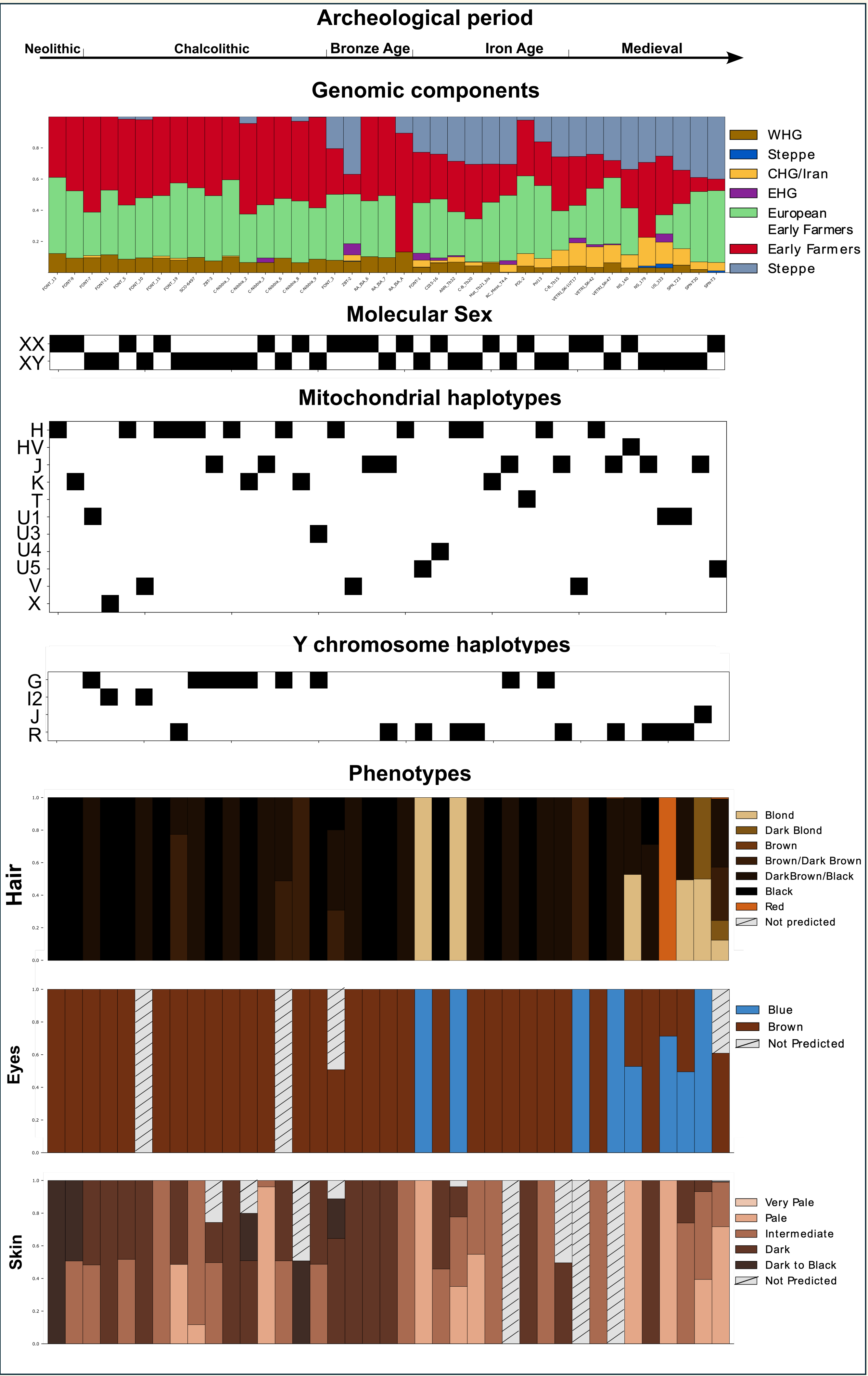
- Italy occupies a strategic geographical position in the center of Mediterranean Sea.
- The genetic variation in Italy is the highest in Europe.
- Different levels of genetic exchanges between local groups occurred both in prehistoric and historical times.
- There has been little inference about past population dynamics involving our Peninsula and nearby islands.

Workflow



Objectives

- Investigate how the main migrations affect the genetic composition of Italy and how it relates to the whole European context.
- To identify ancient genetic components that have influenced the Italian genetic variation.
- To infer the demographic scenario that best describes the events occurred in Italy through time, together with estimation of their time and extent.



Future perspectives

- We can reconstruct past evolutionary dynamics employing simulations and demographic models.
- Build demographic models employing genetic and archeological evidence.
- Infer the demographic scenario that best describes the migrations occurred in the Italian peninsula and estimate their impact.

