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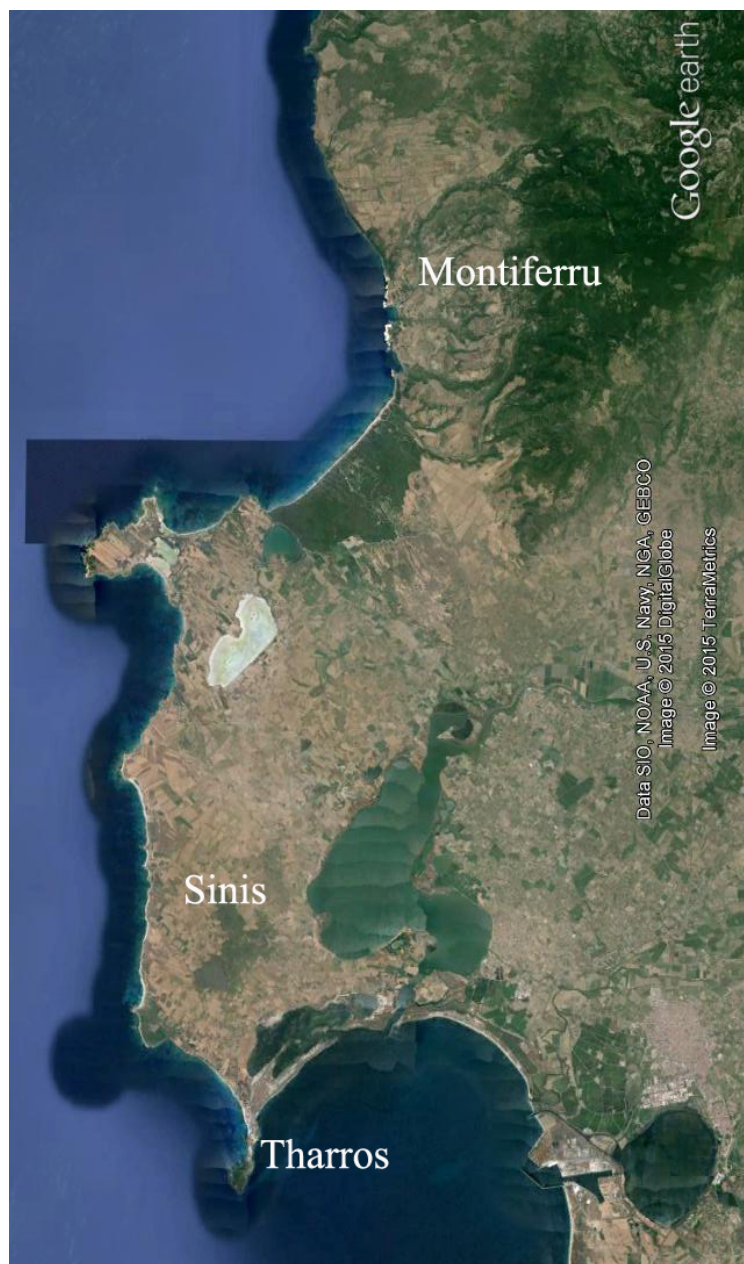
# Archaeological area of Tharros

Patrimonio culturale  
**SARDEGNA** Virtual Archaeology



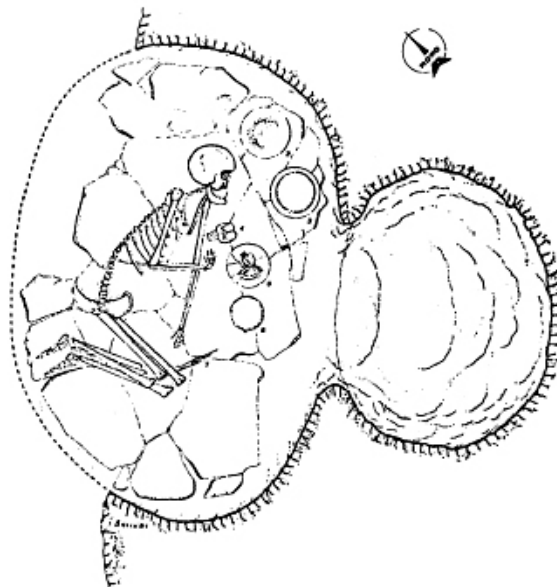
## ■ The area in the Prehistoric Age

The urban centre of Tharros was founded in Sinis, a good area for human settlement, with its easy landing place in the Gulf of Oristano, the amount of fish in its waters, game to be hunted, the fertile soil and the wealth of metal in Montiferru, just a few kilometres further north (fig. 1).

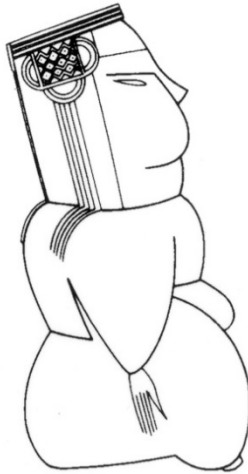


**Fig. 1** - The area of Sinis and Montiferru in relation to Tharros (from Google Earth. Review C. Tronchetti)

The proof of human presence date back to the later Neolithic Age (first half of the 4th millennium B.C.); the site of Cuccuru S'Arriu, on the lake chain of the Cabras water is of prime importance, showing a frequentation starting from the Neolithic age and continuing until the Roman Age. Particularly important is the *facies* of the Bonu Ighinu Culture (Middle Neolithic Age: 3400-3200 c. B.C.) with huts and hypogeum tombs with wells filled with items, including a large number of stone statuettes of Steatopygian style goddesses. One tomb produced the remains of a corpse curled in a foetal position, in tact, who held a goddess statuette facing her head in her hand (figs. 2-3). Shells containing red ochre frame the tomb in the vast Mediterranean culture, where ochre was usually found in tombs, probably as a symbol of the deceased's rebirth.



**Fig. 2** - Neolithic tomb at Cuccuru S'Arriu (second half of the 4th millennium BC)  
(Archaeological Superintendency Archive)



**Fig. 3** - The mother goddess statue's profile, with the elaborate headdress  
(Archaeological Superintendency Archive)

In the Nuragic Age, the area was full of nuraghe and villages, that started at the far end of Capo San Marco and basically occupied all the tops of the hills inland (figs. 4-5).



**Fig. 4** - The nuraghe of Funtana Meiga, north of Tharros (photo Unicity)



**Fig. 5** - The nuraghe of Funtana Meiga, north of Tharros, axial view (photo Unicity)

The area was open to contacts and trading with the outside, and it is not coincidence that in Sinis, in Monte Prama, the phenomenon of the large stone statues was born, that sees local iconography made with a technology originating in the Near East and was linked to eastern elements, brought by the Phoenicians that frequented the area, before the founding of Tharros.



## ■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Carlo Tronchetti

## ■ Bibliography

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## La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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