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CAPInv. 1111: **dendrophori**

I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Southern Italy with Sicily
ii. Region	Campania
iii. Site	Cumae

II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	dendrophori (CIL X 3699, l.1; CIL X 3700, l.1)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	<i>dendrophori</i>

III. DATE

i. Date(s)	251 - iii AD
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IV. NAME AND TERMINOLOGY

ii. Name elements	Cultic:	<i>dendrophori</i> : the tree-bearers, i.e. the bearers of the sacred pine of Attis in the procession of the March festival.
	Professional:	<i>dendrophori</i> : woodcutters, woodsellers, etc. see e.g. Diosono 2007: 65-7.

V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	CIL X 3699 (AD 251) CIL X 3700 (iii AD)
Note	ILS 4174; CCCA IV 2 (= CIL X 3699) CCCA IV 4 (= CIL X 3700)
Online Resources	TM 537477 (CIL X 3699) TM 537478 (CIL X 3700)

i.a. Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)
i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	<p>CIL X 3699 contains a list of <i>dendrophori</i>, 87 members, who were under the oversight of the Roman board of the <i>XV viri sacris faciundis</i>; the headline, ll. 3-5 commemorate the fact that L. Ampius Stephanus, who was <i>patronus</i> and <i>quinquennalis</i> of the <i>dendrophori</i> and also <i>sacerdos Matris deum</i>, distributed bread, wine, and other gifts among the members on the occasion of the dedication of an object (<i>dedicationi huius</i>), maybe the inscription itself or a statuette, see Van Haepere 2010: 262.</p> <p>CIL X 3700 also contains a list of <i>dendrophori</i>, 19 members, who were authorized by the Roman Senate (<i>quibus ex [s(enatus) c(onsulto) coire licet</i>) (CIL X 3700, l. 1).</p> <p>Both inscriptions are Latin.</p>
ii. Source(s) provenance	CIL X 3699 found in Cumae, now lost. CIL X 3700 found in Baiae, now lost.

VII. ORGANIZATION

ii. Leadership	<p><i>Quinquennalis</i></p> <p>The headline of CIL X 3699 informs that in AD 251 L. Ampius Stephanus was <i>quinquennalis</i>, i.e. chief officer of the <i>dendrophori</i> for a five year term (see Castagnetti 2007: 240). Stephanus was also patron of the group and the priest of the goddess Mater deum/Magna Mater.</p> <p>Surely the distribution of <i>panis</i>, <i>vinum</i> and <i>sportulae</i> was among the duties imposed both by his office and by his role as <i>patronus</i> of the <i>collegium</i>, see Tran 2006: 182-203.</p>
v. Other staff	<p>L. Ampius Stephanus not only held the position of the chief officer (<i>quinquennalis</i>) of the <i>dendrophori</i>, but he was also their <i>patronus</i> and a public <i>sacerdos Matris deum</i> (CIL X 3699, headline, ll. 3-5). L. Ampius Stephanus' election as priest of Magna Mater may have been made by the civic council (<i>ordo decurionum</i>) of Cumae, whose choice should be formally ratified by the Roman board of the <i>XV viri sacris faciundis</i>; this system of appointment shows CIL X 3698 = CCCA IV 7 from Baiae, see Peterson 1919: 87-9.</p>

VIII. PROPERTY AND POSSESSIONS

iii. Income	<p>L. Ampius Stephanus, chief officer and patron of the association, distributed bread, wine, and other gifts (<i>sportulae</i>) among the members on occasion of his dedication of an object (<i>dedicationi huius</i>), maybe the inscription itself or a statuette (CIL X 3699, headline, ll. 3-4).</p>
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IX. MEMBERSHIP

i. Number	In CIL X 3699 are listed 88 members, including the chief officer L. Ampius Stephanus. In CIL X 3700 are listed 19 members.
ii. Gender	Men
Note	All attested individuals are men (CIL X 3699; CIL X 3700)
iii. Age	Adults Elders
Note	Quite all the attested individuals were adults (CIL X 3699; CIL X 3700); presumably some of them were elders, see e.g. Pollius Primus Senior and Iunior in CIL X 3699.
iv. Status	<p>Both lists show names indicative of foreign individuals, e.g. T. Flavius Archilaus, M. Herennius Zerax, M. Valerius Eutyches (CIL X 3699); Seius Euhodus, Mevius Heraclida (CIL X 3700). Maybe most of the listed persons were freedmen, see Peterson 1919: 89-90. The Greek cognomen of L. Ampius Stephanus (CIL X 3699) indicates servile descent, see Royden 1988: 216; Castagnetti 2007: 240.</p>

v. Relations

Some *dendrophori* were members of the same families: in CIL X 3699 there are attested three *Firmii*, five *Granii*, three *Pollii*, four *Valerii*, three *Lisii*; in CIL X 3700 there are attested three *Lucceii*, two *Mammii*.

X. ACTIVITIES

i. Assemblies

The *dendrophori* were authorized to assemble (and to associate) by the Roman Senate (CIL X 3700, l. 1, and maybe CIL X 3699, headline, ll. 1-2); this right, the *ius coeundi*, implies the existence of a deliberative activity/assembly of the association.

iii. Worship

The chief officer and patron of the association was also a public priest of the cult of Magna Mater (CIL X 3699, headline, l. 3).

Deities worshipped

Magna Mater and Attis

XI. INTERACTION

i. Local interaction

L. Ampius Stephanus was also a public priest of the civic cult of Magna Mater, see Van Haepere 2012: 52-3.

On the very probable interaction between the *dendrophori* of Cumae and the *dendrophori* of Baiae (attested in AE 1971: 90, AD 51-150), who worshipped here the Mater deum *Baiana* (attested in CIL X 3698, III cent. AD), see Van Haepere 2010: 261.

ii. Interaction abroad

The Roman Senate authorized the *dendrophori* to assemble/associate, see CIL X 3699, headline, ll. 1-2; CIL X 3700, l. 1; the association was under the oversight of the Roman quindecemviral board (CIL X 3699), see Van Haepere 2012: 53-5.

XII. NOTES

i. Comments

The formula *quibus (scil. the dendrophori) ex s(enatus) c(onsulto) coire licet* (CIL X 3700, l. 1) indicates that the *dendrophori* had been authorized by the Roman Senate. The imperial or senatorial authorization formula was in use for the *collegia* from the first to the third centuries AD, see Liu 2009: 97-124.

The expression *ex senatus consulto dendrophori creati qui sunt sub cura XV virorum sacris faciundis* (CIL X 3699, headline, ll. 1-2) seems to imply the same senatorial authorization: by decree of the Roman senate the *dendrophori*, chosen in the ordinary way (i.e. the *adlectio*), were given the authorization to exist as an association under the supervision of the Roman priests *XV viri sacris faciundis*, who had the oversight in all foreign cults: see Peterson 1919: 92; Royden 1988: 216; Van Haepere 2010: 263-65. Another interpretation of the expression *ex senatus consulto dendrophori creati qui sunt sub cura XV virorum sacris faciundis* (CIL X 3699, headline, ll. 1-2) is that of Waltzing 1895: I, 247, who argued that all members of the association were appointed by a decree of the senate of Cumae; with this method of appointing members, the association would have had a thoroughly official character; *contra* i.a. Royden 1988: 216.

In view of the late date of CIL X 3699 and 3700, the association may well have been involved in the local fire brigade, see Royden 1988: 206.

According to Van Haepere 2010 the association of *dendrophori* attested in CIL X 3699 should be attributed to Pozzuoli; *contra* Camodeca 2010: 242-3.

iii. Bibliography

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- Waltzing, J.P. (1895-1900), *Étude historique sur les corporations professionnelles chez les Romains depuis les origines jusqu'à la chute de l'Empire d'Occident*. I-IV, Louvain.

XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association

Possible

Note

The obscure expression *ex senatus consulto dendrophori creati qui sunt sub cura XVvirorum sacris faciundis* is attested only in CIL X 3699, headline, ll. 1-2 and its interpretation regarding the procedure of appointment of the *dendrophori* remains problematic.