A Typological Assessment of
Iron Age Weapons in South Italy

Yvonne L. Inall

A Thesis Submitted in Fulfilment of the Requirements
for the Degree of Master of Philosophy

School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry
University of Sydney
March 2009
ABSTRACT

Typologies, especially of spearheads, have been decried as inadequate by the archaeological community. They have prevented the synthetic study of ancient weapons and obscured cultural contacts, changes in form and distribution, and changes in fighting style. This thesis presents new typologies of spearheads and swords which are not based on aesthetics or the need to communicate a large amount of material succinctly in the limited space of a site report. Rather, these typologies attempt to perceive the functional characteristics of these weapon classes. The thesis surveys a range of sites in Daunia, Basilicata and Southern Campania applying these new typologies to large suites of weapons. From this assessment a number of conclusions have flowed regarding cultural contacts between indigenous Southern Italic groups and with immigrating groups of Villanovan and Greek origin. The assessment reveals the variety of weapon forms in use and tracks changes over time. These changes expose cultural transformations and alterations in fighting styles. The tracking of paraphernalia often associated with weapons in modern scholarship has also revealed some nuances in patterns of association with weapons which were not previously apparent.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This thesis evolved from a long-standing interest in ancient warfare and a growing fascination with the proto-historic period in South Italy. Finding my attempts to understand the weapons and their cultural and military contexts frustrated by the lack of coherent weapons typologies led me to this particular topic.

I received the support and guidance of numerous individuals throughout the preparation of this thesis and I have greatly valued their insights. I wish to acknowledge the generosity of Dr John Robb, providing me with information and discussion about the osteological material from Pontecagnano, and for providing me with permission to use some of his excellent photographs. Dr Michael Turner assisted me with the study of weapons in South Italian red-figured vases, and I have tremendous gratitude to Dr Alistair Blanshard for elucidating Thucydides. I had many helpful discussions about fighting technique with Dr Michael Burns and have come to value his friendship. I wish to extend heartfelt thanks to my friends and colleagues, who have been very supportive and understanding throughout the preparation of this thesis. Particularly, however, I wish to thank my supervisor Dr Edward G. D. Robinson for his wise comments and unflagging patience. Without Dr Robinson’s critical guidance this work would be much poorer.

I wish to dedicate this work to the memory of my father, John Inall (1931-2001).
# Table of Contents

Abstract i
Acknowledgments ii
Chapter 1: Introduction 1
Chapter 2: Spearheads 7
Chapter 3: Swords 84
Chapter 4: Regional Comparison of Weapons – Daunia 134
  Lavello 136
  Canosa 166
  Ortona 175
  Ascoli Satriano 183
  Arpi 188
  Minervino Murge 191
  Conclusions 196
Chapter 5: Regional Comparison of Weapons – Basilicata 220
  Incoronata 222
  Oppido Lucano 245
  Serra di Vaglio 254
  Ruvo del Monte 268
  Satrianum 274
  Chiaromonte 282
  Conclusions 289
Chapter 6: Regional Comparison of Weapons – Southern Campania 304
  Pontecagnano 305
  Sala Consilina 350
  Oliveto Citra and Cairano 379
  Paestum 391
  Conclusions 410
Chapter 7: Conclusions 434
Appendix: Other Weapons and Associated Paraphernalia 446
Bibliography 459