S1 Appendix. Villamar site details

The archaeological remains under study were excavated from an ancient cemetery dating to the Punic period, located in the modern town of Villamar in Sardinia, Italy. Extending research carried out in the 1990's [1], recent and ongoing excavations have focussed on 25 tombs, with the full extent of the cemetery still unknown [2,3]. Many of these funerary structures that were used for burial (chamber tombs or rock-cut niches) were later re-used to accommodate cinerary urns. In some cases, the deceased were placed in ovoid or square trench graves, while, unusually for the Punic period, there were also a number of 'alla cappuccina' burials, which were covered by roof tiles. Children were mostly buried in amphorae, or enchytrismos burial [4]. Equally unusual is the deposition of children, in particular new-born babies, together with adults in two of the chamber tombs (T.16 and T.12). All the individuals sampled come from the same rock-cut chamber with a shaft entryway, tomb T.16, which was in use between the 4th and early 2nd century BCE [2,3,5]. They represent four adults and two juveniles, whose permanent first molars were collected for study together with a bone section (see S1 Table for details).

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