Geophysical Research Abstracts, Vol. 7, 09576, 2005
SRef-ID: 1607-7962/gra/EGU05-A-09576

Flooding events in the town of Bari (Apulia, southern Italy)

M. Caldara (1), **G. S. Mossa** (1), L. Pennetta (1) O. Simone (1)

Dipartimento di Geologia e Geofisica - Università di Bari, Italy (lpennetta@geo.uniba.it - +39 080 5442611)

The town of Bari developed at the end of a broad fossil drainage network set up on karstic terrains, in a wide depression called "Conca di Bari". During the past centuries, after strong rains that struck the hinterland, almost the whole town underwent to many ruinous floodings. These happened because of the peculiar hydro-geomorphological features of the catchments, widely developed inland up to the more elevated areas on the Murge hills, and the lack of an appropriate land management policy and urbanization plans. The first reported flooding occurred in 1567, when tons of mud struck Bari leaving traces nowadays still clearly evident. Other ruinous inundations occurred in 1827, 1905, 1915, and 1926. The risk of flooding in the "Conca di Bari" area was reduced after the 1930s, when started interventions made in order to control the water regime of these ephemeral streams. Nowadays, after some tens of years since the last flooding, nothing or little things were done in order to clarify the causes and dynamics of those disastrous events. Therefore, in our research, one among the first contributes dealing with this calamity, we aimed at the understanding and recognizing the meteorological-environmental risk thresholds for the Bari area.