ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Vegetation and climate reconstructions from in and out of archaeological contexts of the Southwest Asia.

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Abstract

The Circum-Caspian region is a place rich in vegetation mixing steppes, meadows, forests, forest-steppes, and riparian forests. These ecosystems are controlled by today's bioclimatical, ecological and anthropological forcings and are also the heritage of the past. Semi-arid regions are more sensitive than arid or humid regions to small or large variations in the intensity, distribution and quantity of humidity. This parameter was also essential for the Upper Pleistocene and Holocene times.
To go back in time, we use paleoenvironment and paleoclimate reconstructions which require the preservation of markers in sedimentary archives. These are often lakes or wetlands, more or less close to archaeological sites, attesting to the influence of humans on ecosystems or serving as a witness to natural forcings, mainly climatical and ecological. This is within the chronological limits provided by the studied archive.
However, on the scale of the Circum-Caspian, the sedimentary archives are sparse and rarely cover the pre-Holocene periods. These lacks can be circumvented through wetland survey by satellite imagery or by collaboration with archaeologists. Here, we propose to gather studies from Circum-Caspian to document the evolution of ecosystems over the last 35,000 years and to use them to reconstruct the paleoclimate

Keywords

Pollen, vegetation, paleoclimate, human activities, Paleoecology

Session

2. Natural resources and anthropised landscapes

Workshop

A16621MB - Title: Environmental multi-proxies in Southwest Asia: scale constraints and new perspectives

Type of paper

Oral presentation