



Pollen-Based Reconstruction of Holocene Land-Cover

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Message from the Guest Editors

Land cover is a principal component of the earth system, which influences global and regional climate through biogeophysical and biogeochemical feedback processes. In addition, the application of pollen-based land-cover reconstructions in a regional climate model shows that anthropogenic deforestation has a significant effect on mean temperatures in both summer and winter. As the basis of the terrestrial ecosystem, vegetation is directly linked to landscape-scale biodiversity. Understanding the long-term interactions between climate, vegetation, and human activities is crucial for assessing future biodiversity and climate change and decision making for adaptation. Recent advances in palaeoecological research have produced a number of different pollen-based quantitative land-cover reconstruction methods (LRA, MAT, Biome, etc.). Studies from northern Europe show a good correlation between pollen-based estimates and plant diversity, suggesting that palaeo-proxies can successfully be used to assess the dynamics of past vegetation diversity.



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