

quaternary

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Research on Paleoclimate, Fossil Fauna and Paleoenvironment throughout Quaternary

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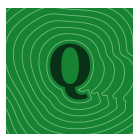
Message from the Guest Editor

The Quaternary is a unique period in Earth's history, and not only because it was the time when mankind evolved both biologically and culturally to eventually dominate our planet. The progressive cooling experienced by the Earth already since the Oligocene reached its climax in the Quaternary. The glaciation/interglacial cycles that finally occurred over the last few million years shaped the entire biosphere and geosphere. It was a period of dynamic changes for the natural environment, in climate, a time when many species evolved and became extinct, when wide-scale migrations led many taxa to disperse throughout the world. The study of these changes at many different scales is the subject of this special volume.

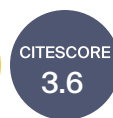


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Special Issue



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Editor-in-Chief

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

We live in a Quaternary world, that is, a world shaped by the interplay of the different compartments of the earth system—lithosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, biosphere, cryosphere—during the last ~2.6 million years. It is not possible to understand the current world—and, hence, to anticipate its possible future developments—without knowing the Quaternary history of drivers, processes, and mechanisms that have generated it. Our own species is an evolutionary outcome of the Quaternary performance. Therefore, the journal *Quaternary* is born with the aim of being an integrative journal to encompass all aspects of Quaternary science focused on understanding the complex world in which we live and to provide a sound scientific basis to anticipate possible future trends and inform environmental policies.

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