
Human occupation and environment during the Last Glacial Maximum in the Middle Dniester region, Ukraine

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Résumé

Human presence under cold and arid conditions of the Last Glacial Maximum is often argued to be limited to more favourable refugial areas. The East European Plain is a vast landscape characterized by more arid conditions than Western and Central Europe. Limiting factors of human presence on the East European Plain are not well understood. Here, we focus on the case study region of the Middle Dniester region in Ukraine, located in the western part of the East European Plain. We explore limitations of human occupation of the region by combining palaeoenvironmental record from loess-paleosol sequences using pedology and palynology, with the rich record of human behaviour archived in the archaeological sites of the region using faunal assemblages and lithic technology. Case study sites are Dorochivtsi, Korman 9, and Molodova V, for all of which we present new pollen and radiometric data along with new faunal and lithic data. Our results include evidence of human presence in the Middle Dniester region throughout the Last Glacial Maximum. Acknowledgements: Funded by Belgian Science Policy (Sc-04, Sc-09 and MO/36/021 research projects), INTAS projects 93-169, 93-169-Ext, 96-072, 2000-879, Leakey Foundation, European Commission (FP7 Marie Curie Career Integration Grant 'NEMO-ADAP', grant no. 322261), DM McDonald Grants and Awards Fund, Max-Planck-Society, British Academy, Isaac Newton Trust.

Mots-Clés: Environment, climate, human occupation, palynology, Last Glacial Maximum, Dniester region

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