Landscapes & Archaeology: settlement patterns in the south-central coast of Santa Catarina (Brazil) in front of palaeoenvironmental changes.

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Résumé

Bioclimatic conditions during the Holocene have been significantly unstable, promoting sea-level fluctuations and changes in the vegetation. Other factors, as regional and locals agents have played an important role in the landscape configuration of the south-central Coastal Plain of Santa Catarina State (Brazil). Systematic sea-level investigations have shown evidence of a transgression maximum *ca.* 5100 cal yr BP that reached approximately 2,5 m in the southern State of Santa Catarina. (Angulo et al., 2006).These changes, resulting in the formation of sand barriers (barrier IV), the relocation of fluvial channels and the development of interconnected lagoons, were also recorded in different continental cores drilled along the Coastal Plain. These cores provided new information about the palaeovegetation history, among other data, allowing the interpretation of palaeoenvironmental evolution.

This changing landscape was the scenario for prehistoric groups to settle, more specifically the shell mounds builders (*sambaquis*), Meridional Jê and Guaraní groups, establishing a direct relation between them and their environment.

What we present is a synthesis of the existing data for the south-central Santa Catarina Coastal Plain about palynological studies, relative sea level fluctuations and the timing of the human occupation in the region. Palaeoenvironmental evolution is graphically represented considering different factors such as the marine influence, the Atlantic Rain Forest development, and the diverse prehistoric groups.

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Mots-Clés: Southern Brazil, Palaeoenvironmental Evolution, Holocene, Prehistoric Settlements, Landscape