Holocene vegetation and fire regime from the foothills of the Pamir massif (Nurata & Samarqand, Uzbekistan)

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Résumé

The Turan basin is an arid zone (alternating desert and steppes) in Central Asia located between the Caspian Sea and the Pamir-Alai mountain range. This vast basin cut between Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan is crossed by two important rivers (the Syr Darya and the Amu Darya) which have hosted several important civilizations on their banks since the Bronze Age. Among them, we find the archaeological complex of BMAC (Bactrio-marjane archaeological complex) better known under the name of the civilizations of the Oxus valley. This flourishing, rich, hierarchical and proto-urban civilization suddenly disappeared during the transition to the Iron Age. The causes of this transition are very poorly understood and different hypotheses are being studied. This study investigates the dynamics of vegetation (pollen), human activity (pollen and NPP) and fire activity (macro-charcoal) from two lacustrine sediment cores from lake Fazilman (Nurata massif) and Lake Ogshagil (Samarqand Province), covering the Holocene. Results will provide a clear and precise synthesis of vegetation and fire regimes for northern Uzbekistan in the Holocene and particularly in the Bronze Age to discuss and compare it with archaeological syntheses of the region.

Mots-Clés: Forest, steppe ecosystems, Pollen, NPP, Charcoal

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