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# QR | QUATERNARY RESEARCH



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Derek B. Booth  
Nicholas Lancaster  
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*Quaternary Research* is an international journal devoted to the advancement of the interdisciplinary understanding of the Quaternary Period. We aim to publish articles of broad interest with relevance to more than one discipline, and that constitute a significant new contribution to Quaternary science. The journal's scope is global, building on its 50-year history in advancing the understanding of Earth and human history through interdisciplinary study of the last 2.6 million years.

Research areas include geoarcheology, geochemistry and geophysics, geochronology, geomorphology, glaciology, neotectonics, paleobotany and paleoecology, paleoclimatology, paleogeography, paleohydrology, paleontology, paleoceanography, paleopedology, quaternary geology, volcanology and tephrochronology.

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# QUATERNARY RESEARCH

VOLUME 116, NOVEMBER 2023

## RESEARCH ARTICLES

- 1 A ca. 39,000-year record of vegetation and climate change from the margin of the Namib Sand Sea  
*Brian M. Chase, Arnoud Boom, Andrew S. Carr, Michael E. Meadows and Sophak Lim*
- 12 Vegetation dynamics in Dhofar, Oman, from the Late Holocene to present inferred from rock hyrax middens  
*Kaitlyn E. Horisk, Sarah J. Ivory, Joy McCorrison, Molly McHale, Ali Al Mehri, Andrew Anderson, R. Scott Anderson and Ali Ahmad Al Kathiri*
- 30 Middle to Late Holocene lake evolution and its links with westerlies and Asian monsoon in the middle part of the Hexi Corridor, NW China  
*Simin Peng, Yu Li, Xueru Zhou, Lu Hao, Hebin Liu, Zhansen Zhang and Haiye Li*
- 46 Holocene millennial-scale variability of coastal environments on the southern coast of Korea and its controlling factors  
*Jaesoo Lim, Sangheon Yi and Youngeun Kim*
- 60 A Holocene pollen-inferred climate reconstruction for Vermont, USA  
*Laurie D. Grigg, Ioana C. Stefanescu, Bryan N. Shuman and W. Wyatt Oswald*
- 78 Late glacial through Early Holocene environments inferred using pollen from coprolites and sediments recovered from Paisley Caves, Oregon  
*Chantel V. Saban, Erin M. Herring, Dennis L. Jenkins and Daniel G. Gavin*
- 96 Massive ground ice of glacial meltwater origin in raised marine-deltaic sediments, Fosheim Peninsula, high Arctic Canada  
*Cameron Roy, Kethra Campbell-Heaton, Denis Lacelle and Wayne Pollard*
- 108 Late Pleistocene Neanderthal exploitation of stable and mosaic ecosystems in northern Iberia shown by multi-isotope evidence  
*Sarah Pederzani, Kate Britton, Jennifer Rose Jones, Lucía Agudo Pérez, Jeanne Marie Geiling and Ana B. Marín-Arroyo*
- 133 Paleoenvironmental changes in the eastern Kumtag Desert, northwestern China since the late Pleistocene  
*Haoze Song, Xiaoping Yang, Frank Preusser, Alexander Fülling and Bo Chen*
- 148 Was there a nonglacial episode in the western Hudson Bay Lowland during Marine Isotope Stage 3?  
*Tyler J. Hodder, Michelle S. Gauthier, Martin Ross and Olav B. Lian*
- 162 A conceptual model of multi-scale formation processes of open-air Middle Paleolithic sites in the arid Negev desert, Israel  
*Maya Oron, Joel Roskin, Yoav Avni, Naomi Porat, Emil Aladjem, Dmitry Yegorov, Jacob Vardi and Erella Hovers*

**Photo Caption:** The iconic sand dunes at Sossusvlei, Namibia lie on the eastern margin of the Namib Desert and Sand Sea, a region characterised by arid to hyperarid conditions since the late Cretaceous (ca. 80 Ma). Determined by factors associated with the variable intensity of low-latitude anticyclones, environmental conditions in the region are particularly sensitive to changes in global climate system. Contrary to predictions of increased aridity during glacial periods, a growing body of evidence derived from rock hyrax middens from the region indicates that Marine Oxygen Isotope Stages 2–3 were significantly more humid than in the Late Holocene. Cooler temperatures and higher/more regular rainfall promoted the expansion of relatively mesic shrubland into areas now dominated by sparse, xeric grasses, resulting in marked changes in the regional ecology. Photo: Brian M. Chase (See the article by Chase et al., pages 1–11 in this issue.