ISSN 0033-5894
Volume 116, November 2023

QR | QUATERNARY RESEARCH

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

https://doi.org/10.1017/qua.2023.62 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Quaternary Research
Published on behalf of Quaternary Research Center
www.cambridge.org/core/journals/quaternary-research
Volumes 111-116
eISSN: 1096-0287; ISSN: 0033-5894

Aims & Scope

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.

Quaternary Research Center

The QRC is a community of scholars collaborating and fostering interdisciplinary environmental research at the University of Washington through strategic investments in seed grants, expeditions, seminars, workshops, and the publication of *Quaternary Research*.

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RESEARCH ARTICLES

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.