



Reconstructing the early/mid Holocene landscape evolution of the Thyamis delta (Greece): implications for human populations

antoine chabrol (1,2), fouache eric (3,2), charles lecoeur (1,2), pavlopoulos kosmas (4), and apostolopoulos georges (5)

(1) Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, Geography, paris, France (antoine.chabrol@gmail.com), (2) UMR CNRS 8591, Laboratoire de Géographie Physique, Meudon, France, (3) EA 375 GECKO, Université Paris-Ouest Nanterre, (4) Harokopio University of Athens, Greece, (5) National technical University of Athens, Greece

Across the Mediterranean Basin, the glacial-interglacial transition (15000-6000 cal. BP) is the transition from hunter-gatherer societies of the Upper Paleolithic and Mesolithic Final companies to Neolithic farmers. In Epirus (northwestern Greece), the lack of archaeological sites is obvious for this period: only two cave sites have yielded Upper Paleolithic occupations and one open air site was dated to the Mesolithic. During the Lateglacial and the Holocene, climate fluctuations have caused major palaeogeographic changes on the coastline evolution and the river dynamics. The prehistoric remains in a continental environment cannot be easily found: they were either destroyed by marine erosion during the post-glacial rebound/fast sea level rise, or they were buried by sediment accumulation. The study we are conducting as part of a PhD in geoarchaeology tries to better understand the response of the deltaic areas in northwestern Greece.

Our study focuses on two specific areas: the delta formed by the Thyamis River (also called Kalamas R.), and the inlet between the island of Corfu and the mainland. The first was not yet investigated for palaeoenvironmental reconstructions. Likewise, archaeological research in the watershed is lacking. The second study area is of paramount importance to understand the impact of the post-glacial rebound on the prehistoric and archaeological maps: initial investigation indicates that this space was occupied by a lake that ceased to function around 10 000 BP. The paper presents preliminary results on the paleogeographic evolution of the delta Thyamis. In June 2009, combined measures of Electrical Resistivity Tomography (E.R.T.), seismic refraction and Ground Penetrating Radar (G.P.R.) profiles have established the thickness of the Holocene sedimentation: around/circa 15 meters at the upstream of the delta. To better understand the prehistoric and historical evolution of this space, a series of 15 cores was conducted in conjunction with the geophysical investigations. Preliminary results of sediment analyses and microfauna identifications allow us a first reconstruction of the delta (AMS datings arriving soon). The results will be compared with against the existing data from Greece and Italy.

We will also present the advantages of expanding this type of study across the lower valley of Thyamis.