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Chronology and Archeology of Holocene Alluvial Archives in the Wadi Sbeïtla Basin, Central Tunisia

K. ZERAI

Monastir, Higher Institute of Applied Studies in Humanities, Geography, Mahdia, Tunisia (kamel.zerai@cnrs-bellevue.fr, 0021673688518)

A multidisciplinary study of Holocene alluvial archives in the Wadi Sbeïtla Basin revealed several phases of increased geomorphic activity, each followed by a stable environment and a soil formation phase. The alternate dynamic and stable phases are due to the past climatic fluctuations, superimposed by human activities. Using radiocarbon dating and archaeological study, we established a detailed chronostratigraphy of the Holocene alluvial records in the study area. Four important phases of deposition were dated: an early-Holocene phase (10-7 ka cal BP), a mid-Holocene phase (6-4 ka cal BP), a late Roman phase (1.6-1.4 ka cal BP) and a recent medieval phase (1-0.5 ka cal BP). A peak of fluvial activity took place during the Pleistocene-Holocene transition and in the late Roman crisis (around 1.6 ka cal BP). Two long periods of soil forming process were dated around the Capsian epoch (7 ka cal BP) and in the second half of the mid-Holocene (5-4 ka cal BP). Finally, immature alluvial soils were developed around 1.1 ka cal BP.