



Upper Pleistocene climate dynamics from malakofaunal data

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Upper Pleistocene climate dynamics from malakofaunal data: records in loess sections of Bansko hill (NE Croatia)

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ABSTRACT

Paleontological and taxonomy data from loess section in the Bansko hill (NE Croatia) provide records for climate variations in the upper Pleistocene of SE Europe. Gastropod species from 4 loess sections, suggest a slight dry/humid variations in climate, during upper pleistocene. Periods of dry and cold climate are more often than humid one. Most abundant from 12 species is *Helicopsis striata*, gastropod typical for open and dry habitats. The high relative percentage of dry gastropod taxa in the loess sections, indicates a dry and cold climate for this area, with shorter periods of warmer and more humid climate. This study shows a climate induced changes in taxonomy of gastropods, which is probably expression of 21-ky-precessional cycles.

Keywords:

gastropods

loess

climate change

Helicopsis striata

upper Pleistocene

Croatia