



Fluvial sediments in eastern Transcaucasia as palaeoenvironmental archives

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Eastern Transcaucasia (the eastern part of the Republic of Georgia) is an intramontane basin situated between the Greater Causus in the north and the Lower Caucasus in the south. Its climate is continental, separated from the Mediterranean climate by a low mountain range. Due to its proximity to the “Fertile Crescent”, Neolithic activity started quite early here, beginning at the latest from 7.5 ka. Fluvial sediments found in the first terraces along several larger and smaller rivers are naturally outcropped up to 12 metres, showing the alternation of fine and coarse fluvial material with intercalated soils and soil sediments. These sequences form excellent palaeoenvironmental archives, ranging from the Latest Pleistocene until the Mid-/Late Holocene. Using a multiproxy approach, it is intended to analyse terrace sediments from different catchment areas in order to compile climatic, anthropogenic and/or tectonic impacts on the system.