



Early Holocene Landscape evolution of Thessaloniki Plain, Northern Greece

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Seven cores from the western part of the Thessaloniki plain have been drilled and analysed for palaeoenvironmental studies. This paper aims to detail the links between the landscape changes and the human occupation of the actual largest deltaic plain of Greece during Neolithic Times. During the maximum of the last post glacial marine transgression, this large alluvial plain was occupied by a wide bay, subsequently affected by a marine regression running from the west to the east.

Facies identification, geochemical analyses, radiocarbon dating and magnetic susceptibility measurements revealed different sediment environments and helped to redefine the precise position of the different Neolithic settlements from 6000 BC and 3000 BC.

The results highlight the presence of large marine bay at 6000 years cal.BC and gradually a lagoon stage and an important peat stage developed in context of deceleration of the sea level rise. Archaeological studies (Bintliff, 1976; Rodden & Wardle, 1996) were incorporated into the work and the interpretation must be reconsidered with the help of the new data presented here. Moreover, the previous geoarchaeological studies (Ghilardi, 2007) must be completed for the early holocene.