



## **Cover beds as discontinuous paleoenvironmental archives**

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Cover beds are deposits formed by unconcentrated dislocation processes chiefly from upslope materials, which may contain admixed eolian matter. They cover undifferentiated slopes to a large extent or even completely, rather than being restricted to drainage ways, linear discharges, or local failures. Cover beds typically consist of several layers separated by disconformities.

In Central Europe the study of cover beds has long tradition, but they were rarely considered of use as paleoenvironmental archives because they usually elude chronological control. However, where there is chance to relatively date such deposits they may grant valuable insight into phases of landscape evolution that are often not covered by any other archive.

Here I discuss how such dating may be obtained - by paleosols and by their relationship to other landscape elements - and which conclusions on paleoclimate may be drawn from them using examples from the Western US, Central Turkey, and the Russian Plain.