



Environmental changes during Holocene inferred from lake sediments in Lake Crniševu (Baćina Lakes) on the Eastern Adriatic coast, Croatia

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Sediment record from Lake Crniševu, the deepest lake of the Baćina Lakes, on the Eastern Adriatic coast, has been investigated combining sedimentological, geochemical and mineralogical methods. The karstic nature of the lakes makes them carbonate productive and depositional changes have been tracked in high resolution. The 8.3 m long sediment core spans over the last 12000 years. The higher concentrations of lithogenic elements and magnetic susceptibility in sediments from Lake Crniševu reflects increased erosion and input of the siliciclastic material from the catchment from 11.7 to 10 cal ka BP, which indicates increased rainfall and subsequent runoff. This is followed by their gradual decrease until 7.5 cal ka BP. Dominant endogenic carbonate deposition lasted from 7.5 until 4.5 cal ka BP. At 4.5 cal ka BP intensive changes in the sediments began, observed by the high sand fraction compared to silt that was dominant until this period. This dynamic environment lasted until 2.5 cal ka BP, and is characterized by variable amount of calcite and quartz. From that time (4.5 cal ka BP) the slow increase of the siliciclastic material content was observed, indicating the increasing human impact and deforestation of the catchment.