



Handbook of Holocene Palaeoecology and Palaeohydrology (International Geological Correlation Programme, Project 158b)

By B. E. Berglund

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This handbook reviews the key palaeoecological methods applied to primarily organic lake and mire deposits. Particular attention is paid to Holocene environmental changes in the temperate zone, but most methods can be applied to older Quaternary deposits and to areas outside the temperate zone. The need for uniform methods of correlating stratigraphical data on a continental scale is emphasized. The first part of the book concentrates upon the theoretical background to environmental change, examining relationships between physical and biological environments and how they are affected by changes in climate, hydrology and human impact. The research strategy applied to palaeoecological studies of lakes and mires is then considered, introducing the concept of 'reference sites' for stratigraphical correlations. Recommended methods for dealing with these sites are described in subsequent sections. These include sampling and mapping techniques, stratigraphical methods, dating methods, and physical, chemical and biological methods. The numerical treatment of biostratigraphical data is discussed in the final section. The content is based upon the work of the International Geological Correlation Programme Project 158B.

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Editorial Review

Review

"...describes almost all aspects of data collection and analysis ...when sediment cores from lakes and mires are studied. " -- *Progress in Physical Geography*

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About the Author

Björn E. Berglund was a professor in, and head of, the Department of Quaternary Geology at Lund University from 1971-2000. Since then, he has been professor emeritus in the same department.

Dr. Berglund is a Quaternary palaeoecologist who has made significant contributions to the knowledge and understanding of environmental change since the last glaciation. He has specialized in: revegetation related to climatic change during the time span 15 – 11, 000 years BP in southern Scandinavia; the timing and pattern of Holocene vegetation changes in Scandinavia; the impact of long-term human occupation during the past 6000 years in southern Scandinavia and its correlation with other parts of Europe; Holocene Baltic Sea development.

During the 1980's Dr. Berglund was the main leader of an interdisciplinary project concerning the impact of long-term human occupation in southern Sweden, which has thrown new light on the interaction between human society and the environment. This project has become a model for related projects in Europe generally. He was also the main leader of the International Correlation Project 158 B on palaeoecological and palaeohydrological changes in Europe since deglaciation. It led to an increased collaboration between palaeoecologists in Europe, particularly between Western and Eastern Europe. Multidisciplinary methods were emphasized in this project and this handbook was one of the main outcomings of this project.

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