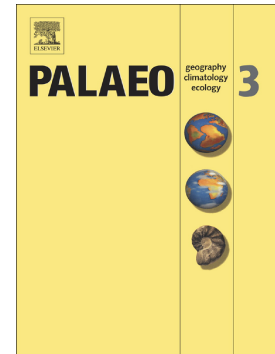


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Shell sclerochronology and stable isotopes of the bivalve *Anomalocardia flexuosa* (Linnaeus, 1767) from southern Brazil: implications for environmental and archaeological studies

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Abstract

We conduct the first stable isotopic and sclerochronological calibration of the bivalve *Anomalocardia flexuosa* (Linnaeus, 1767) in relation to environmental variables in a subtropical coastal area of southern Brazil. We investigate incremental shell growth patterns and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values of modern specimens collected alive from the Laguna Lagoonal System (LLS). As shells of *Anomalocardia flexuosa* are also the main components of pre-Columbian archaeological shell mounds and middens distributed along the Brazilian coastline, late Holocene archaeological specimens from a local shell mound (Cabeçuda) were selected to compare their stable carbon and oxygen isotopes with those of modern specimens. Shell growth increments, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values respond to a complex of environmental conditions, involving,

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