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**Pollen distribution in surface sediments of the northern Lower Medjerda valley
(northeastern Tunisia)**

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Abstract:

Past Mediterranean vegetation dynamics are commonly reconstructed using fossil pollen records. However, the interpretation of pollen records in terms of vegetation, climate and land-use changes is often limited due to complex pollen-vegetation relationships. So far, such relationships have been poorly examined in the semi-arid regions of Northern Africa. This work aims to document the modern pollen assemblages that reflect the main vegetation types associated to different land-uses in the northeastern Tunisia. For that, we collected 29 modern terrestrial surface samples in the Lower Medjerda valley and compared the pollen spectra to remotely sensed vegetation data. This original approach, coupling pollen and remotely sensed land cover data, presents some limitations and errors affecting both datasets although it gives promising results. Multivariate analyses show that the composition of pollen samples collected

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