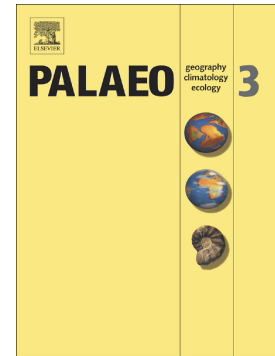


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Vegetation change and evolutionary response of large mammal fauna during the Mid-Pleistocene Transition in temperate northern East Asia

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Abstract

We present new pollen data from a drilling core from the North China Plain which illustrate the nature of vegetation evolution in the temperate zone of Asia during an interval containing the Mid-Pleistocene Transition (MPT), ~1.2-0.7 Ma. Results show that, from 1.7-1.2 Ma, closed needle-leaved and broadleaved mixed forest predominated. The most important vegetation change event occurred at 1.2 Ma when there was a decline in coniferous forest and a significant increase in *Artemisia*, *Chenopodiaceae* and *Poaceae* grassland. There was a continued degradation of the regional forest vegetation and its

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