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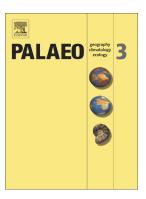
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Abstract

The Taihu Plain of the Lower Yangtze valley, China was a centre of rice agriculture

during the Neolithic period. Reasons for the rapid development of rice cultivation

during this period, however, have not been fully understood for this coastal lowland,

which is highly sensitive to sea-level change. To improve understanding of the

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