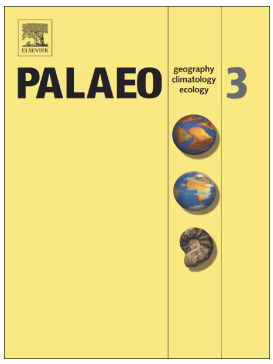

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Taphonomy and palaeoecology of the uppermost Eocene flora from Sarral (Eastern Ebro Basin): palaeoclimatic implications

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Abstract

The global trend towards a colder and more arid climate at the Eocene-Oligocene boundary triggered significant changes in the European flora. Here we study the latest Eocene (Priabonian) flora from lacustrine deposits at Sarral in the Ebro Basin, Catalonia, Spain, to evaluate vegetation changes near this boundary. Three main taphofacies are recognised: (1) assemblages composed of small, size-sorted leaves represented by *Zizyphus*, Fabaceae leaflets and *Pinus* needles, inferred to be wind transported from open woodlands located distal from the lake; (2) assemblages composed of whole unsorted leaves belonging to Salicaceae, Myricaceae (*Myrica arenesi* and *Comptonia schrankii*) and Lauraceae (*Daphnogene* and *Laurophyllum*) and helophytic plant stems, interpreted as remains of a riparian community; (3) assemblages