VEGETATION CHANGES IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE SANDOMIERZ BASIN DURING LATE-GLACIAL AND EARLY HOLOCENE

by

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The study area lies between Cracow and the eastern limits of the Niepołomice Forest (1). Seven cores were taken from the mires and river palaeochannels in connection with the studies on the changes of the Vistula channel during the last 15 000 years (2,3). Correlation of various profiles is based mainly on C^{14} dating. Pollen analysis shows the history of vegetation from treeless communities in the Bhbox to Optolling period to, first, open pine forests and, later, mixed deciduous forests of the early Atlantic time. No traces of human activity were discovered in these profiles. The far western site at Pleszów gives information about the natural environment before the development of Neolithic agriculture. It should help to better understand the impact of the first Neolithic settlement on local vegetation in about the year 6 000 B. P. (4).

No Upper Holocene sediments have yet been found. For this reason two soil profiles from the Niepołomice Forest were collected with the aim of studying the history of present-day forest communities with the help of pollen analysis.

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