BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

PROBABLE DRIER PALEOCLIMATE EVIDENCED BY CHARCOAL BEARING MIDDLE SÃO FRANCISCO RIVER PALEODUNES, STATE OF BAHIA, BRAZIL(*)

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Charcoals in soils and lacustrine deposits, as evidence for probable Holocene paleoclimate oscillation, have been reported by previous authors in different areas of Brazil (1 to 4). However, this is probably the first report on their occurrence in eolian deposits of semiarid northeastern Brazil.

Small fragments (few milimeters to about 1.5 cm) of charcoal scattered within eolian sands, mostly distributed from 0.6 to 0.9 m of depth, have been recorded. Twelve dated samples supplied with radiocarbon ages ranging from about 850 to 4,800 years B.P.

Even an anthropogenic origin for these charcoal fragments could not be discarded, it is impressive that their ages are comparable to radiocarbon dated drier phases assumed by previous authors in other areas of Brazil. Only one sample indicated an age of 4,860 ± 70 years B.P. (CENA-149), and apparently the last dryness culmination phase in the area occurred between 1,700 and 1,220 years B.P., and the present caatinga type vegetation was established only after 850 years B.P.

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