

## **DEGLACIATION AND HOLOCENE CLIMATE AND SEA LEVEL. ATLANTIC-MEDITERRANEAN LITTORAL (IBERIA)**

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Climatic and sea-level changes in Southern Iberia littoral (36°-37°N/2°-7°W) are analysed after the sedimentological record of estuaries/deltas infill, outcropping beach barrier-lagoon systems, aeolian dunes with interbedded paleosoils and alluvial fans. Chronostratigraphy is based on AMS and conventional radiocarbon ages and archaeological-historical data. Pollen, micro- and macro-fauna and stable isotopes (C, O) have also been studied. Reconstruction of paleogeographical evolution of different coastal environments along time is based on mapping of littoral outcropping sediments together with boreholes. Sea-level changes. The oldest marine deposits in the estuaries are recorded at ca. 12,000 yrBP, followed by a stabilization at ca. 9,500 yrBP. Rapid sea-level rise took place between 8,500 and 6,500 yrBP. Maximum flooding is recorded in estuaries at 6,500 yrBP coincident with the development of beach barrier systems in the open coasts and a sea level height in Mediterranean coasts at 1.5-2m a.p.s.l. At ca. 4,000 yrBP fluvial input surpassed the already negligible rate of sea-level rise. Then the general sea level presents a still-stand or falling trend. Climate Change. Humid conditions between 14,000 and 10,500 yrBP. Wetter and warmer conditions between 10,500 and 4,500 yrBP (Atlantic coast). At 4,200 yrBP starts the characteristic aridity and seasonality of present mediterranean climate. A major change occurred at 2,700-2,500 yrBP (direction of prevailing winds almost coincident with the present conditions) starting an important accumulation phase in coastal dunes: Humid conditions (2,000-600 yrBP) in Atlantic coasts. Increasing aridity during the last 500 yr. This work has been supported by The 97-00 Project of the Fund. Ramón Areces and by the Spanish DGICYT Projects PB95-0109 (CSIC) and PB95-946 (USAL). It is a contribution of the INQUA Sea Level and Neotectonics Commissions.