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LATE PLEISTOCENE LOESS PALEOSOL SEQUENCES IN SAXONY (GERMANY) – A RECORD FOR MORPHOLOGIC ACTIVE AND MORPHOLOGIC STABLE PHASES IN A FRAGILE LANDSCAPE

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The study of loess deposits in Saxony should help to reconstruct the late Pleistocene climate and the resulting landscape evolution in this region. Mostly the upper sediments in this area are represented by weichselian loess deposits.

Key words: loess, Pleistocene, deposits, fragile landscape.

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ІСНУВАННЯ ЛЕСОВИХ ПАЛЕОҐРУНТІВ ДАВНЬОГО ПЛЕЙСТОЦЕНУ – ДЕМОНСТРАЦІЯ МОРФОЛОГІЧНО АКТИВНИХ ТА МОРФОЛОГІЧНО СТІЙКИХ ФАЗ У КРИХКИХ ЛАНДШАФТАХ САКСОНІЇ (НІМЕЧЧИНА)

Дослідження лесових відкладів у Саксонії проводилося з метою вивчення клімату в епоху давнього плейстоцену, а також розвитку ландшафтів Саксонії. Верхні відклади, зазвичай, представлені лесовими відкладами ріки Вісла.

Ключові слова: лес, плейстоцен, відклади, крихкі ландшафти.

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СУЩЕСТВОВАНИЕ ЛЁССОВЫХ ПАЛЕОПОЧВ ПОЗДНЕГО ПЛЕЙСТОЦЕНА – ДЕМОНСТРАЦИЯ МОРФОЛОГИЧЕСКИ АКТИВНЫХ И МОРФОЛОГИЧЕСКИ УСТОЙЧИВЫХ ФАЗ В ХРУПКИХ ЛАНДШАФТАХ САКСОНИИ (ГЕРМАНИЯ)

Исследование лессовых отложений в Саксонии проводилось с целью изучения климата в эпоху позднего плейстоцена, а также развития ландшафтов Саксонии. Верхние отложения, как правило, представлены лессовыми отложениями реки Вислы.

Ключевые слова: лесс, плейстоцен, отложения, хрупкие ландшафты.

The study of loess deposits in Saxony should help to reconstruct the late pleistocene climate and the resulting landscape evolution in this region. Mostly the upper sediments in this area are represented by weichselian loess deposits. These deposits could have a thickness up to 10 m. Loess and loess like sediments mostly consists by silt and a small fraction of clay and are highly erodible without a safety vegetations cover.

The weichselian loess deposits are covering a subjacent strong eemian pedocomplex and developped at its top a holocene luvisol. In between we could identify a number of interstadial paleosols and sequences with reworked material. The paleosols represent geomorphic stable phases with low erosion rates and a vegetation cover. In opposite layers containing reworked material stand for phases with extensive transformation of the landscape surface. We often observe paleosols covered by reworked paleosol sediments which are hardly to distinguish.

Paleosol and covering paleosol sediments as a whole are called pedocomplex. Especially during lower Weichselian phase strong reworking of material took place.

On the basis of more than five solid investigated sites we compile a new stratigraphy for loess deposits in the middle east of Germany and could detect different phases of a table landscapes and phases with strong depositions. According to existing tratigraphies we find many similarities but also some differences.

Especially between the upper and the middle Weichselian loess we observe conspicuous variations in terms of intensity of pedogenesis and redeposition of soil

sediments. We could observe that the in situ eemian Luvisol is rarely conserved whereas the eroded eemian soil is deposited as a soil sediment. This feature is conserved in nearly all sites.

These new results are in accordance to some findings conducted in loess sequences in the western part of Germany.

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