

EVIDENCE OF A "HIATUS BOREALIS" IN OLOCENIC DEPOSITS OF

 NORTHERN ITALY

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There are clear evidences of a "hiatus" in the sedimental sequences of some Northern Italian post-glacial deposits occurring in the boreal period.

In fact many years ago we found in the pollen sequence of some Alpine deposits a discontinuity of the curve of some species like Picea and/or Abies diffusing just in coincidence with the Corylus maximum, i.e. with the boreal period.

The diagram of Folgaria is particularly interesting in this respect. The Picea curve comes out abruptly with high values. Correspondingly, there is a lowering of the lake level and a brown mosses formation due to a dry climate which is in keeping with vegetational situation.

Subsequently during the Atlantikum, intervenes a renewed lake phase and then a final peat phase initiating seemingly with the subboreal period. It is noteworthy that some other similar sediments, in connection with the "hiatus borealis", we found a thin layer of eolic sand.

Now, when we look to the Po plain sediments, we find an analogous situation. Indeed at the time of the Corylus maximum we find a peat layer inserted in the minerogen sediment. Here again the "hiatus borealis" is characterized by a drying of the basins (Fimon). Nevertheless we cannot see here the missing of the initial curve of Picea or Abies, just because in this part of the Po plain these species were already spread before the Corylus maximum.

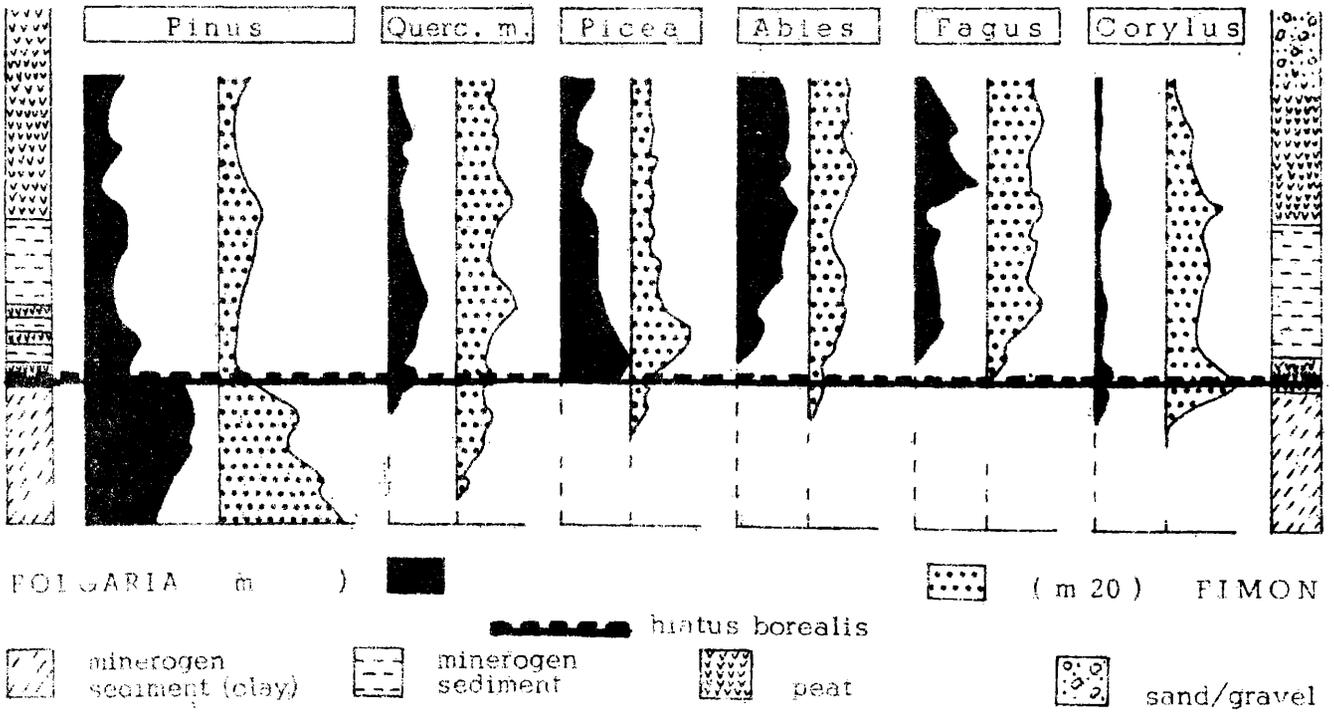
Let us note here (see Fimon) that after the boreal period there is an evident transition to a humid and seemingly cool period shown by a remarkable spreading of the Picea. It is likely that during this period the snow limit in the mountains has lowered.

Finally we can observe that the uppermost part of this Po plain deposits are characterized by a very conspicuous and exceptional floating occurring during a relatively recent period.

Radio-carbon dating of the "hiatus borealis" of various localities and other major climatic events are going to be performed.

References

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