

· 专题论坛 ·

华北上新世-更新世过渡期植被、气候与大气CO₂研究进展

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摘要 上新世-更新世过渡期是新生代全球气候变化的重要拐点之一, 此期气候经历了由“暖室”向“冰室”的转变。研究该气候转型期的特征可为科学界和国家层面应对现在和未来的全球气候变暖提供理论基础和实践指导。通过深入研究中国华北山西榆社盆地张村组上新世-更新世过渡期地层中保存的植物大化石、孢粉以及硅藻组合, 为重建该时段陆地生态系统中植被演替和气候变化提供坚实的生物学证据。在综合回顾张村组化石植物研究历史的基础上, 侧重介绍最近5年在古植被、古气候、古环境以及古大气CO₂浓度重建等方面的最新进展。这些新成果定性及定量地刻画了第三纪-第四纪之交中国北方黄土高原东南缘气候变干、变凉的转型过程及其陆地生态系统中大气CO₂浓度先升后降的变化趋势。

关键词 气候变化, 中国华北, 古大气CO₂, 上新世-更新世过渡期, 古植被, 榆社盆地

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新生代全球气候整体呈现变冷趋势, 期间伴随着一系列的冷暖交替(Zachos, 2001; Zachos et al., 2008)。其中发生在古近纪始新世-渐新世过渡期南极冰盖的形成(Zachos et al., 1996, 2008; Zachos, 2001; Coxall et al., 2005; Pearson et al., 2009)以及发生在新近纪上新世-更新世过渡期北半球冰川的广泛扩张(Maslin et al., 1996; Zachos, 2001; Mudelsee and Raymo, 2005; Bintanja and van de Wal, 2008; Zachos et al., 2008)为新生代以来发生在地球的2次最为显著的气候变冷事件。

上新世-更新世之交是第三纪进入第四纪的过渡期, 与人类的出现和发展关系最为密切, 也是气候由“暖室”向“冰室”的转折期, 此后全球进入了冰期-间冰期循环的气候模式(Haug et al., 2005; Rohling et al., 2014)。该时段内, 全球洋流系统发生了重组(Etourneau et al., 2010), 海平面显著降低(Bintanja and van de Wal, 2008), 全球大部分地区经历了强烈的干旱化转型(Locker and Martini, 1989; DeMenocal, 1995; Davis and Moutoux, 1998; Lu et al.,

2010; Wu et al., 2011), 导致现今生态系统格局的形成, 甚至影响了人类的发展和迁移(Reed, 1997; Bonnefille, 2010)。

关于驱动该期气候变化的机制, 目前存在多种假说, 比如“CO₂假说”、“地壳构造抬升假说”、“巴拿马假说”及“厄尔尼诺假说”(Lunt et al., 2008)。其中, “CO₂假说”, 即大气CO₂浓度变化是温度变化主要驱动力的观点已得到了广泛认同(Lunt et al., 2008; Tripathi et al., 2009; Seki et al., 2010; Bartoli et al., 2011; Beerling and Royer, 2011)。为了客观评价大气CO₂在上新世-更新世过渡期间的生态学效应, 我们需要来自海和陆相2个生态系统中尽可能丰富的古CO₂数据。然而, 目前大部分重建的古CO₂数据多来自海相生态系统(Tripathi et al., 2009; Seki et al., 2010; Bartoli et al., 2011; Zhang et al., 2013), 陆相生态系统的古CO₂数据非常稀少(van der Burgh et al., 1993; Kürschner et al., 1996)。因此, 发现和发掘陆地生态系统中大气CO₂浓度的指示指标, 并用其重建古大气CO₂浓度, 具有跨学科的科学挑战意义

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(Beerling and Royer, 2011)。

研究地质时期“温暖-寒冷”气候转型期的气候状况及其驱动机制,对人类应对未来气候变化有很强的科学理论和现实指导意义。因此,上新世-更新世过渡期的气候变化已成为国际科学界关注的热点(Etourneau and Khélifi, 2010)。

前人研究显示,上新世-更新世过渡期全球气候虽然整体变冷,但不同地区却存在区域性差异,如高纬度和亚热带地区显著变冷的时间(约2.75 Ma)早于热带地区大约100万年(Ravelo et al., 2004)。此外,该期气候变冷时间的不同步性还体现在同处北半球高纬度地区的各大陆冰量剧增时间的不一致,如在欧亚北极和东北亚地区冰量的大幅度增加大约发生在2.74 Ma,在阿拉斯加地区约为2.70 Ma,在美洲的东北部地区约为2.54 Ma (Maslin et al., 1998)。相比全球其它地区,东亚地区在此关键时段上的研究相对薄弱,对该时段气候与环境的研究还不多见,目前仅在日本本州西南部地区(Momohara, 1994)和九州中部地区(Iwauchi, 1994)、中国云南腾冲地区团田盆地(吴靖宇, 2009; Xie et al., 2012)和华北山西榆社地区榆社盆地(曹家欣和崔海亭, 1989; Shi et al., 1993; Liu et al., 2002; Li et al., 2004; Qin et al., 2011)作过一些研究,这极大地限制了科学界对北半球第三纪-第四纪之交气候转型格局的全面把握和科学理解。

中国华北地区榆社盆地张村组张村剖面(2.77-2.52 Ma)发育了良好的上新世-更新世过渡期的地层(Shi et al., 1993; Li et al., 2004)。该地层中保存着丰富的植物大化石(曹家欣和崔海亭, 1989; Zhao et al., 2004; Liu et al., 2005; Bai et al., 2015)、孢粉(Shi et al., 1993; Liu et al., 2002; Li et al., 2004; Qin et al., 2011)和硅藻(Li et al., 2015),为我们研究这一重要气候转型期陆地生态系统中植被演替和气候变化提供了理想的生物学证据和气候代用指标。本文综合论述了张村组的植物化石、植被及古气候的研究历史,侧重介绍最近5年在植被恢复、古气候以及大气CO₂浓度定量重建等方面取得的新进展。

1 植物类群与植被演替

在植物大化石研究方面,曹家欣和崔海亭(1989)报道了张村组的植物大化石类群。该组上部的植物化石指

示着上新世晚期的植被和气候,其中栎属(*Quercus*)、槭属(*Acer*)、榉属(*Zelkova*)、杨属(*Populus*)、鹅耳枥属(*Carpinus*)和榆属(*Ulmus*)等为优势类群,山地针叶林主要为松柏林,代表当地植被为暖温带落叶阔叶林,指示暖温带季风气候。

Zhao等(2004)报道了张村组沉水植物眼子菜科(Potamogetonaceae)川蔓藻属(*Ruppia*)植物*R. yushensis*化石的果实和种子,并结合现生川蔓藻属生存的盐水环境,推论*R. yushensis*生长的古环境为暖温带或温带,其生存环境为低盐、清澈且平静的浅水湖泊。

Liu等(2005)报道了张村组莎草科三棱草属(*Bolboschoenus*)荆三棱比较种(*B. cf. yagara*)钙化球茎、根茎、茎和叶的化石。该化石是中国范围内莎草科化石的首例报道。基于现生荆三棱(*B. yagara*)的生存环境,该化石也证实了上新世张村地区湿地环境的存在。

在孢粉学研究方面,Shi等(1993)提出上新世-更新世之交张村组上部(对应原文中带Y7, 2.7-2.5 Ma)前期的优势孢粉类型为榆属、鹅耳枥属、栎属、栲属(*Castanopsis*)、榉属和山核桃属(*Carya*)等,后期以冷杉属(*Abies*)、松属(*Pinus*)和云杉属(*Picea*)等占优势,指示了植被由阔叶林向针叶林的演替。

Liu等(2002)研究的榆社盆地晚上新世(3.2-2.0 Ma)的孢粉组合以松科(Pinaceae)、榆属、藜科(Chenopodiaceae)和蒿属(*Artemisia*)花粉占优势,其次为桦木属(*Betula*)、榛属(*Corylus*)、鹅耳枥属、山核桃属、胡桃属(*Juglans*)、枫杨属(*Pterocarya*)、栎属、柳属(*Salix*)、禾本科(Poaceae)和菊科(Asteraceae)。以约2.5 Ma为界,研究剖面中由老到新的孢粉组合变化反映了由开阔的落叶阔叶林和草地植被景观向以云杉-松林占优势的针叶林植被景观的演替。

Li等(2004)指出榆社盆地张村组中上段张村剖面主要的孢粉类型为云杉属、冷杉属、松属、榆属、蒿属、藜科和麻黄属(*Ephedra*),并进一步将孢粉谱划分为3个带,从老到新的孢粉组合由以针叶树种云杉属和冷杉属为主,转变为榆属、蒿属和藜科占优势,再转向以针叶树种云杉属、冷杉属和松属为主,对应了古植被由山地针叶林转向阔叶林和干草原,继而又变为山地针叶林。

Qin等(2011)将同一张村剖面的孢粉谱划分为4个带, 分别对应4个阶段的植被演替。其中带I植被为针叶、落叶阔叶混交林, 林中以松属、桦木属、榛属、胡桃属、栎属、椴树属(*Tilia*)、榆属和榉属等为主, 少量的喜暖类群(如杜仲属(*Eucommia*)等)生长于低地, 喜凉类群(如云杉属和冷杉属)分布于附近高海拔地区, 蒿属和藜科植物分布于湖岸; 带II森林扩张, 喜暖树种数量增加(如杜仲属等), 而藜科植物明显减少; 带III相对带II而言, 喜凉的针叶树冷杉属、云杉属和松属成分增加, 反映了针叶林的扩张; 带IV中, 冷杉属、云杉属和松属进一步增加, 反映了此期针叶树占主导的植被状况。4个时段总体上反映了植被由针叶、落叶阔叶混交林向针叶林的转变。

综合以上各研究, 山西张村地区在上新世-更新世过渡期, 当地的植被发生了由针阔混交林(图1A)向针叶林的转变(图1B)。

2 古气候与环境重建

2.1 定性分析

曹家欣和崔海亭(1989)根据报道的张村组植物大化石组合, 认为上新世晚期的气候类型总体上与现在的暖温带季风气候相似。Liu等(2002)依托孢粉组合变化, 推测当时当地发生了由湿润的暖温带气候向半湿润的温带气候的转变, 并依据山核桃属、胡桃属和枫杨属等喜热成分的总花粉含量作出一条3.1-2.1 Ma的“温度指数曲线”, 指出上新世晚期气候逐渐变凉的趋势。Li等(2004)基于张村剖面孢粉组合数据反映的植被变化, 推测张村上新世-更新世过渡期总体的气候特征为冷湿, 期间有冷湿-相对暖干-冷湿3次大的气候波动。Qin等(2011)根据孢粉组合及变化, 推测张村上新世-更新世过渡期经历了暖干-暖湿-凉干-持续凉干的气候波动。

最近Li等(2015)研究了上新世-更新世之交张村古湖泊的硅藻类群, 揭示了硅藻组合经历了以指示碳酸盐型水体的瞳孔小环藻(*Cyclotella iris*)占优势(图1A)向指示硫酸盐型水体的惠氏美壁藻(*Caloneis westii*)和具球异菱藻(*Anomoeoneis sphaerophora*)占优势(图1B)的转变, 反映了降水-蒸发平衡的变化, 指示当地2.6 Ma前后强烈的干旱化进程。

2.2 定量重建

秦锋等(2010)基于山西榆社盆地张村组植物大化石(曹家欣和崔海亭, 1989; Zhao et al., 2004; Liu et al., 2005)和孢粉组合(Shi et al., 1993; Liu et al., 2002; Li et al., 2004)数据, 运用分布区叠加分析法, 初步重建了华北张村上新世气候参数和古海拔高度。依托原地埋藏的植物大化石组合推测上新世山西张村地区周边为山地地形, 植被存在垂直分带现象, 估测当时古湖海拔高程约为(700±300) m, 低于目前约1 043 m的海拔高度, 指示了在上新世之后位于黄土高原东南缘的张村地区发生显著的抬升。

Qin等(2011)利用共存分析方法定量重建了张村地区晚上新世温度和降水等7个气候参数, 其中年均温为8.5-15.1°C, 最暖月均温为19.8-27.5°C, 最冷月均温为-0.3-2.0°C, 年较差为25.0-26.0°C, 年均降水量为845.6-1 050.9 mm, 最大月均降水量为183.6-229.4 mm, 最小月均降水量为19.2-21.2 mm。与现今张村附近榆社、太原、介休和阳泉4个气象台站记录的年均温8.8-10.8°C、年均降水量459.5-578.9 mm相比, 当时的古气候和古环境更加温暖湿润。4个孢粉带对应时段上的气候参数显示温度和降水的动态变化过程: 由老到新4个时段的最大月均降水量下降, 可能暗示当时东亚夏季风的减弱; 最冷月均温和最小月均降水量的明显降低可能与冬季风加强有关。

上新世-更新世过渡期北半球高纬度地区的急剧变冷所导致的海冰及北极区域陆冰的扩张可能加强了西伯利亚高压系统(Ruddiman and Kutzbach, 1989; Guo et al., 2004), 并进一步导致冬季风加强(An et al., 2001; Qin et al., 2011); 此外, 除了受加强的西北冬季风的影响, 华北地区还受到来自行星风系西风急流的北支气流及青藏高原冷高压下行气流的作用, 这2支气流也会造成冬季风的加强(Qin et al., 2011)。青藏高原在该时段的快速隆升阻挡了西南夏季风的北上(Qin et al., 2011), 导致影响晚张村地区的夏季风的主要来源为东南季风。因此, 加强的冬季风和减弱的夏季风可能共同驱使华北张村地区变冷变干(An et al., 2001; Qiang et al., 2001; Ding et al., 2005)。另外, 北半球冰川活动的大幅度加强导致海水盐度的增加, 造成海洋蒸发和输入内陆水汽减弱

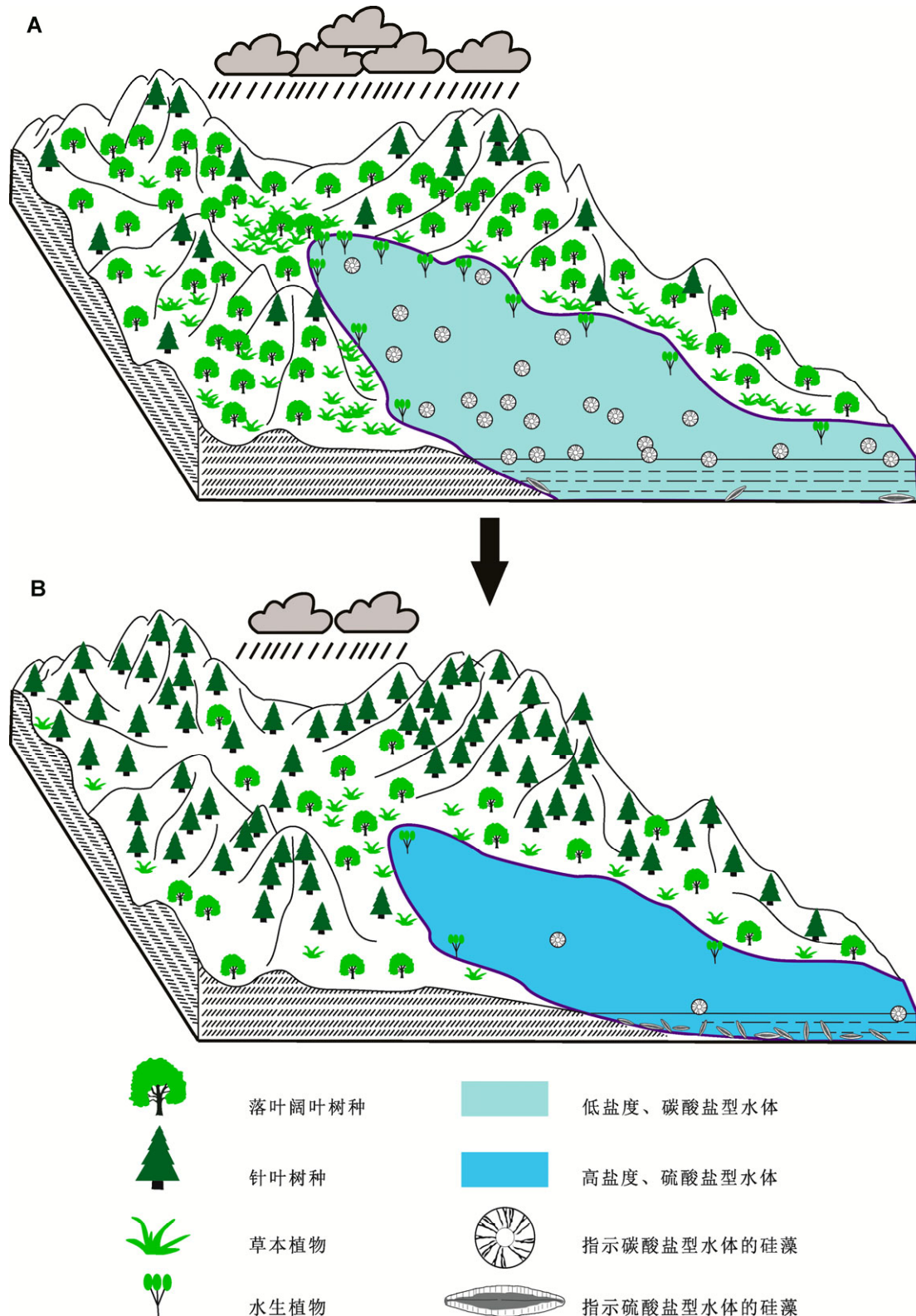


图1 中国华北张村地区上新世-更新世过渡期古环境由温暖湿润(A)向寒冷干燥(B)演化示意图

Figure 1 The sketch map of paleoenvironmental evolution from warm and wet (A) to cold and dry (B) during the Plio-Pleistocene transition in Zhangcun region, Shanxi, North China

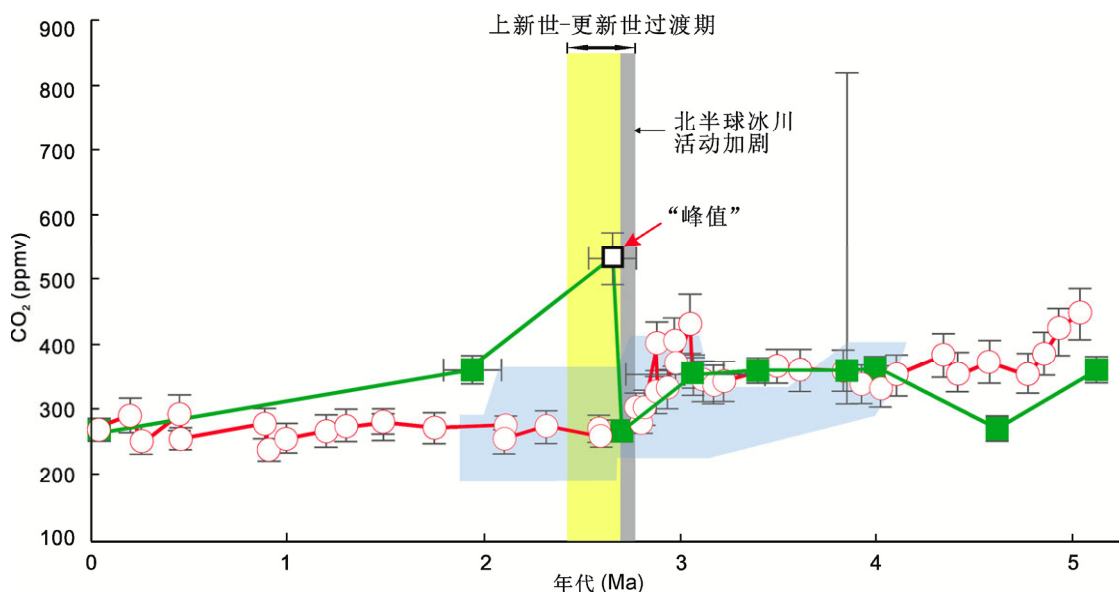


图2 5 Ma以来古CO₂浓度变化(改编自Bai et al., 2015)

绿线连接的是利用气孔参数重建的古大气CO₂浓度; 红线连接的是基于海相酮及硼同位素重建的古水合CO₂浓度; 水平浅蓝色阴影指示基于海相硼同位素重建的古水合CO₂浓度。

Figure 2 Reconstructed paleo-CO₂ since 5 Ma (modified from Bai et al., 2015)

The green line indicates the paleo-[CO₂]_{atm} estimated by stomatal parameters; the red line indicates the paleo-[CO₂]_{aq} estimated by marine alkenone and boron isotope; the horizontal light blue shade indicates the paleo-[CO₂]_{aq} estimated by marine boron isotope.

(方小敏等, 2008), 也可能导致亚洲内陆变干(Ruddiman and Kutzbach, 1989; Guo et al., 2004; Qin et al., 2011)。

3 古大气CO₂浓度的重建

定量重建新生代大气CO₂浓度并探讨其与全球温度变化的关系, 是全球气候变化研究的热点问题之一。自Woodward (1987)发现一些C₃植物叶片气孔参数(气孔密度和气孔指数)与大气CO₂水平存在负相关以来, 运用化石植物气孔参数重建地质时期长时间尺度上大气CO₂浓度的研究不乏成功的例证(Beerling et al., 1995; Kürschner et al., 1996, 2008; Rundgren and Beerling, 1999; Wagner et al., 2004; Stults et al., 2011)。另外, Royer (2001)研究发现, 植物气孔参数与大气CO₂水平的响应关系存在物种特异性, 即两者之间的关系在不同类群中表现出正相关、负相关或无明显相关性等各种情况。

Bai等(2015)首次报道和描述了山西张村剖面上

新世-更新世过渡期发现的具表皮结构的香蒲属(*Typha*)叶化石, 精准鉴定到现生种东方香蒲(*Typha orientalis*)。在详细调查和研究了中国科学院植物研究所国家标本馆馆藏东方香蒲近80年(1931-2009年)的腊叶标本的基础上, 建立了该植物叶片气孔指数与大气CO₂水平的线性正相关回归方程; 同时, 运用气孔指数法, 将化石东方香蒲作为生物学代用指标, 推算出上新世-更新世过渡期的大气CO₂浓度约为(530±40) ppmv, 该值高出同期海相水合CO₂和目前大气CO₂浓度(约400 ppmv)的水平(<http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/trends/>); 汇合本数据及前人凭借气孔参数重建的其它时段古大气CO₂浓度, 构建了北半球陆地生态系统5 Ma以来大气CO₂浓度变化曲线(图2)。海陆对比揭示陆相与海相CO₂浓度变化趋势相似, 但前者波动更为剧烈, 且陆相CO₂浓度在上新世-更新世过渡期的跃升滞后于海相CO₂浓度; 陆地大气CO₂浓度在跃升后出现骤降, 与北半球冰川活动的加剧似为同步, 推测该CO₂浓度的下降可能驱动和/或加强了北半球冰川活动(图2)。

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Research Highlights of the Vegetation, Climate and Atmospheric CO₂ in Yushe Basin, Shanxi, North China During the Plio-Pleistocene Transition

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Abstract The Plio-Pleistocene transition is a key time interval with a remarkable climate switch from “greenhouse” to “icehouse” conditions across the Tertiary-Quaternary boundary. The plant megafossils, pollen-spores and diatom assemblages found in Plio-Pleistocene deposits of Zhangcun Lake, Yushe Basin, on the eastern edge of the Chinese Loess Plateau, provide a chance to reconstruct and interpret the vegetation, climate and environmental changes in North China. Here we briefly review the discoveries and research history of fossil plants and introduce the recent 5 years’ research highlights of the reconstruction of paleovegetation, paleoclimate, paleoatmospheric CO₂ level and paleolake evolution. Those findings during the transition qualitatively and quantitatively (1) reflect a turning point towards cool and dry climate; (2) reveal a high peak of [CO₂]_{atm} with a new terrestrial-based proxy of stomatal index on leaves of *Typha orientalis*, thereby indicating transient interstadial phase; and (3) show a remarkable salinity shift from carbonate to sulfate in Yushe Basin based on the change in diatom assemblages, which indicates a significant aridification about 2.6 Ma on the east Loess Plateau of China.

Key words climate changes, North China, paleo-CO₂, Plio-Pleistocene transition, vegetation, Yushe basin

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