

Interactive comment on “Interactions between climate change and human activities during the Early to Mid Holocene in the East Mediterranean basins” by J. F. Berger et al.

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Received and published: 13 May 2016

The paper is a major contribution to the study of the cultural and climatic changes that took place in the Eastern and Central Mediterranean region during a key period of prehistory. Though based on the study of only four main areas, the paper is extremely important and should be published as it is. The notes that follow might contribute to the general discussion and might be utilised in some cases according to the will of the authors.

Line 283: I think that a reference is necessary for Odmut Cave. See for instance Kozłowski et al 2004 published in Warsaw (1994)

C1

2.2. At this point I would mention the importance of Mavropigi and the westernmost part of Western Macedonia as a whole. See also below.

Line 610: There is a paper with important data (especially at page 26) on the Arabian Sea monsoons and their effects. See Yoganandan V. et al 2013 In Climate Change and Island and Coastal Vulnerability, pages 21-30. This might be mentioned.

4.1 heading. I would put somewhere under this heading a few words about Dispiliò (Lake Kastorià) from which we have lots of almost unknown known archaeological data. It is the only Greek pile dwelling excavated in a proper way. Although mostly Late Neolithic the pollen cores etc.. would cover a lot earlier periods.

Line 693, following: I think that the same instability recurs also from the Trieste and Istrian Peninsula caves. See cave Edera for instance. This is a fact that makes the Early Holocene and especially the Early Atlantic sequences of some regions of the Balkans and the Alpine arc of problematic interpretation. Little work has ever been carried out on the topic. The same can also be observed in the long sequences of the Crimean mountains Shan-koba, Murzak-koba etc..) See the papers by Cordova on the pollens and forest covers in the Crimean mountains and a rediscussion of the sequence in Biagi (Tuebingen 2016)

Line 748: I would mention here the Western Macedonian site Mavropigi and the others in the region. The Mavropigi radiocarbon dates have been published recently on Antiquity Projects and also in Eurasian Prehistory 2015. This is a key area for the interpretation of the origin of the south-west Balkan and also the Adriatic Neolithic as a whole (in my opinion). Most data are unpublished unfortunately.

Another important topic is the little knowledge we have of the Late Mesolithic in the Balkan Peninsula as a whole: its origin and its end. Almost no step forward since the seminal paper by JGD Clark, 1958, on the Blade and Trapeze assemblages. We know almost nothing of the Early Atlantic period in the entire Balkan Peninsula (and Greece). Are the many radiocarbon dates from very restricted regions, like the Iron

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Gates for instance, mostly unrelated to well defined cultural complexes so important in this respect??

Interactive comment on Clim. Past Discuss., doi:10.5194/cp-2016-4, 2016.