Figure S1. Simplified pollen percentage diagrams for seven pollen records used in precipitation reconstructions. Only the ten most common and important pollen taxa are shown. Black silhouettes indicate the percentage values and the unshaded silhouettes 10 x exaggerations.











Figure S2: Gaussian response curve for a taxon *j* determined by  $\alpha_j$  (scaling factor),  $\beta_j$  (optimum precipitation), and  $\gamma_j$  (tolerance to precipitation).



Table S1: The prior distributions of the Bayesian model parameters. We denote by n and k the number of sites and the number of5taxa in our modern calibration set. The number of slices in studied pollen record c, c=1,...,7, is denoted as  $n_c$ . Pann(i) is the observed modern Pann at site i and Pann(c) is the observed modern Pann at the location of pollen record c.

Parameter	Prior distribution
$\alpha_j$ scaling factor for taxon $j, j=1,,k$	Uniform(0,90)
$\beta_j$ optimum precipitation for taxon <i>j</i> , <i>j</i> =1,, <i>k</i>	<i>Normal</i> ( $\hat{\beta}_{j}$ , 250 <sup>2</sup> ), see Salonen et al. (2012) for $\hat{\beta}_{j}$
$\gamma_j$ tolerance to precipitation for taxon $j, j=1,,k$	Gamma(9,33)
$x_i^m$ modern Pann for site <i>i</i> , <i>i</i> =1,, <i>n</i>	$Normal(Pann(i), [1/4 \cdot Pann(i)]^2)$ for leave-one-
	out cross-validation
$x_{ci}^{f}$ past Pann for slice <i>i</i> , <i>i</i> =1,, $n_{c}$ in pollen record c,	$Normal(Pann(c), [1/4 \cdot Pann(c)]^2)$
<i>c</i> =1,,7	for pollen record reconstructions