

黄土高原南部下河遗址全新世中期的植被与气候:基于木炭化石记录^{*}

孙楠^{①②} 李小强^② 尚雪^③ 周新郢^② Dodson John^④

(①长安大学地球科学与资源学院,西安 710054; ②中国科学院古脊椎动物与古人类研究所,中国科学院脊椎动物演化与人类起源重点实验室,北京 100044; ③中国科学院大学人文学院科技史与科技考古系,北京 100049; ④Institute for Environmental Research, Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation, Kirrawee, NSW, 2232, Australia)

摘要 基于黄土高原南部白水县西固乡下河西村下河遗址木炭化石记录的系统分析并结合高精度 AMS¹⁴C 测年,重建了研究区 5050~4870 cal. a.B. P. 时段植被特征和古气候要素值。研究结果显示全新世中期沟谷地带发育以栎、青冈为主的阔叶林地,其中包括柿树、枣树等经济型林木。通过所鉴定的 10 个乔木植物种属的共存因子法分析,获得白水下河地区 (35.14°N, 109.69°E) 5050~4870 cal. a.B. P. 时段的气候要素值。年均温 (MAT) 为 12.9°C, 比现在高约 1.5°C; 年均降水量 (MAP) 为 758.4 mm, 比现在高约 180 mm; 与现今秦岭南麓东部的陕西镇安地区 (33.45°N, 109.16°E) 的气候环境相当,可能指示了气候带向北纬推移了约 1.7°。

主题词 木炭化石 黄土高原 全新世 植被 古气候

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1 引言

全新世是与现代接轨的最新地质时段,气候经历了早期升温变暖,中期温暖湿润,后期降温变凉 3 个主要阶段^[1]。全新世中期全球各地的温度普遍升高^[2~5],其发生时间一般认为在 8000~3000 a.B. P. 之间,也被称作全新世大暖期,对农业发展和文明形成有着深刻影响。

黄土高原是新石器时代文化发育的中心地区;是早期人类活动及其与环境变化关系研究的重要区域^[6~12]。黄土高原地区地貌形态各异,植被类型多样,由于人类活动的持续影响,自然植被已不复存在,中全新世黄土高原的植被状况如何?气候条件怎样?是广受关注的重要问题。一方面可以帮助理解植被和生态环境对气候变化的响应,同时,也可以了解先民的生存环境,讨论早期人类影响与适应,并为黄土高原植被建设提供科学数据。

黄土高原地区植被重建已取得很多重要成果^[13~24],不同指标重建得出的结果各异,目前仍存较大的不确定性和学术争议。地质历史时期黄土高

原是否有森林植被发育?其植物类型和分布特征怎样?仍需要采用精确的研究指标和可靠的技术手段,获取不同区域和地貌单元的植被记录予以回答。

木炭化石作为木本植物不完全燃烧的直接产物,保留了木材绝大部分解剖特征,鉴定精度往往可以到属和种的水平^[25],大大弥补了植物微体化石精度不高的缺陷,在分辨植物种类、确定群落特征和判别植被类型等方面优势明显^[26~29]。同时,高含碳量使其化学性质相对稳定和耐腐蚀,易保存于沉积物中^[30],成为判定木本植物类型和恢复植被的理想指标;另外,植被能够在很大程度上反映气候要素值,是重建古气候变化的重要途径^[31]。

新石器时代以来,火在先民生产和生活中发挥了极其重要的作用,因此,新石器遗址中往往会保留大量木炭化石,为植被和气候环境研究提供理想材料。黄土高原南部渭北旱原的下河遗址考古遗存丰富,本文通过遗址中保存的木炭化石组合研究,恢复遗址周边地区的木本植物类型和植被特征,并尝试定量获取古气候要素值。

第一作者简介:孙楠女 30岁 讲师 第四纪地质学专业 E-mail:sunnan@chd.edu.cn

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通讯作者:李小强 第四纪地质学与环境考古研究 E-mail:lixiaoqiang@ivpp.ac.cn

2 研究区概况

渭北旱原是渭河冲积平原和陕北黄土高原之间的地区,由南向北依次为黄土台塬、低山丘陵和黄土塬。属温带大陆性季风气候,水源缺少,地表径流贫乏,天然次生林仅分布于低山上^[32]。白水县位于渭北旱原北部,境内地貌复杂,沟壑纵横,壑塬交错,地势起伏较大。年均温为11.4℃,年均降雨量为577.8mm,多集中在夏秋季节。

下河遗址(35.14°N, 109.69°E)位于陕西省白水县西固乡下河西村(图1),1986年全国文物普查时发现。自2003年起,陕西省考古研究院对遗址进行了多次调查和发掘,发现庙底沟文化分布范围达 $40 \times 10^4 \text{ m}^2$,此外还有部分龙山时期遗存(多为庙底沟二期,以下简称庙二),仰韶晚期遗存分布范围最小;随后于2010年发现该时期特大型房址^[33-35],反映了该区为渭北地区早期先民活动的中心之一。

3 研究方法

3.1 采样与统计分析

通过对该区的踏勘,选择一处木炭化石较为丰富的灰坑采用浮选法获取木炭样品^[36],并选取树枝部位的小木炭进行AMS¹⁴C测年;考虑到不同木材形成木炭大小及保存状态的差异(一些木炭易碎或质地较软),尽量随机选取不同大小木炭进行统计分析以减少误差^[37],样品鉴定数目至少达100块以上^[31,38]。

木炭化石种属鉴定是以现生木材解剖特征为重要依据,按照木材鉴定方法完成。首先将化石样品手工切出横切面、径切面、弦切面3个新鲜面^[39],在体视显微镜下观察3个切面特征,将特征表现一致的化石归为一类,然后将不同类型的木炭样品分别选取1~2个,在扫描电子显微镜(SEM)下进一步拍照并观察,对比现代木材标本与图版确定种属。

3.2 定量分析

共存生态因子分析法(Coexistence Approach,简称CA)在古气候定量重建中使用较广泛,通过多种植物气候参数变化范围的叠加产生共存区间,从而确定古气候参数值^[40]。该方法的一个重要前提即化石植物与其现存最近亲缘类群对生态环境的要求相同或相近,一般而言,植物类群与现存亲缘类群越近,气候数据的分辨率和准确性也会越高。该方法常被用于第三纪或更早期古气候定量重建,其可靠性和分辨率也得到大量工作的验证^[41,42]。

全新世时期的植物类型是自然界长期演化的结果,其生态幅(ecological amplitude)和气候耐受性(climatic tolerance)基本与现生种属一致。各植物种属的气候耐受范围通常采用以下方法获得:首先确定植物的地理分布范围;其次找出分布范围内对应的气象台站并获取气候数据;最后在各气候参数集合内找出最大和最小两个极值,确定该植物对气候的耐受范围。然后根据各个植物现代分布所需气候条件进行数值范围的叠加,产生共存区间,形成所

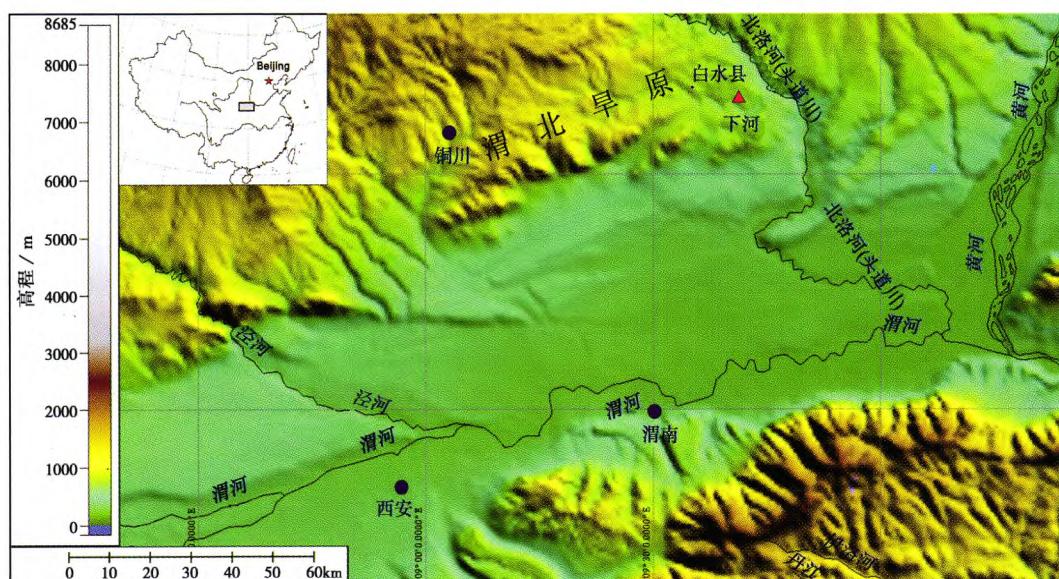


图1 研究区位置图

Fig. 1 Location map of the study area

需气候参数的定量数值。本文重点计算了年均温(MAT)、年均降水量(MAP)和年均相对湿度(RH)3个主要气候参数值,现代气候参数来自中国地面气候资料(1971~2000年)(<http://cdc.cma.gov.cn/>)。

4 研究结果

4.1 年代分布

下河遗址出土的遗存遗迹表明该遗址呈现仰韶中期至龙山文化的特征^[33~35]。在遗址范围内两处房址和一处灰坑各选取一块炭屑进行AMS¹⁴C测年,并进行日历年龄校正^[43]。结果显示木炭测年结果与该遗址考古文化特征相吻合,灰坑的形成年代为5050~4870cal. aB.P.(表1),属龙山早期庙二时期。

表1 AMS¹⁴C测年结果

Table 1 Accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS)¹⁴C dates from the Xiahe site

样品编号	实验室编号	测年材料	AMS ¹⁴ C年代/aB.P.	校正年代/cal.aB.P.(28)
XHK01	Beta-351273	炭屑	4400±30	5050~4870
Xiahe	OZO441	炭屑	4655±40	5472~5308
Xiahe	OZO442	炭屑	4675±40	5476~5314

4.2 木炭化石分析

下河灰坑中浮选出了大量木炭化石,选取其中不同大小的210块进行统计分析,结果显示木炭化石分属10个植物种属,各种属含量如表2,其中栎属*Quercus* sp.(35.71%)、青冈属*Cyclobalanopsis* sp.(26.19%)、枣属*Zizyphus* sp.(13.81%)和桦树属*Zelkova* sp.(11.43%)的百分含量较高,占总量的87%;冷杉*Abies* sp.含量次之,占8.1%;另外,锥木属*Castanopsis* sp.(2.38%)、水青冈属*Fagus* sp.(0.95%)、柿树属*Dipteronia* sp.(0.48%)、金丝桃属*Hypericum* sp.(0.48%)和沙针属*Osyris* sp.(0.48%)也占有少量比例。亚热带种属包括青冈属、锥木属和沙针属(图2),占总量的29.05%。

下河遗址10种植物共存因子分析获得5050~4870cal. aB.P.时段气候参数值(表2)如下:年均温(MAT)=12.5~16.3℃,年均降水量(MAP)=688~1391.8mm,年均相对湿度(RH)=69%~76%(图3)。

5 讨论

当前,黄土高原地区人类活动对植被的影响巨大,水土流失严重,生态安全状况不容乐观^[44]。白

表2 下河遗址木炭化石种属组成

及其百分含量和植物气候参数值

Table 2 Taxa of fossil charcoal and their abundance ratio, and the climatic range of the single plant taxa from the Xiahe site

种属	鉴定总个数	百分含量/%	MAT/℃		MAP/mm		RH/%	
			最大值	最小值	最大值	最小值	最大值	最小值
冷杉(<i>Abies</i> sp.)	17	8.1	18.1	3.6	1391.8	191.3	76	59
锥木属(<i>Castanopsis</i> sp.)	5	2.38	24.1	3.1	1749.2	688	86	64
青冈属(<i>Cyclobalanopsis</i> sp.)	55	26.19	22.8	11.9	2439.2	471.9	85	58
柿树属(<i>Dipteronia</i> sp.)	1	0.48	16.3	11.6	1638.2	471.9	86	58
水青冈属(<i>Fagus</i> sp.)	2	0.95	18.1	12.5	1742.4	622.3	80	69
金丝桃属(<i>Hypericum</i> sp.)	1	0.48	22.8	-0.8	2439.2	191.3	85	59
沙针属(<i>Osyris</i> sp.)	1	0.48	21.8	3.6	1638.2	665.6	86	65
栎属(<i>Quercus</i> sp.)	75	35.71	18.1	7.8	1454.6	471.9	77	58
桦树属(<i>Zelkova</i> sp.)	24	11.43	21.3	9.6	1604.5	471.9	78	58
枣属(<i>Zizyphus</i> sp.)	29	13.81	22.8	7.1	2439.2	65.4	85	45

水县的植被覆盖度仅为36.3%,主要为多年生草本植物和灌木^[45];但下河遗址木炭化石研究结果显示,全新世中期遗址周边至少出现10种乔灌木类型,以栎属和青冈属占绝对优势,其中栎属为暖温带落叶阔叶林的优势种和建群种,青冈属则是常绿阔叶林的主要树种之一,两者的同时出现可能指示了研究区在全新世中期处于暖温带向北亚热带的过渡带上,气候较今温暖湿润。

水分是黄土高原植被发育的限制因子^[24],一般来讲,黄土高原塬区黄土覆盖较厚,不具备形成森林的水分与土质条件^[46,47]。白水地区黄土层厚达80~220m,地下水埋藏较深,因而难以发育森林,全新世期间该区植被仍以草原为主^[48]。但该区同时存在大量的沟谷地带^[49],地下水位较高,在全新世中期暖湿的气候条件下,发育有针阔叶混交林地。

白水地区沟谷地带林地的发育为先民提供了足够的薪材和可能的建材,满足先民生产生活的基本需求。另外,林木中也出现了枣树、柿树等果树,可能表明先民直接将其作为薪材使用,也可能是先民利用果树的残枝作为薪材^[50]。大量果树类木炭的出现也可能显示了枣和柿等果实是先民的一个食物来源。

一般来讲,采用共存因子法重建的古气候要素值为一变化区间。其高值主要来源于暖湿成分的贡献,而低值则主要为冷干成分的贡献,在仅有植物类

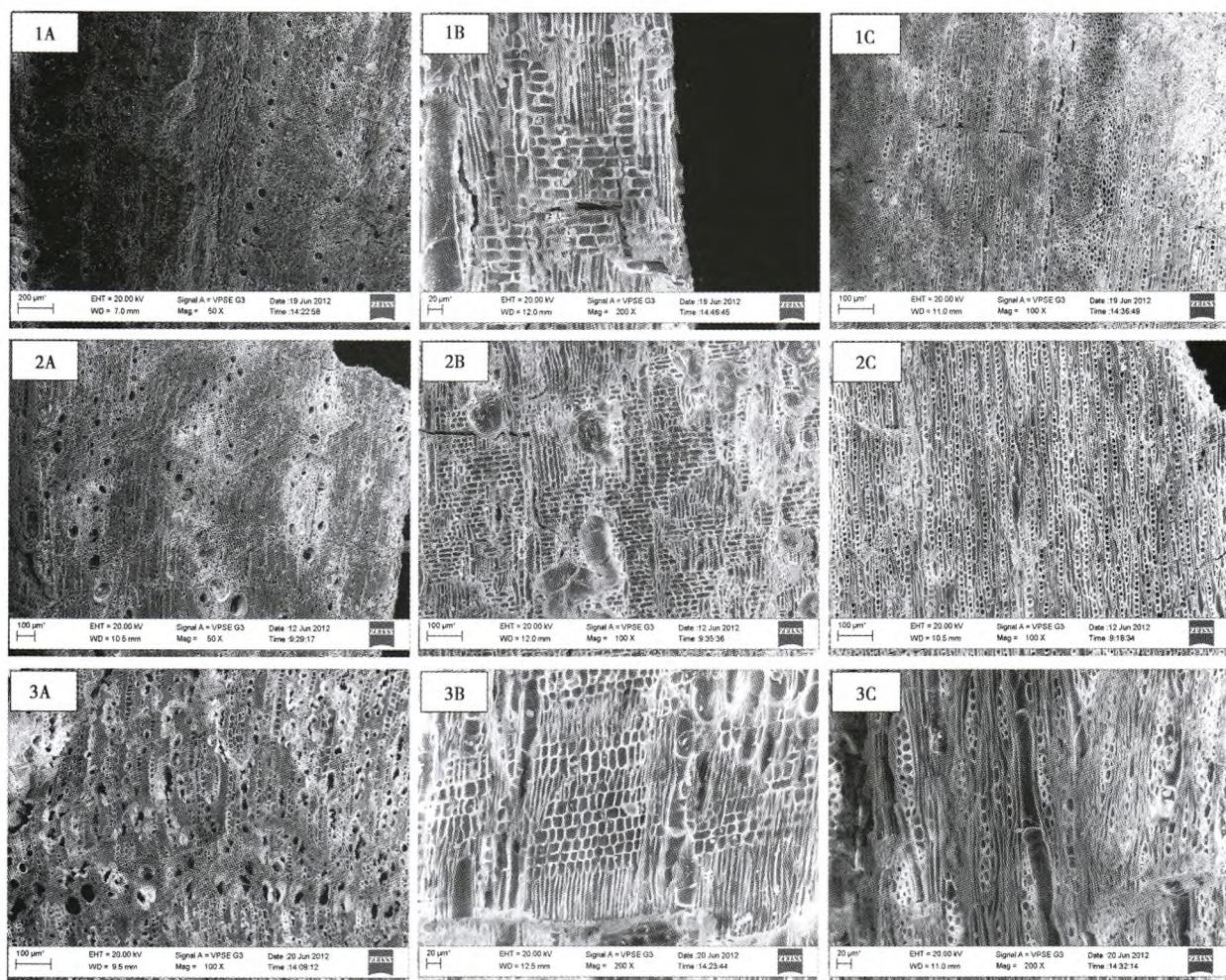


图2 木炭化石显微结构图

其中1,2和3分别代表青冈属(*Cyclobalanopsis* sp.)、锥木属(*Castanopsis* sp.)和沙针属(*Osyris* sp.);

A,B和C分别代表木材的横切面、径切面和弦切面

Fig. 2 Microstructures of fossil charcoal from the Xiahe site

型组合的研究中,一般不考虑不同植物类型的比重,主要取其中值作为气候要素值^[51~53]。新石器时代遗址中木炭化石含量丰富,植物类型多样,因此,定量重建可以考虑不同区系植物类型比例的变化。一般来讲,亚热带植物代表暖湿气候,而温带植物则反映冷干气候,设定其在木材组合中所占的权重,可获取更精确的气候要素值。据此,我们得到以下古气候估测值计算公式:

$$C = V_h \times P_h + V_l \times P_l \quad (1)$$

公式(1)中C为气候参数值; V_h 为气候要素高值; P_h 为高值权重; V_l 为气候要素低值; P_l 为低值权重。

白水下河地区全新世中期林地植被中温带栎属乔木占明显优势,亚热带种属虽占有一定比例,但除青冈外,其他种属含量均极低,表明代表暖湿气候的

植物组分对下河地区各气候要素高值的贡献权重至少为10%。因此,运用共存因子法重建气候参数估测值,高值权重为10%,低值权重为90%。

根据公式(1),计算得出5050~4870 cal. a.B.P.白水地区年均温(MAT)=12.9℃,年均降水量(MAP)=758.4mm,年均相对湿度(RH)=70%。对比中国地面气候资料(1971~2000年)数据库信息,可发现研究区全新世中期温度比现在高约1.5℃,降水高约180mm,与现今秦岭南麓东部的陕西镇安(33.45°N, 109.16°E)气候极为相似(表3),显示气候带向北推移了1.7°。

目前,陕西省境内的北亚热带北界被认为在秦岭南坡海拔1000m以下或附近的位置^[54],陕西商洛地区的镇安县则位于此位置上^[55]。因此,可推断全新世中期白水地区气候类型属于北亚热带北界。

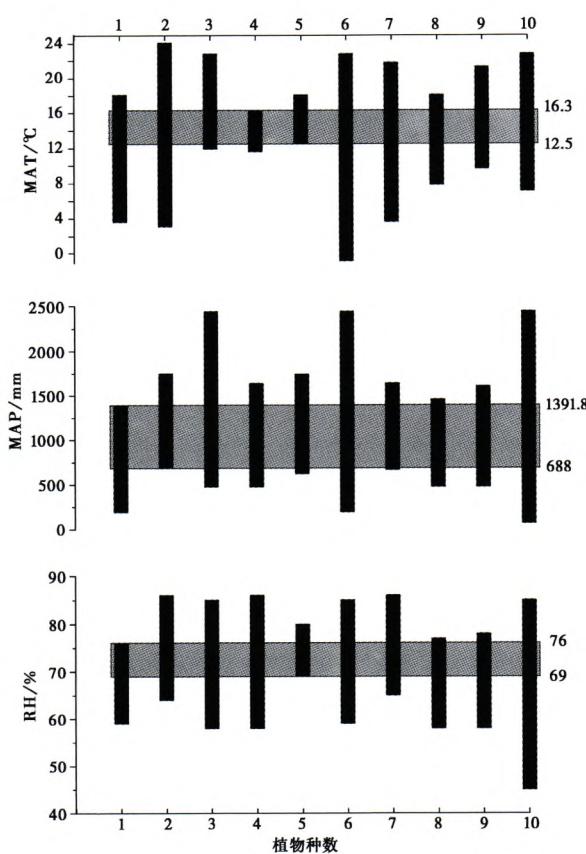


图3 下河遗址木炭化石共存因子分析图

1. *Abies* sp.; 2. *Castanopsis* sp.; 3. *Cyclobalanopsis* sp.; 4. *Dipteronia* sp.;
5. *Fagus* sp.; 6. *Hypericum* sp.; 7. *Osyris* sp.; 8. *Quercus* sp.;
9. *Zelkova* sp.; 10. *Zizyphus* sp.

Fig. 3 Coexistence intervals for the Xiahe site

表3 白水地区全新世中期与现代气候参数对比表

Table 3 The comparison of the climatic factors among Xiahe, Baishui and Zhen'an

地点	时代/cal.aB. P.	MAT/°C	MAP/mm	RH/%
下河	5050~4870	12.9	758.4	70
白水	现代	11.4	577.8	66
镇安	现代	13.1	763.1	69

6 结论

(1) 黄土高原南部白水下河地区全新世中期沟谷地带发育以栎、青冈为主的林地,以及柿树和枣树等经济型林木。

(2) 白水地区 5050~4870cal. aB. P. 处于暖温带向北亚热带过渡的气候带上,年均温(MAT)约为12.9°C,比现在高约1.5°C,年均降水量(MAP)约为758.4mm,比现在高约180mm,与现今秦岭南麓东部的陕西镇安地区(33.45°N, 109.16°E)的气候环境相当,气候带大致向北推移了1.7°。

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VEGETATION CHARACTERISTICS AND PALAEOCLIMATE OF XIAHE SITE IN THE SOUTHERN LOESS PLATEAU DURING THE MID-HOLOCENE BASED ON FOSSIL CHARCOAL RECORDS

Sun Nan^{①②} Li Xiaoqiang^② Shang Xue^③ Zhou Xinying^② Dodson John^④

(①School of Earth Science and Resources, Chang'an University, Xi'an 710054; ②Key Laboratory of Vertebrate Evolution and Human Origins of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100044;

③Department of Scientific History and Archaeometry, School of the Humanities, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100049;

④Institute for Environmental Research, Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation, Kirrawee, NSW 2232 Australia)

Abstract

The Loess Plateau is located in the semi-arid and semi-humid climate regions of the warm temperate zone in China, which is sensitive to Asian monsoon climate and has long been the key area for palaeoclimate research. Meanwhile, the original vegetation was greatly disturbed because of the long and intense human activity, thus, the potential vegetation and its pattern in the Loess Plateau become the controversial question. So, in this paper we attempt to discuss palaeoclimate and vegetation characteristics in the southern Loess Plateau through robust evidence.

Fossil charcoal comes from the incomplete burning of wood, and retains the anatomic character of the original wood, thus, the identification of fossil charcoal is similar with modern wood, through examining the transverse, radial and tangential sections of which, the taxa can then be determined. Therefore, it is a good indicator of the wood types, which has distinct advantages in providing direct evidence for the reconstruction of terrestrial vegetation and climate. Besides, charcoal can provide high precision date using the AMS¹⁴C dating method. Accordingly, fossil charcoal is an ideal proxy for our research.

Xiahe site (35.14°N, 109.69°E) is located in Baishui County, Shaanxi Province, south of the Loess Plateau. The relics of the site are mainly from the middle Yangshao to Longshan cultures. The mean annual temperature is 11.4°C, and the mean annual precipitation is 577.8mm. The natural vegetation has been greatly altered by agriculture, few natural secondary forests are found on the low hill area. A total of 210 fossil charcoals were analyzed, and the result indicates that ten different woody taxa appeared here between 5050~4870cal. aB. P. (early Longshan culture). And forest mainly consists of *Quercus* and *Cyclobalanopsis* developed in the river valleys, including economic taxa such as *Dipteronia* and *Zizyphus*.

In order to estimate the palaeoclimate, the coexistence approach (CA) was applied based on the fossil charcoal records from the Xiahe site. The CA finds the nearest living relative species of the fossils and superimposes the climatic tolerance range of each nearest living relative species, the overlap of which will reflect the palaeoclimate. One of the most important preconditions is that the climatic tolerance of the fossil plants is similar to the nearest living relative species. The Holocene plants are the result of long-term natural evolution, and their ecological amplitude and climatic tolerance are the same as modern plant types; thus the CA is well suited for obtaining the quantitative information of the climate. Here, three main climatic factors are calculated including the mean annual temperature (MAT), the mean annual precipitation (MAP), and the mean annual relative humidity (RH). The modern climatic factors come from the Surface Meteorological Data of China (1971~2000). The CA result shows that the MAT was approximately 12.9°C, the MAP was approximately 758.4mm, and the RH was approximately 70% between 5050cal. aB. P. and 4870cal. aB. P. Which indicate that the climate was warmer than today by about 1.5°C, and moister than today by some 180mm. These climate conditions are similar to modern climate of Zhen'an in east section of the Southern Qinling Mountains (33.45°N, 109.16°E), it seems that the climate belt was shifted 1.7° northwards during the mid-Holocene.

Key words fossil charcoal, Loess Plateau, Holocene, vegetation, palaeoclimate

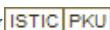
作者:

孙楠, 李小强, 尚雪, 周新郢, Dodson John, Sun Nan, Li Xiaoqiang, Shang Xue, Zhou Xinying, Dodson John

作者单位:

孙楠, Sun Nan(长安大学地球科学与资源学院, 西安710054; 中国科学院古脊椎动物与古人类研究所, 中国科学院脊椎动物演化与人类起源重点实验室, 北京100044), 李小强, 周新郢, Li Xiaoqiang, Zhou Xinying(中国科学院古脊椎动物与古人类研究所, 中国科学院脊椎动物演化与人类起源重点实验室, 北京100044), 尚雪, Shang Xue(中国科学院大学人文学院科技史与科技考古系, 北京, 100049), Dodson John, Dodson John(Institute for Environmental Research, Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation, Kirrawee, NSW, 2232, Australia)

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