

Current MSc-Project within the Paleoecology section

Holocene vegetation dynamics of Mediterranean ecosystems – Sardinia

Sardinia is the second largest island in the Mediterranean Sea, but the Holocene vegetation history and particularly the establishment of the thermo-mediterranean vegetation belt is largely unknown. We are currently developing the first continuous vegetation and fire history reconstructions at three sites in coastal Sardinia. The envisaged MSc-project would significantly expand these findings by identifying and coring a site inland, closer to or even within the meso-mediterranean vegetation belt and reconstruct the local vegetation and fire dynamics during the mid to late Holocene. This would allow us to draw important conclusions regarding future vegetation trajectories under warmer and drier conditions.

Methods: lake sediment coring, pollen, macrofossil and charcoal analysis, numerical techniques

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Stagno di Sa Curcurica, a coastal lake in northeastern Sardinia. A former MSc-student of our group used pollen, macrofossils and charcoal deposited in the lake sediment to reconstruct the vegetation and fire history of its surroundings (Beffa et al., 2016).