



INTERNATIONAL
BIOGEOGRAPHY
SOCIETY

**PROGRAM GUIDE &
ABSTRACTS**

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of
The International Biogeography Society

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PE-02

Paleo-occupancy models reveal species detectability and occupancy in the pollen record

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The late Quaternary fossil record contains abundant, broadly distributed data to investigate how species and communities respond to climate change. However, inconsistent sampling and differential preservation of fossil specimens can pose obstacles to our ability to create accurate reconstructions of past communities. We leverage occupancy modeling methods and the fossil pollen record from 531 sites across eastern North America. We simultaneously estimate the abundance and detectability of fossil pollen taxa in a spatially and temporally explicit manner that accounts for imperfect detection. In this modeling framework, we examine the spatial structure of site occupancy and species detection across the Eastern U.S. We then use model comparison techniques to determine the physical geography, soil, and climate variables that most affect the detectability of pollen taxa. We found that all variables examined contribute significantly to the detectability of most species during most time periods in the late Quaternary fossil pollen record. Specifically, maximum temperature of the warmest quarter, average yearly potential evapotranspiration, and average yearly actual evapotranspiration are consistently important observation covariates to determine detection probabilities. The ranks of models containing different covariate combinations (ordered by their AIC) are highly consistent across taxa. However, the power of covariates to account for detection probability degrades through time. This work will advance the integration of ecological and paleontological sciences by allowing us to better identify when a species is truly absent from a fossil site versus when it has gone undetected, i.e. detection probability is low, allowing us to produce more robust ecological models.

PE-03

New data about pollen and fire regime in Cantabria (Northern Spain) from the Late Glacial to the present

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The evolution of mountain landscapes during the Late glacial and the Holocene is explained by a multifarious interaction system between society and the environment, where fire has played an essential role. Cantabria (Northern Spain) is one of the European regions with more known Palaeolithic sites, and some of these records enable the study of climate and vegetation dynamics over time. In this communication, we present new data from two Cantabrian sedimentary records. The first one, *El Cueto de la Espina* peat bog (1130 m a.s.l.), covers from the Neolithic period (5.880 Cal years BP) to the present, and microscopic charcoal (examined on pollen slides) and macro-charcoal (>150 μm) were analysed. Microscopic charcoal provides information about the fire regime at a regional scale, while the origin of macro-charcoal particles is more local. The results indicate the existence of several fire peaks during the Neolithic. From the second location, *La Molina* peat bog (484 m a.s.l.), which covers the Late glacial (18.000 Cal years BP) and the Holocene, new pollen and macro-charcoal data are presented. In this location, macro-charcoal particles were detected since the Late Glacial and the intensity of the fire regime increased with the beginning of the Holocene. The fire regime was more intense than in *El Cueto de la Espina*, probably due to the lower altitude and a greater accessibility by humans. The pollen spectra suggest an open landscape at the end of the glacial period.