

Fortelius et al 2002

Article ...

▼ ... in a Journal

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Title:

Fossil mammals resolve regional patterns of
Eurasian climate change over 20 million years

Journal:

Evolutionary Ecology Research

Number:

Volume:

4

Year:

2002

Pages:

1005-1016

Keywords:

Eurasian continent, fossil mammal tooth,
mid-latitude aridity, Neogene, palaeoprecipitation
proxy

ISBN:

ISSN:

URL:

Abstract:

Fossil teeth of terrestrial plant-eating mammals offer a new, quasi-quantitative proxy for environmental aridity that resolves previously unseen regional features across the Eurasian continent from 24 to 2 million years ago. The pattern seen prior to 11 million years ago are quite different from today's. Thereafter, a progressively modern rainfall distribution developed at about 7 to 5 million years ago when East Asia remained unexpectedly humid while Europe experienced a transient phase of strong aridity. Mean hypsodonty is a geographically extensive and stratigraphically well-resolved palaeoprecipitation proxy that can be used to constrain the regional details of vegetation and climate models.

▼ ...in a Conference Proceeding

Author:

Title:

Editor:

Booktitle:

Year:

Serie:

Number:

Volume:

Pages:

Publisher:

Keywords:

ISBN:

ISSN:

URL:

Abstract:

Monograph

▼ Book/Booklet

Author:

Title:

Year:

Editor:

Serie:

Volume:

Publisher:

How Published:

Keywords:

ISBN:

ISSN:

URL:

Abstract:

▼ Thesis

Author:

Title:

Year:

School:

Keywords:

ISBN:

ISSN:

URL:

Abstract:

Others

▼ Poster

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Title:

Year:

Conference:

DOI:

▼ Internet Source

Author/ Organization/ Institution:

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Date of Access:

Date of Publication:

Version number:

▼ Chapter in a Book

Editor (Book):

Book Title:

Author (Chapter):

Chapter Title:

Year:

Serie:

Volume:

Pages:

Publisher:

Keywords:

ISBN:

ISSN:

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