

Late Pleistocene/Early Holocene environmental changes as recorded by grass/non grass pollen, micro-charcoal, thermally mature and fungal spore stratigraphies on the master core segment 6 in the Horton Plains, Central Sri Lanka.

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Abstract

Radiocarbon-dated pollen, spores, micro charcoal and thermally mature analysis on the master core collected from the Horton Plains, Central Sri Lanka indicate changes in palaeo-vegetation, climate and anthropogenic activities from the Late Pleistocene to the Early Holocene (15,800-9,800 cal yrs BP). Development of the Upper Montane Rain Forest (UMRF) has been progressed in association with climatic amelioration during the Late Pleistocene environment. Humid climatic condition prevailed during the Early Holocene. Evidence for human impact, *e.g.*, forest clearance and anthropogenic burning were found during the Late Pleistocene and Early Holocene.