

First Results on the Palynology of the Pliocene of the Safi Region (Morocco)

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A palynological study has been carried out in several sections of the Safi basin (Morocco) corresponding to the Pliocene. Some of the sections have been very rich in palynomorphs (Jorf Al Yhoudi) whereas others are completely sterile. On the whole, abundance and diversity decrease from lower to upper levels of the outcrops.

The vegetation represented by pollen is mainly herbaceous, of dry environments (Asteraceae, Caryophyllaceae, Plantago), and saline soils (Amaranthaceae-Chenopodiaceae). Trees are barely represented although Quercus and Olea can be emphasized. Also semiaquatic species from riverbanks and floodplains have been identified (Cyperaceae, Liquidambar). Other palynodebrys include algae cysts, fungal spores and vegetal tissues.

The palynoflora suggest a very open landscape in which the few arboreal forms would be located in the most humid zones, where the phreatic level is more accessible.

Key words. Palynology. Vegetation. Pliocene. Safi Basin. Morocco.

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