

Abstract

Steppe was the most significant biome of glacial periods, but after deglaciation, very hostile condition to maintain the steppe came up. As the youngest interglacial, Holocene is the first epoch in which human influence on nature can be observed. This is evidenced by mollusc successions from previous interglacials, in which climatic optimum provide records of fully developed forest communities, in the same site, where mosaic of open habitats and forests occur in Holocene successions. It can therefore be assumed that the Holocene development of the landscape has been affected by man, which enabled continual occurrence of open habitats.

Key words: steppe, molluscs, Holocene, Europe, fossils