

The palaeoecological conditions of the tidal channel network of the Zwin region (Flanders, Belgium)

Supplementary material

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ABSTRACT

The northeastern coastal plain of Belgium was a well-developed region during the late medieval period when Bruges and a series of smaller harbours became connected to the North Sea via the Zwin tidal channel. Yet, ecological data related to the evolution of the regional environment of the former Zwin region are still lacking. Diatoms, pollen, and macrobotanical remains have been studied for the first time from two cores drilled in the surroundings of the lost harbour of Hoeke. The sediments in both cores were deposited in four successive tidal channel systems spanning the pre-Roman to late medieval periods. Marine tychoplanktonic and planktonic diatoms were dominant and confirmed the presence of open marine tidal channels, while marine epipsammic diatoms were specific to channel deposits (systems 1 and 4) and marine epipellic diatoms characterised channel and accretion deposits (systems 2 and 3). The sediments of the late medieval Zwin main channel and tributary (system 4) are both characterised by marine tychoplanktonic and epipsammic species. The palynomorphs were typical of marine tidal deposits and (reworked) peat, while macroremains pointed to freshwater plants growing in the vicinity. The palynomorphs (system 4) suggest a more open landscape associated with the extensive reclamation and embankment of the Zwin region. Diatoms in the superjacent tidal deposits indicate that the late medieval Zwin silted up rapidly.

KEYWORDS

Late Holocene,
palynology,
diatom analysis,
tidal channel system,
medieval harbour



Article history

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Appendix 2. Pollen counts in core B5.

Sample box	B5																
	2.17	2.56	2.96	3.06	3.16	3.26	3.37	3.40	4.06	4.32	4.63	4.87	5.14	5.37	5.77	5.82	6.08
Depth (m)																	
Lithology	silty clay	silty clay	silty clay	silty clay	silty clay	silty clay	organic detritus	silty clay	silty clay	silty clay	organic detritus	organic detritus	organic detritus	organic detritus	organic detritus	organic detritus	organic detritus
Architectural element	abandoned/low energy channel	abandoned/low energy channel	abandoned/low energy channel	accretion form	accretion form	accretion form	channel s.s.	channel s.s.	channel s.s.	channel s.s.	accretion form	accretion form	accretion form	accretion form	accretion form	accretion form	accretion form
Tidal channel system	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

TREES AND SHRUBS

<i>Acer</i>	2																
<i>Alnus</i>	73	75	62	43	68	47	63	62	91	85	72	80	73	61	63	65	83
<i>Betula</i>	24	30	25	32	27	28	24	19	14	25	36	33	28	39	38	25	49
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	1	2	1	3	2	3		6	4	1	1		2				2
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	77	60	65	73	96	98	92	87	104	81	135	115	153	111	100	138	111
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	4	6	8	7	10	11	3	6	5	5	3		2	3	2	3	4
<i>Frangula alnus</i>				1	1						2	1		1			
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	1	3	4	2	6	2	2	2	1	2	2	4	3		4	12	1
<i>Hedera helix</i>			1														
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>			3					2		3							1
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	1				1									1			1
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	22	21	17.5	32.5	20	27.5	19	30	19	12.5	14.5	9.5	7	22.5	12	9.5	17
<i>Quercus</i>	33	34	42	72	63	60	41	35	41	42	51	46	39	46	58	57	39
<i>Salix</i>	3	7	3				3	3	8	4	6	3	5	2	1		5
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	4	5	6		2		2	2	4	6	1	3	7	4	6	5	8
<i>Tilia</i>	5	3	5	3	8	4	4	4	1	5	6	5	3	5	7	21	1
<i>Ulmus</i>	10		10	5	7	7	5	1	4		8	7	6	6	3	13	7
Saccate indeterminated	4	2	5.5	1	1	1	2.5	1		2				1.5	1		

HEATHLAND SHRUBS

<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	16	8	16	34	24	46	17	6	15	14	16	22	19	27	33	44	28
Ericaceae		1					4	8	6	3	5	7	4	2	4		1
<i>Vaccinium</i> type	3	1	3	2	1	2	4	1		1	2	6	1	4	3	18	1

HERBS

Apiaceae	1	3	1				3	1		1	1		1			1	2
<i>Artemisia</i>	1	2	3	4	6	5		2	1	1	2	1	1	2			
Asteraceae-Liguliflorae	6	3	2	7	3	5		3		2							
Brassicaceae	3	7	1					1									
Caryophyllaceae	1		4	2		2			1		1	1	2	2			
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	1																
<i>Cerealia</i> type	5	8	4	1	3	3	1							1			
Chenopodiaceae	34	32	43	47	34	47	20	40	24	19	11	6	12	15	26	3	14
Cyperaceae	12	12	14	24	23	20	10	9	14	6	14	13	11	13	14	5	19
<i>Filipendula</i>		4			2		1			2							
<i>Matricaria</i> type	1		1		3		1										
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	1	1	3	2		2	2	1	3	1				1		1	1
Plumbaginaceae		1		3		2		1		1		4			3		1
Poaceae	75	91	80	96	47	68	93	84	61	87	53	71	51	57	58	11	55
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> type		1								1							
Rubiaceae							1	2	1	2		1	1	1			2
<i>Rumex acetosa</i> type			1												1		
<i>Senecio</i> type	4	4	3	2	3	5	2	3	1	4		2					2
<i>Trifolium</i>	1	1															

Pollen sum	429	428	437	498.5	461	495.5	419.5	422	423	418.5	442.5	438.5	431	430	437	431.5	455
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AQUATICS

<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>				1		1											
<i>Potamogeton</i> type	4	2	4				1	1	3	1		1				1	1
<i>Rumex aquatilis</i> type						2											
<i>Sparganium</i> type	6	2	2	12	1	2	6	13	5	5	15	12	9	7	8	3	12
<i>Typha latifolia</i>			1		2	1	1		1	1		3		1	1		1

ANIMALIA

Type HdV-28 (Spermatophore of Copepoda)	1																	1
Type HdV-72 (<i>Alona rustica</i>)	1		1		5				1			1	2		1	1		
Type HdV-179 (Copepode or Protozoa)					1													
Type HdV-307B (unknown)					1													
Type HdV-353 (Rhabdocoela -Turbellaria)					1													

PLANTAE

Type HdV-114 (scalariform perforation plates)			3	2	8	8	8	3	2	9	1	1	2	1	3	1	2	3
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INDETERMINATE	24	24	17	2	5	5	15	20	20	26	16	8	30	10	16	15	30
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Pollen concentration

<i>Lycopodium</i> spores	131	124	118	236	217	291	84	426	143	174	79	41	44	33	270	195	139
Sample volume (cm ³)	1	1	1	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.6	1.0	1.0	1.4	1.5	2.7	2.6	1.0	1.0	1.0
Number of <i>Lycopodium</i> tablets	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Concentratie (pollen per mm ³)	46.8	49.3	52.9	23.2	23.3	18.7	59	9.1	42.3	34.4	58.8	99.9	52.2	73	23.1	31.6	46.8

Batchnr. 100320201:
14285 spores/tablet