

Vegetation change of the Baikal region during Late Miocene

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We conducted pollen analysis on samples from the BDP98 core from the bottom of Lake Baikal. The pollen assemblages recorded in these samples were mainly of coniferous forest taxa such as *Pinus* and *Picea* as well as *Tsuga*, *Larix*, accompanied broad-leaved forest taxa belonging to Fagaceae (*Quercus*), Ulmaceae (*Ulmus/Zelkova*, *Celtis*), Betulaceae (*Betula*, *Corylus*, *Carpinus*, *Alnus*), and Juglandaceae (*Carya*, *Juglans*, *Pterocarya*). In the pollen record, an abrupt change was found around 8.5Ma. At that time, palynological variety and abundance became poor. In addition, a drastic increase of SFI (Steppe / Forest Index) reflecting the intensification of the dry conditions took place at the same time, and the marked decrease of the number of pollen grains per cubic cm also occurred at that time. After the change, *Betula* and *Alnus* became more important elements, suggesting that a continental dry / cool climate prevailed. It can be said that the percentage of *Betula* and *Alnus* in relation to other broad-leaved forest taxa reflects climatic condition.