

INTRODUCTION

The third and the last volume of Polish contributions to the IGCP Project No 158 B — „Palaeohydrological changes in the temperate zones during the last 15 000 years — lake and mire environments” is different from the previous two volumes in both - its scope and its form. The earlier issues (*Acta Palaeobotanica* 22/1, 1982, and 27/1, 1987) comprised the data from the current investigations being carried out within the IGCP-158 program, some of them presented as more or less complete palaeoecological studies, the others recording the preliminary or partial stages of research progressing at particular reference sites. In this volume, produced during the closing year of IGCP-Project 158, the summarised information on almost all type regions covered by Project activities is presented. It is based on data coming from the reference sites studied especially within the framework of the Project, and also those selected from the data base existing beyond the Project as complementary reference sites, to improve the network of sites available for the final synthesis.

The attempt was made to give the presentation of data for the particular type regions in as uniform and concise way as possible, following the recommendations of the Project leaders (Berglund & Birks 1985, 1986). The data processing for each type region or reference area was performed by relevant authors. The attempt was not quite successful: in case of 15 authors involved, presenting almost 40 sites of very differentiated qualities, such a consistency appeared quite difficult to be elaborated, unless still much greater input of editorial work has been executed. Moreover, one of the most important recommendations, which was the presentation of pollen diagrams on the time scale, was in few cases impossible, or if done, was rather hypothetical, due to the dating deficiencies. However, we managed to make a good step forward in ordering the data base for the final synthesis by a collective effort.

The volume is composed of small individual chapters, each dealing with a single type region or even with a part of a region. The chapters are grouped according to the general idea of synthesis regions in 5 broad landscape units, namely — the mountains, the uplands, the mid-Polish lowlands, the lake districts and the sea-coastal zone.

Since the 27/1 volume of *Acta Palaeobotanica* has been delivered to print, the work progressed in several regions of Poland (e.g. the Greater Poland, mid-Polish Lowlands); also some of reference areas, namely Jasło-Sanok area (Harmata, this volume), Bory Tucholskie area (Miotk-Szpiganowicz, this volume), and Wolin Island (Latałowa, this volume) have been completed with the new sites. In this way, 38 reference sites have been listed for the whole territory of Poland. Unfortunately, few of them are still not sufficiently investigated (P-31), or re-investigated (P-34), or re-dated (P-12, P-29), to be properly exploited for the IGCP-158 B aims.

Though the data base has generally been improved, only in the three synthesis regions — the mountains, the lake districts and the coastal zone — the interregional correlations may be attempted. The data from other regions are too fragmentary. However no attempts of interregional correlations or concluding chapters in the scale of synthesis regions are presented here. This is the task for a small group of authors being on the way to prepare the synthesis of IGCP-158 B results in Poland, originating from this volume, as the contribution to the final book of the Project: „Palaeoecological events in Europe during the last 15 000 years — patterns, processes and problems”, its edition planned for 1989.

REFERENCES

- Berglund B. E., & Birks H. J. B., 1985. Palaeohydrological changes in the temperate zone in the last 15 000 years. Subproject B. Lake and mire environments. Suggestions for regional syntheses. November 1985.
- & — 1986. Suggestions for regional/national syntheses of palaeoecological events since deglaciation — an approach for IGCP 158 B synthesis. Additional guidelines, November 1986.

Magdalena Ralska-Jasiewiczowa