

Publication

550-Year Climate Periodicity in the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau During the Late Mid-Holocene: Insights and Implications

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Significant multi-centennial climate oscillations have been documented in a number of well-dated climate records across the Holocene epoch and left various imprints in human cultural history. In this study,

we developed speleothem $\delta^{13}\text{C}$, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, trace elements, and lamina thickness records from the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau (YGP). Our high-resolution and precisely dated records show a significant ~ 550 -yr cycle as the dominant pattern of regional temperature and vegetation variations between $\sim 5,870$ and $\sim 3,670$ years ago. The phase analyses of the 550-yr cycles among our speleothem records, other Northern Hemisphere climate records, solar activity index, and Atlantic meridional overturning circulation (AMOC) variations suggest that this climate cycle has a large spatial extent, and may be causally linked to the AMOC changes through coupled oceanic-atmospheric processes. Additionally, the first cold phase of the ~ 550 -yr cycle in our records coincides with the major cultural development on the YGP at $\sim 5,500$ – $5,000$ years ago, suggesting a critical relationship between climate and prehistorical cultural changes in the region.

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