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Early Holocene basinal sediments of the Dakhleh Oasis region, Egypt (theses)

Sediments from basins in four contrasting geologic-topographic settings in Dakhleh Oasis region (approx. 25.5°N, 29°E) record perennial, intermittent and ephemeral lacustrine conditions, with variable eolian sediment influx, inversely proportional to lacustrine dominance. Twenty radiocarbon dates on artifactual ostrich eggshell and hearth charcoal firmly to loosely associated with these sediments range from *ca.* 8,800 years to *ca.* 4,700 years B.P. This information provides a general picture of an Early Holocene pluvial beginning a few centuries before *ca.* 9,000 years B.P., followed by gradual desiccation to *ca.* 4,500 years B.P. Data currently available do not permit subdivision of this interval. Differences of hydrogeology and morphometry amongst and within basin types complicate the interpretation of hydrological response to pluviation in the Dakhleh region.

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