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Interglacial vegetation in England

By R. G. WEST, Botany School, University of Cambridge

Palaeobotanical studies of seven interglacial deposits in England have led to the recognition of three distinct interglacial horizons during the Pleistocene. These are the Cromerian (oldest), Hoxnian and Ipswichian interglacial periods (WEST 1955, 1958). The vegetational history during each of these periods is relatively well-known, and it is becoming clear that each interglacial has its own characteristic vegetational history which is different from those of the others. Comparisons amongst these interglacial vegetational histories and the Post-glacial history of the British flora should lead to interesting conclusions on the various factors affecting the successive immigrations and the behaviour of the flora during the interglacials, but as yet an insufficient number of deposits have been studied to make such comparisons possible.

- WEST, R. G., 1955: The Glaciations and Interglacials of East Anglia; a summary and discussion of recent research. — *Quaternaria*, 2, P. 45—52.
— 1958: The Pleistocene Epoch in East Anglia. — *Journal of Glaciology*, 3, 23, P. 211—216.

Diskussion. E. S. DEEVEY: How much climatic interpretation can be given to the differences between vegetational pictures for the 3 main interglacials? E. g. is the varying stratigraphic position of the *Corylus*-maximum of climatic significance or purely the result of phytogeographic changes during preceding glaciations? Was any interglacial warmer at its climax than another? — R. G. WEST: I consider that both climatic factors during the interglacials and phytogeographical changes during the preceding glaciations will be found to account for the chief differences between the vegetational successions of the three interglacials. In the absence of sufficient evidence it is impossible to evaluate the parts played by each of these. There is some evidence to suggest that the Eemian Interglacial may have been warmer at its thermal maximum than the preceding interglacials.