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The peatlands of Little Balaton as historical archive  
“ palaeoecological research in the surroundings of the  
lateantique castle in Keszthely Fenékpuszta

SYLVIA HIPP<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>) UNIVERSITY OF OSNABRÜCK, GERMANY

With an average depth of only 3-4 m the Lake Balaton reacts very sensitive to changes in precipitation and temperature in its catchment area. For palaeoecological research the huge peat lands in its surroundings are of special importance because deposits like gyttia and sedentary material like peat save the information about the environmental history in the area. This work presents the results of a multidisciplinary palaeoecological study on sedimentary sequences (undisturbed cores) in the semi-terrestrial environment of Little Balaton close to the late antique castle in Keszthely Fenékpuszta with the focus on three main questions:

- Which are the long-term changes of hydrological conditions in the Lake Balaton System?
- Which conditions to human activity follow from this?
- What is the influence of men to the natural development?

The results of sedimentological and geochemical approaches were compared with palynological and macrobotanical results, which are collect by former works at this area.