

Lake Tana

Detecting dry periods at the source of the Blue Nile.

Henry Lamb and co-workers from Aberystwyth University, Wales, were able to obtain over one hundred meters of lake sediment core from Lake Tana, the source of the Blue Nile. These sediment cores are believed to hold a 200,000 year long climate history, from the last interglacial to the present. The entire core has been scanned at a

resolution of 2mm, recording chemistry as well as radiography. A total of ~ 120 meters of cores from multiple holes have been scanned to distinguish lithogenic elements derived by erosion of catchment basalts, from those deposited by within-lake precipitation. With a lateral resolution of 2 millimeters, a total number of 60000 points were scanned with a measurement time of 10 seconds per point. The total scan time for these samples was about 30 days, with 6 hours of scanning per day.

Read more: **Late Pleistocene desiccation of Lake Tana, source of the Blue Nile**, Lamb H.F., Bates C.R., Coombes P.V., Marshall M.H., Umer M., Davies S.J., Dejen E. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 26 (2007) 287–299

