Notices

International Symposium on Evolution of Deserts
February 11-19 1992

The Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, the Arid Zone Research Association of India, Jodhpur and the Deccan College, Pune are pleased to announce an International Symposium on the Evolution of Deserts to be held at the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad during February 11-19, 1992.

The symposium will also include the final meeting of the IGCP-252 working-group on the Past and Future Evolution of Deserts. It is proposed that the symposium at Ahmesdabad will be followed by a four day, 1200 km field-trip to the Indian Thar Desert. The symposium will have a theme session on the Climate Changes in Deserts over different time scales. The focus of the theme session will be to compare climatic sequences from various deserts (particularly with that of the Thar Desert) and the marine paleoclimatic records. A series of invited review talks on climate modelling, paleoclimatic studies, remote sensing studies and paleoanthropology are also planned.
Schedule

Registration forms should be requested from the organizer without delay

Timetable:

Second circular:	July 1, 1991
Abstract and registration: fee deadline (receipt in Ahmedabad):	September 15, 1991
Acceptance of abstract (to be mailed by):	October 15, 1991
Scientific programme (to be mailed by):	December 15, 1991

Invitation letters

Scientists needing invitation letters earlier than Sept. 15, 1991 are requested to send an indicative one page abstract(s) on standard A-4 size paper complete with title(s). A revised abstract, if desired, can be submitted later (e.e by Sept. 15, 1991).

Address for Correspondence

Dr. A.K. Singhvi, Convenor, Symposium on Deserts, Earth Science Division, Physical Research Laboratory, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad 380 009, India

Phone: 0091-272-462129(0), 490116(R) Telegram: Research, Ahmedabad Telex: 0121-6397
Fax: 0091-272-445292 E.Mail: root @ prl. ernet.in [via Internet to A.K.Singhvi]

Proceedings of a Quaternary Dating Workshop
ANU, Canberra, 1990

The proceedings of the workshop, edited by Richard Gillespie, are now available. 22 papers are included on: radiocarbon dating, amino acid racemisation, TL and disequilibrium dating methods. Copies may be purchased for $15 including postage, prepaid orders in Australian Dollars only, from:

Secretary, Dept. of Biogeography and Geomorphology, RSPacS, Australian National University, PO Box 4, Canberra ACT 2601.

Postdoctoral position
in thermoluminescence and optical dating at Simon Fraser University

Applications are invited for a postdoctoral position in TL and optical dating. Research involves the physics of the luminescence of minerals and development of dating methods. Candidates should have a Ph.D. in physics or geophysics. Salary range is C$23,000-$28,000.

To apply send c.v. and names of 2-3 referees to D. J. Huntley, Physics Dept., SFU, Burnaby, B.C. V5A 1S6, Canada. (bitnet: USERDRHU@SFU).

Interlaboratory Comparisons

1. TL intercomparison on loess - towards a conclusion

It is one year by now that those laboratories involved in the intercomparison on TL dating of four loess samples discussed the preliminary results at the TL/ESR Specialist Seminar in Clermont. The time has come to collect all data for a report, which will be sent out to all participating laboratories for further discussion and comments. I support the suggestion made by some colleagues to request *Ancient TL* to publish the final report as a special issue, but other ideas for publication are also welcome. If necessary, the opportunity to elaborate on any persistent disagreements should be made available as individual comments in the final report under the name(s) of the co-author(s).

In order to advance the completion of the intercomparison final report, all participants are requested to transmit their results to Heidelberg by email, fax or letter within one month after this issue of AnTL appears. Please include the following points: grain size fraction, radiation sources, light source used for bleaching and duration, delay between bleaching and regeneration, delay between irradiation and and TL readout, pre-heating techniques and efforts to remove anomalous fading, optical filters and photomultiplier specifications, heating rate, method used for equivalent dose evaluation, a-value, radioactivity data (including the method), estimated moisture content, effective dose-rate and TL-age. †

After the compilation of all information received I shall send the draft to a reviewer. After the reviewer's comments the draft report will circulate among all participiants for further comments before the final report is submitted for publication. It is important to find an early agreement on the form of publication (e.g. as a report by the whole group or as individual short papers) and the periodical (AnTL or other). Let me know your suggestions, please.

Ludwig Zoeller
Forschungsstelle Archaeometrie der Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften, c/o MPI für Kernphysik, Postfach 103980
D-6900 Heidelberg, Germany.
fax: ++49-6221-516540 email: ZOELLER@DHDMPI5V.

† ***Ed Note:*** A specification for sediment ages for a forthcoming Sediment Date List is in preparation.

2. "Old" (>200 ka) loess sample available for interlaboratory comparison of TL sediment-dating procedures.

Prepared portions (≈4-11 μm size fraction) of an independently dated loess sample will be available to interested laboratories. The age is known from a zircon fission-track date for an associated tephra bed. The expected age of this loess has been obtained by the partial-bleach TL method. The objective of this interlaboratory test is to assess the accuracy of different TL procedures for the dating of old loess, and to compare results (to be made public) from different laboratories. This test may help to resolve the continuing ambiguity, both within the TL dating community and the end-user community of earth scientists, about the accuracy of TL sediment dates older than ≈100 ka.

To simplify this proposed interlaboratory comparison, participants will be asked to measure only equivalent-dose values, by each of two approaches. They should use both their own usual TL procedures and some of those employed by the Heidelberg laboratory. Specific procedures from that laboratory will be recommended to interested participants. This will be a "blind" test, with the independent age and expected equivalent dose being revealed after completion of the test.

Interested persons should write to: Dr. Glenn Berger, Department of Geology, Western Washington University, Bellingham WA 98225-9080, U.S.A.

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Compiled by Ann Wintle

Errata

Cosmic ray dose-rate determination using a portable gamma-ray spectrometer
Ancient TL **9(1)**, by Andeas Bürgi and Markus Flisch

On page 4, 5th line, the equation $\dot{D}[\mu Gy/a] = 8.5 \times (cpm_{discr.-ch.}) - 54.3$ should have read:

$$\dot{D}[\mu Gy/a] = 8.5 \times (cr_{discr.-ch.}) - 54.3$$

The Editor.

Pairs precision required in alpha counting: further errata

Referring to p.12 of *Ancient TL* **8(2)**, in the line immediately following equation (4) the term (α/t) should raised to the power 0.5, i.e. $(\alpha/t)^{0.5}$; also in equation (5) the first term on the right hand side should be $(86.6)^2 (\alpha/t)$.

Furthermore the denominator in equation (8) should be

$$(\alpha t) \{67+796(B-C)\}^2$$

Referring to p.10 of *Ancient TL* **9(1)**, the correct version of equation (7) is

$$D_\gamma = 67.0\ \alpha_u + 104.7\alpha_h$$

$$= 67.0\ \alpha + 37.7\ \alpha_h$$

and the correct version of equation (9) is

$$D_\beta + D_\gamma = 153.6\ \alpha_u + 162.0\ \alpha_h$$

$$= 153.6\ \alpha + 8.4\ \alpha_h$$

I apologise to readers who have been mystified and I am grateful to D Questiaux for drawing my attention to the first three errors.
M.J. Aitken.