| Samples                | $^{36}$ Cl/Cl × 10 <sup>-15</sup> | <sup>36</sup> Cl m <sup>-3</sup> air STP                       | HCl (ppbV)  |  |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-------------|--|
| #1 particulates<br>HCl | $63 \pm 7$<br>$655 \pm 52$        | $1.45 \pm 0.16 \times 10^{3}$<br>$1.99 \pm 0.18 \times 10^{4}$ | 0.26 ± 0.05 |  |
| #2 particulates<br>HCL | $350 \pm 20$<br>$3260 \pm 130$    | $3.0 \pm 0.2 \times 10^4$<br>$2.9 \pm 0.2 \times 10^5$         | 2.0 ± 0.2   |  |

These results show that about 90% of <sup>36</sup>Cl atoms are associated with HCl, the main gaseous Cl compound. More data will be available at the time of the conference for comparison to the calculated production rates and to the measured deposition rates (Elmore *et al* 1987; Conard 1986). <sup>10</sup>Be has not been measured in these samples but <sup>10</sup>Be/<sup>36</sup>Cl ratios can be inferred from numerous data in the stratosphere at many latitudes and altitudes (Wahlen *et al*, unpublished data), and can be compared to <sup>10</sup>Be/<sup>36</sup>Cl in polar deposition (Conard 1986). This comparison suggests that Cl might at times be strongly removed from the polar stratosphere.

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# THE COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY/RCD UNITED KINGDOM ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA BASE

### A J WALKER, CHERRY LAVELL<sup>1</sup> and R L OTLET

Radiocarbon Dating, Oxfordshire OX11 0LS England

The idea for a data base maintained specifically for archaeological <sup>14</sup>C dates originating from sites within the United Kingdom was first proposed some 10 years ago. With support from the Council for British Archaeology, this data base is now a working reality available for researchers and submitters in UK archaeology. It contains dates from three sources: 1) published dates (*RADIO-CARBON* and elsewhere) included in the Council for British Archaeology Index of Archaeological Sites; 2) further published dates collated ready for publication in a Supplement to the Index; 3) some data from the Oxford and Groningen Laboratories transferred directly from their laboratory data bases.

In the course of the last 12 months, the original data have, after detailed checking, been completely re-entered in a revised and more practical format from that published previously (Walker *et al* 1990; Walker *et al*, in press). The new format makes greater use of free text entry and has fewer keyed fields, making the data base easier to read for the user and providing greater protection from wholesale copying. The database management system used remains STATUSE (Harwell Computer Power), this being particularly powerful in its ability to retrieve data from free text. Data can be retrieved on screen, hard copy or computer file and, by the use of purpose written macros within the data base, in any format required by the user. Although the internal format is designed to facil-

<sup>1</sup>Council for British Archaeology

itate 'on the spot' screen or paper presentation for research, text entry is still orientated towards the HLF fields style previously described (Wilcock *et al* 1988), as it is ideally suited to wider data exchange, in particular to the IRDB minimum entry fields (Kra 1989; Walker & Kra 1988).

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## <sup>14</sup>C DATING AND MEASUREMENTS OF CLIMATIC PROXY INDICES OF LOESS SEQUENCE TO RECORD PALEOMONSOON VARIATION ON THE LOESS PLATEAU OF CHINA DURING THE LAST 16,000 YEARS

## ZHOU WEIJIAN<sup>1</sup>, AN ZHISHENG<sup>1</sup>, JOHN HEAD<sup>2</sup>, D J DONAHUE<sup>3</sup>, REN JIANZHANG<sup>1</sup> LIN BENHAI<sup>1</sup>, ZHOU MINGFU<sup>1</sup>, YAN YUANSHENG<sup>1</sup> and ZHANG JINGZHAO<sup>1</sup>

A loess profile, 15 m thick, which has developed in the Baxie River Valley, west of the Loess Plateau, can be considered to be representative of loess-paleosol sequences formed over the last 16,000 years. The <sup>14</sup>C determinations of various organic fractions and thermoluminescence (TL) dates of quartz from the profile indicate that the paleosol complex, 8-4.9 m deep below the top of the profile, which can be interpreted as recording the Holocene Optimum, and reflects the prevalence of Asian summer monsoon circulation, developed between 10,000 and 6000 BP. A loess layer, 1.25 m thick, at a depth of 9.25-8 m, is characterized by low organic content, low magnetic susceptibility and more positive organic  $\delta^{13}$ C values. These data indicate that the loess layer records an abrupt change in Asian monsoon climate spanning 10,870-10,230 BP. A weakly pedogenic paleosol at 9.25-9.75 m depth marks the termination of the Last Glacial period and the reactivation of the summer monsoons. This paleosol spans the range from 12,500 to 11,000 BP. Two <sup>14</sup>C determinations on the humin fraction of the organic component of the base of the higher paleosol complex and the top of the lower paleosol gave ages of  $10,230 \pm 230$  cal BP and 10,870± 270 cal BP, respectively. These ages mark the beginning and termination of an abrupt event involving increased dust influx under the domination of winter-monsoon conditions. This abrupt change seems to have lagged behind the equivalent Younger Dryas event found in the North Atlantic region. Further work is needed to provide an explanation for this time lag.

The organic  $\delta^{13}$ C values from the profile range from -21% to -24%. The more positive  $\delta^{13}$ C value suggested that the proportion of C3-type plants in the river valley of the loess plateau increased when summer monsoon influence strengthened, and C4-type vegetation increased when the summer monsoon influence weakened. Magnetic susceptibility and organic content were low during loess deposition, also reflecting domination of winter monsoons over summer monsoons.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Xi'an Laboratory of Loess and Quaternary Geology, Academia Sinica, Xi'an, Shaanxi Province 710061 People's Republic of China

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Radiocarbon Dating Research Unit, Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University, Canberra, ACT 2601 Australia

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>NSF Accelerator Facility for Radioisotope Analysis, The University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona 85721 USA