An integrated approach to tracking paleohydrological changes along the Amazon Basin

Universidade Federal





Moreira, L.S.; Moreira-Turcq, P.; Cordeiro, R.C.; Turcq, B.; Aniceto, K.C.; Moreira-Ramírez, M; Soares Cruz, A.P.; Caquineau, S.; Silva, V.C The Amazon Basin is an important key component for modulating climate due to its role on hydrological cycle in addition to the carbon storage amenable to fast release to the atmosphere throughout land use change or droughtinduced feedbacks.



Terrestrial NPP – Zhao et al., 2010





In the last decade, extreme events increased in frequency and intensity (extreme droughts in 2005, 2010 and 2016 and extreme floods in 2009, 2012,2014

Marengo & Espinoza, 2016



ARTICLE

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Post-drought decline of the Amazon carbon sink

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Drought impact on forest carbon dynamics and fluxes in Amazonia

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FEATURES | August 9, 2018

NASA finds Amazon drought leaves long legacy of Carbon exchange in an Amazon forest: from hours to years damage

By Carol Rasmussen, NASA's Earth Science News Team

Persistent effects of a severe drought on Amazoniar forest canopy

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SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

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Record-breaking warming and extreme drought in the Amazon rainforest during the course of El Niño 2015–2016

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Water Resour Manage (2012) 26:4553-4568 DOI 10.1007/s11269-012-0166-2

Evaluation of Vulnerability to Extreme Climatic Events in the Brazilian Amazonia: Methodological Proposal to the Rio Acre Basin

José Antônio Sena · Marcos Aurélio V. Freitas · Daniel de Berrêdo · Lazaro Costa Fernandes

... have drawn attention to the vulnerability of tropical forests to climate perturbations

to predict the impacts of future climate changes on amazonian ecosystems we must to look to the past....





PURPOSE

Paleohydrological and paleoclimate changes and its impacts on carbon accumulation in amazonian floodplain lakes

Study area

- The Amazonian floodplain domain covers 44% of the entire basin;
- However paleohydrological reconstructions of Amazonian floodplain lakes are lacking for very large areas instead the high density of floodplain lakes







 During the Holocene we observed a strong fluvial impact on the floodplain lakes sedimentary process

How to track these changes?

A promising tool to identify the periods with high and low fluvial influence on floodplain lakes is <u>clay composition</u>

Amazonas/Solimões – suspended sediments presents high smectite content



Drainage basin "Terra Firme" forest - 100% composed of kaolinite

sediment supply: Fluvial x drainage basin



Amorim, 2010

And to track the impacts of the paleohydrogical changes...

Organic geochemical signatures help to identify the source of the organic matter

1 - Paleoclimatic influences on sedimentary process

Transition from a dry to a wet climate across the Holocene

Santa ninha and Maraca



The mid-Holocene dry event

 Many amazonian lacustrine records have shown a severe mid-Holocene drought (between 7000 and 3000 cal years BP)

(Absy, 1979; Behling and Hooghiemstra, 1999; Behling et al., 2001; Bush et al., 2007; Cordeiro et al., 1997, 2008; De Freitas et al., 2001; Desjardins et al., 1996; Irion et al., 2006; Mayle and Power, 2008; Mayle et al., 2000; Moreira et al., 2012; Sifeddine et al., 1994, 2001; Soubies, 1980; Turcq et al., 1998; Weng et al., 2002).

The mid-Holocene dry event

• The mid-Holocene dry event can be tracked from north to south in both the Andes and the Amazon lowlands (Bush et al., 2007).

The mid-Holocene dry event

And was also recorded in Santa Ninha and Maracá Lake

Lago Santa Ninha – dry period during the Middle Holocene (5600 – 3000 cal years BP)



 \downarrow smectite + \uparrow Kaolinite

Santa Ninha lake –a reduced Amazon River inflow into this lake was evident

Lago Santa Ninha – humid phase during the Late Holocene (the last 3000 years cal BP)



 \downarrow Kaolinite; \uparrow smectite

an increase in Amazon River inflow

Lago Maracá – dry period in the Middle Holocene

3.600 a 2.700 cal years BP- kaolinite-rich sediments

Lago Maracá – wet-Late Holocene

2.700 to present cal years BP- increased smectite content

What happens with the organic carbon content?

Source of the sedimentary organic matter

A higher proportion of phytoplankton was observed during high river flows

High contribution of C3-land plants carried from the drainage basin

the Santa Ninha and Maracá records show a consistent overall pattern of change to wetter climatic conditions from the middle to the late Holocene, in agreement with others paleoclimatic studies in the Amazon Basin

But in others floodplain lakes the river influence was not linked to paleoclimatic changes...

2- TOC content trend out of phase with paleoclimatic conditions

Lago Preto and Quistococha

Preto lake

A reduced river inflow was observed in the Late Holocene wet phase

This reduced river inflow was also accompained by increased organic carbon content

A higher proportion of phytoplankton was observed during high river flows

High contribution of C3-land plants carried from the drainage basin

Quistococha lake

A kaolinite-rich sediment corresponds to a high organic carbon content

High river influence

Preto and Quistococha lakes

Process that influenced the transition from a high fluvial influence to a low river inflow?

> Neotectonism? Avulsion of the river?

Negro River Basin – Airo Lake

 The main clay mineralogy of Negro River basin is kaolinite – smectite was not detected in our sediment core – but this analysis is not finished...

Grain-size fractions can also help to identify the river influence

Conclusions

- The paleohydrological changes of the Solimoes, Amazon and Negro river strongly affect the floodplain lakes sedimentary process;
- The sedimentary organic carbon content was strongly affected by the variations in the fluvial sediment supply to the floodplain lakes:

 high fluvial sediment supply – low organic carbon contents due to a clastic dilution of the organic matter produced in the lake

- low fluvial influence – high carbon content

Conclusions

The source of sedimentary OM was also influenced by the river hydrodinamic changes

- high fluvial sediment supply – high contribution of phytoplancton to the sedimentary organic matter pool

- low fluvial influence – large proportion of C3-land plants

Thanks merci obrigada