

Paleoecological investigations and extrafossil findings in a loess sediment in the former forefield of the Wuerm-glacier (Austria)

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Research on the Pleistocene Salzach-Glacier has already started in the late 19th century by Eduard Brückner. In the 20th century a detailed geomorphological map was presented, and in 1975 a loess profile at the village of Duttendorf (Upper Austria) was examined for the first time, showing a ¹⁴C-age of about 22.650±100 yrs (uncalibrated). Recent stratigraphical datings show similar results, although the sediment may be strongly disturbed by water action and probably contains several hiati.

Pollen analysis of the upper five meters of the profile points to a diverse flora with a mix of wetland and steppe conditions. In a depth of 5 meters, a specimen of the fungal spore of *Asterosporium* was found, and may give additional information on the ecological conditions at the study site.