

# MIDDLE AND LATE PLEISTOCENE LOESS-PALAEOSOL ARCHIVES IN EAST CROATIA: MULTI-PROXY PALAEOECOLOGICAL STUDIES ON ZMAJEVAC AND ŠARENGRAD II SEQUENCES

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## Abstract:

Multi-proxy palaeoenvironmental analyses on the two loess-palaeosol sequences of Šarengrad II and Zmajevac (Croatia) provided the opportunity to obtain various data on climatic and environmental events that occurred in the southern part of the Carpathian Basin during the past 350,000 years. Palaeoecological horizons were reconstructed using sedimentological data (organic matter and carbonate content, grain-size distribution and magnetic susceptibility) and the dominance-based malacological results (MZs) supported by habitat and richness charts, moreover multi-variate statistics (cluster analysis). The correlation of the reconstructed palaeoecological horizons with global climatic trends (Marine Isotope Stages) determined the main accumulation processes in the examined areas. The palaeoecological analyses revealed specific accumulation conditions at both sequences, fluvial and aeolian environments at Šarengrad and a possible forest refuge at Zmajevac.

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**Key words:** palaeoecology, malacology, sedimentology, Šarengrad, Zmajevac, Croatia

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## INTRODUCTION

Multi-proxy investigations on loess-palaeosol sequences provide palaeoecological information about the environmental and climatic conditions during the period of sediment accumulation. Multi-proxy investigations of numerous sites in the Carpathian Basin (Sümegi, 1989, 1996, 2005; Sümegi *et al.*, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020; Újvári *et al.*, 2010, 2014) show evidence for a mosaic-like environmental situation during the Quaternary (Sümegi, 1995, 1996; Sümegi and Krolopp, 1995, 2002; Sümegi and Hertelendi, 1998).

This study presents palaeoecological reconstruction based on sedimentological and reprocessing of previously published malacological data (Hupuczki *et al.*, 2010; Molnár *et al.*, 2010; Molnár, 2015) of two East Croatian loess-

palaeosol sequences (Zmajevac and Šarengrad II), situated on the right bank of the Danube River (Fig. 1). Various investigations of these profiles have been already published (Galović *et al.*, 2009, 2011; Banak *et al.*, 2013; Galović, 2014, 2016; Galović and Peh, 2016), but both sedimentological and malacological results were available only from these two sequences. Correlating these sequences with each other to present a continuous chronological-palaeoenvironmental reconstruction for East Croatian loess during the Middle and Late Pleistocene. By combining previously completed malacological investigations of these sequences (Hupuczki *et al.*, 2010; Molnár *et al.*, 2010; Molnár, 2015), with new sedimentological results and absolute age data (Galović *et al.*, 2009; Wacha *et al.*, 2013), we generate a robust palaeoecological reconstruction and chronostratigraphic correlation for this region.

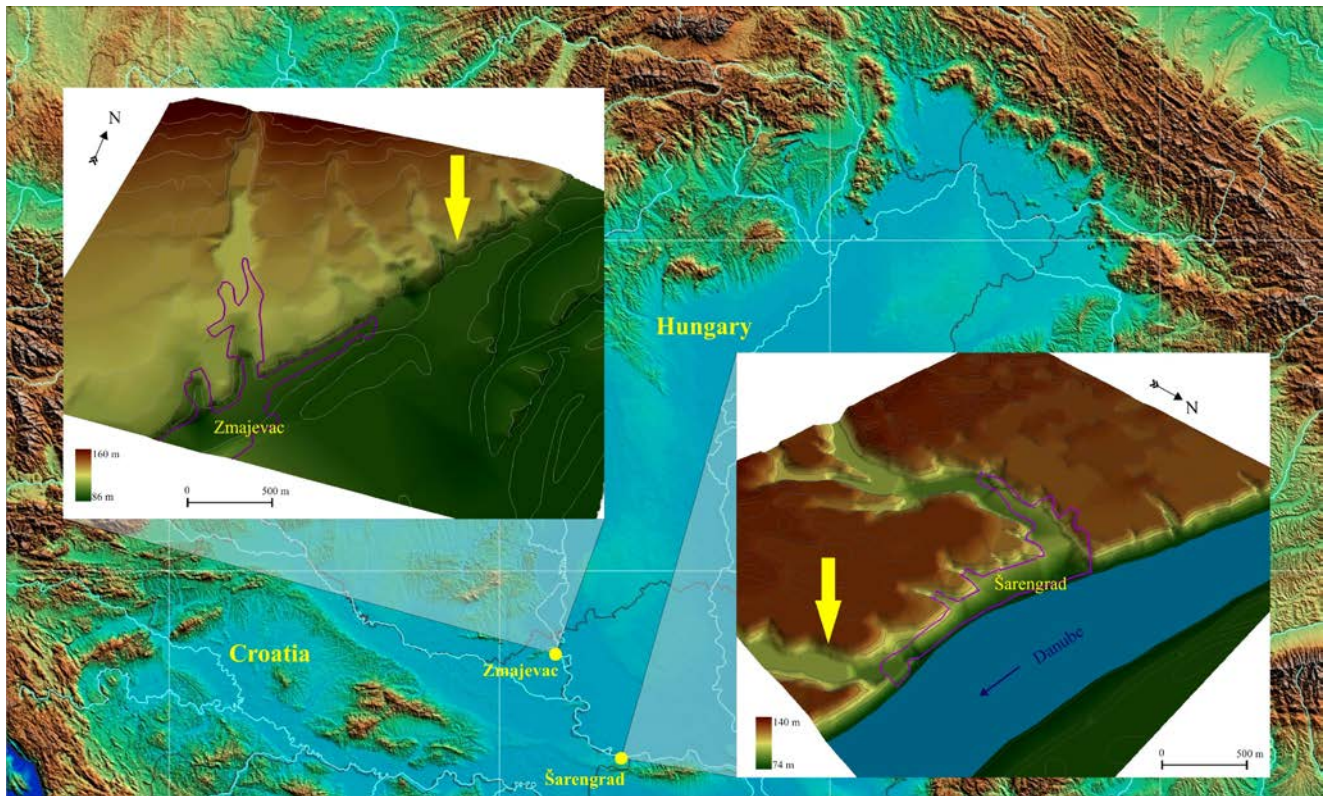


Fig. 1. Aerial DTMs showing the locations of the examined loess-paleosol sequences (yellow arrows show the exact locations of the sequences; contour lines remarks 10 m elevation).

## GEOGRAPHICAL SETTING AND LITHOLOGY

Both sequences are located at the eastern border of Croatia near the Danube River (Fig. 1) and were sampled during the Croatian-Hungarian bilateral agreement in 2008. The ca. 23 m high Šarengrad II sequence is situated in the NE facing wall of a dry valley, a few hundred metres from Šarengrad village. The 25 m high Zmajevac sequence is also located close to the Danube River, but a floodplain of the river is wider in this area (Fig. 1). Neither of these sequences was sampled completely, because of their heights and unapproachability.

The 23 m high Šarengrad sequence was sampled between 9 and 22 m. The sampled portion was divided into 5 parts (sediment layers) (Fig. 2). From bottom to top, the first layer is an alluvial sandy silt layer at 2200–2062 cm depth. Above this site, a 275 cm thick alluvial clayey silt layer occurs at 2062–1787 cm depth. The next layer up contains a 325 cm thick flood-plain (or infusion) loess (Pécsi, 1990) layer at 1787–1462 cm. From the top of this layer, the fading corrected IRSL results showed the age of the horizon to be around  $324 \pm 36$  ka at 1500 cm (Wacha *et al.*, 2013). Between 1462–1222 cm a 240 cm thick palaeosol complex developed containing a carbonate accumulation horizon at 1500–1462 cm. The uppermost sampled part of the sequence from 1222 cm to 900 cm contains a more than 300 cm thick loess layer, with an additional fading cor-

rected IRSL data at 1000 cm, showing the age of  $228 \pm 21$  ka (Wacha *et al.*, 2013). The non-sampled parts of the sequence comprised the lowest 1 m of the section, which consists of alluvial sand (2300–2200 cm), and the uppermost part of the sequence (900–0 cm), which contained loess and palaeosol layers (Wacha *et al.*, 2013).

The whole Zmajevac sequence could be separated into 8 layers: 4 loesses, 3 palaeosols and a pedosediment horizon with fluvial interbeddings (Galović *et al.*, 2009). However, the sampling of the Zmajevac sequence was difficult, owing to the unapproachability of several parts of the sequence due to a lack of adequate equipment (e.g. scaffolding). Thus only 3 parts of the 2500 cm high profile were sampled, so the lithologic description is necessarily confined to these 3 parts (or sub-sequences), which were named Zmajevac Upper (525–130 cm), Zmajevac Middle (1310–1150 cm) and Zmajevac Lower (2503–2403 cm) (Fig. 3). The Zmajevac Upper overlaps the uppermost loess layer, the Zmajevac Middle partly overlaps the second palaeosol and the third loess layers, and the Zmajevac Lower is in the lowermost (3<sup>rd</sup>) palaeosol layer. Absolute age data (MAAD IRSL) from this section (Galović *et al.*, 2009) ranges between  $17.7 \pm 1.9$  ka to  $217 \pm 22$  ka (Fig. 3).

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The sampling interval was 25 cm for both sequences, except the Zmajevac Lower sequence where the sampling

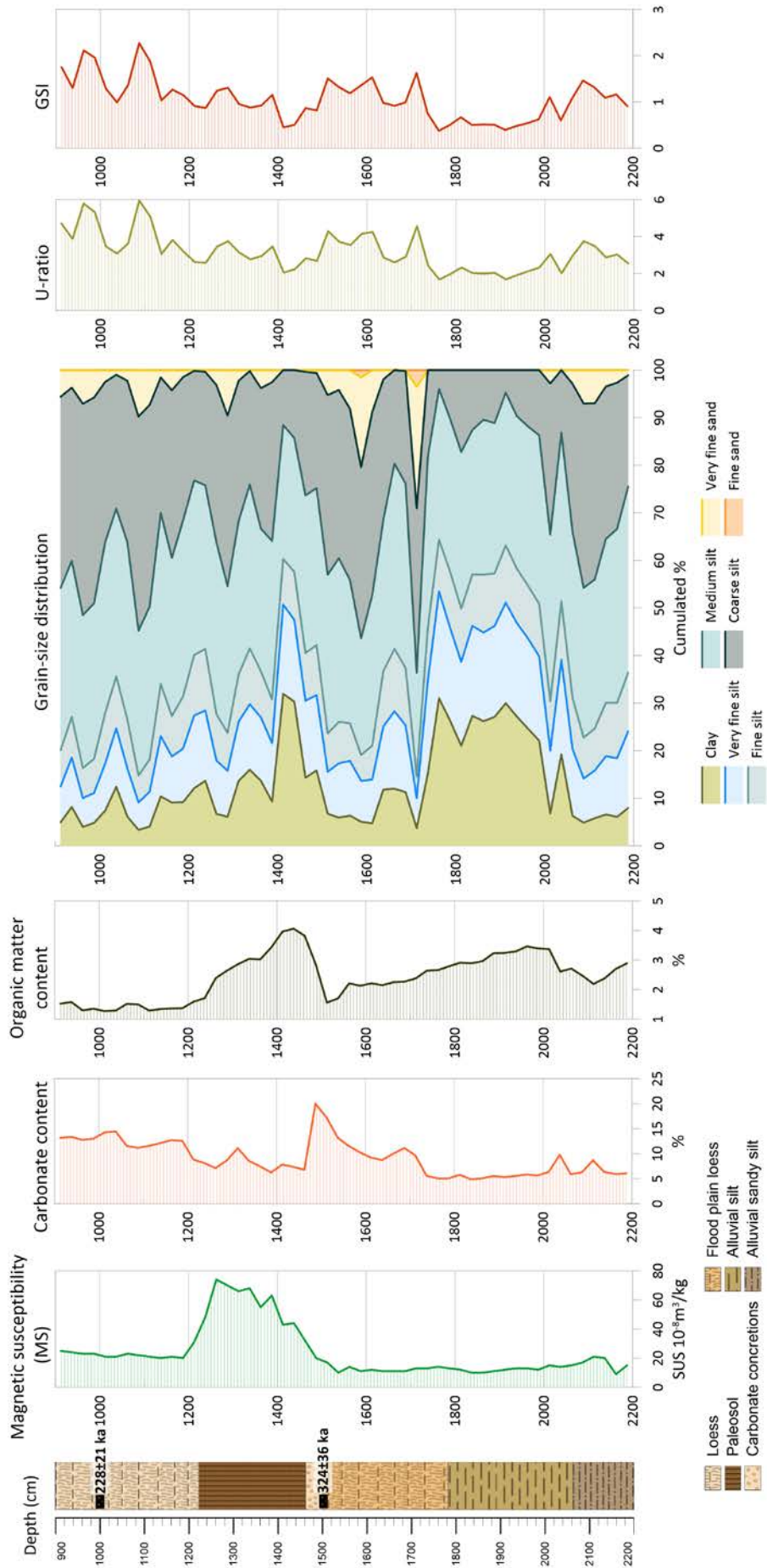
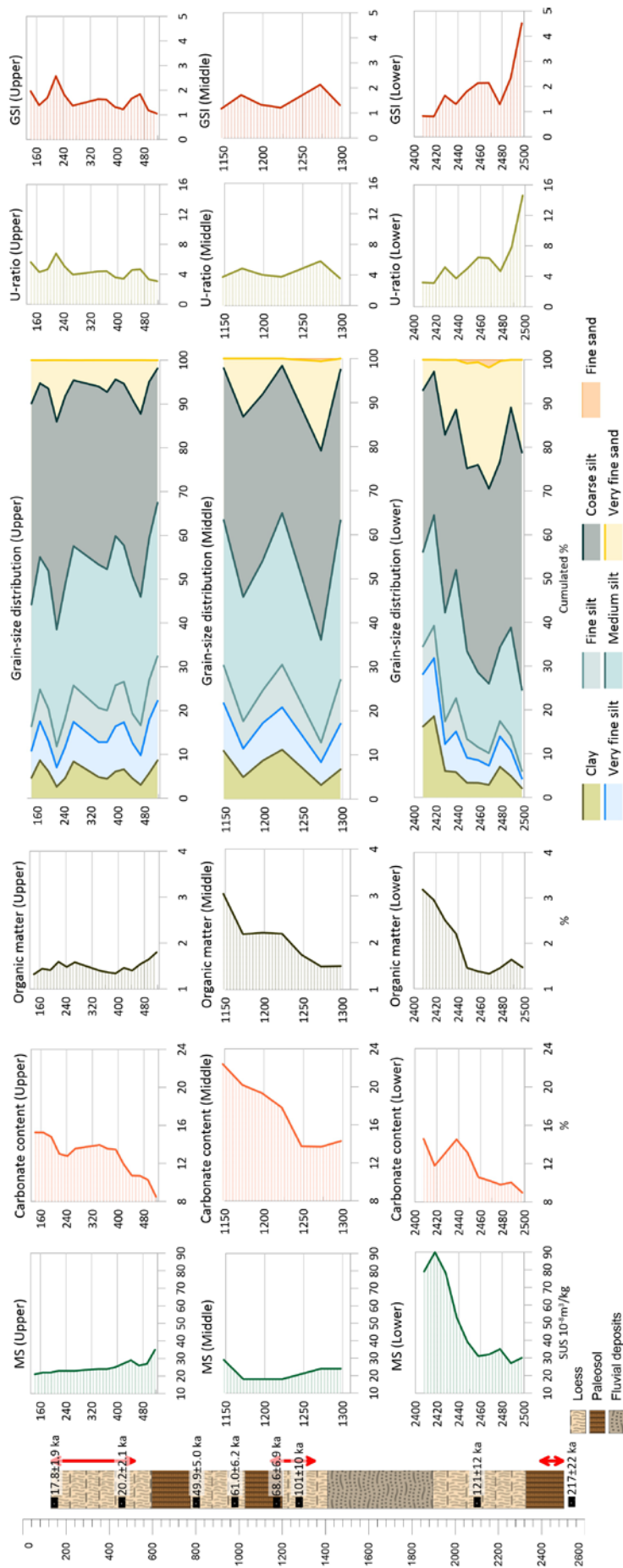


Fig. 2. Lithology and the results of sedimentological analyses of Šarengrad II sequence. Fading corrected IRSL data was obtained from Wacha *et al.* (2013).





**Fig. 3.** Lithology and the results of sedimentological analyses of Zmajevac sequence. Red arrows indicate the sampled sub-sequences (ZM Upper, Middle and Lower). MAAD IRSI data was obtained from Galović *et al.* (2009).

interval was 10 cm (Fig. 3). About 5 kg of bulk sediment was taken from each interval. Most of the sediment was used for malacological examinations (wet-sieving), the remaining sediment (approx. 50 g) was used for sedimentological analyses. Loss on ignition (LOI), magnetic susceptibility (MS), and grain-size distribution analyses were carried out on both sequences.

It is important to notice the differences between the applied IRSL methods at Zmajevac and Šarengrad II. At Zmajevac, Galović *et al.* (2009) used MAAD IRSL analyses, which were not corrected for fading, so the age data may be underestimated. At Šarengrad II, Wacha *et al.* (2013) used fading corrected IRSL and post-IR IRSL 225 methods for chronology and they rather accepted the fading corrected IRSL ages. The difference between the chronological methods generates uncertainty in the chronology.

The malacological sampling, cleaning, and identifying were carried out according to the methods by Endre Korolopp and Pál Sümegei (Krolopp, 1983; Sümegei, 1996, 2005). Identification, and the knowledge of each species' climatic and environmental demands, can help for creating palaeoecological reconstruction datasets with rather simple mathematical calculations (Krolopp, 1983; Sümegei, 1989; Krolopp and Sümegei, 1992, 1995; Sümegei and Krolopp, 1995), such as the species' abundance and dominance relations per sample (Krolopp, 1983; Ložek, 1964; Antoine *et al.*, 2001; Alexandrowicz and Dmytruk, 2007). By using these datasets, the snail species can be clustered into palaeoecological groups such as climatic, humidity and vegetation cover demands (Rousseau, 1990a; Rousseau and Kukla, 1994; Sümegei and Krolopp, 1995; Sümegei, 1996, 2005; Rousseau and Puisségur, 1999; Moine *et al.*, 2005). All three factors depend upon each other, besides the changes in other (less important) conditions.

Beyond the dominance and abundance analyses, more sophisticated statistical analyses were also carried out. These statistical analyses were made by using the malacofauna data, based on Podani's classification and ordination operation which was drawn up for comparison of mollusc faunas (Podani, 1978, 1979). The aim of these analyses to find similarities and distinctness among the malacological assemblages in each sample (Rousseau, 1990b, 1991; Rousseau and Puisségur, 1999; Southwood and Henderson, 2000). Cluster analysis was fulfilled by analysis of principal components by using squared Euclidean distance and Ward aggregation method (Dowdeswell, 1982). By the support of these analyses, the determination of samples with the same environmental and deposition conditions was possible, furthermore, the palaeoecological key species could be identified. For the cluster analysis, the Past 3.20 software-kit (Hammer *et al.*, 2001) was used.

The grain size composition of sedimentological samples was carried out using the laser-diffraction method (Konert and Vandenberghe, 1997). All samples were measured for 42 intervals between 0.0001 and 0.5 mm using an EasySizer 2.0 laser diffraction particle sizer in Szeged (Hungary). Cumulated percentage ratio was calculated by each grain-

size range according to Wentworth's scale. U-ratio was calculated ( $16-44 \mu\text{m}/5.5-16 \mu\text{m}$ ) for determining the significant and the subordinate phases of wind transport, such as the temperature and humidity (Vandenberghe, *et al.* 1985, 1997; Vandenberghe and Nugteren, 2001; Nugteren *et al.*, 2004; Vandenberghe, 2013). Besides the U-ratio the grain size index ( $\text{GSI} = 20-50 \mu\text{m}/<20 \mu\text{m}$ ) was calculated. This index even considers the clay fraction, thus it is suitable for determining the formation, transportation, and accumulation of the loess (Rousseau *et al.*, 2002, 2007).

Environmental magnetic analyses were carried out on bulk samples (Zhou *et al.*, 1990; An *et al.*, 1991; Rousseau and Kukla, 1994; Sun and Liu, 2000; Zhu *et al.*, 2004). Firstly, all samples were crushed in a glass mortar after weighing. Then all samples were cased in plastic boxes and dried in the air in an oven at 40°C for 24 hours. Afterwards, magnetic susceptibilities were measured at a frequency of 2 kHz using an MS2 Bartington magnetic susceptibility meter with an MS2E high-resolution sensor (Dearing *et al.*, 1996). All samples were measured six times and the average values of magnetic susceptibility were computed and reported.

The determining of the changes in organic matter and carbonate content loss on ignition (LOI) method were used (Dean, 1974; Heiri *et al.*, 2001). During this procedure, dry and powdered bulk samples were ignited at several temperatures in a furnace. The weight of the samples was measured after each ignition, allowing the weight loss of the organic matter and carbonate content to be quantified. The ignition of the organic matter occurred at 550°C degrees and the carbonate content occurred at 900°C degrees. The results were presented in percentage distribution.

## RESULTS

### Results of sedimentological analyses

#### *Šarengrad II sequence*

The results of the sedimentological analyses are discussed according to the lithologic units of the sequence as described above.

*2200–2062 cm:* At the lowermost, fluvial originated layer, organic matter content (OC) values fluctuated below 3% while the carbonate content was around 5%; aside from one accumulation horizon, where the values reached 8% (Fig. 2). The lower OC may reflect changed energy conditions in the fluvial system because the sediments of flowing water systems usually contain less organic matter (Keller and Swanson, 1979). The clay content in the layer was around 5–6%, besides increased coarse silt and very fine sand proportion, with an average of 10% sand fraction. These characteristics (especially the sand content) reflect more intensive, but steady flow conditions. The graphs of U-ratio (~3–4) and GSI (~1–1.5) seem similar, reflecting the increased amount of coarse grains, especially the sand deposits. The MS values were around ~20 in this layer.

*2062–1787 cm:* In this layer, OC gradually increased to maximum values of around 3.5% in the lower part of the layer. The carbonate content of this layer is around 5%, with a small increase in the lowermost part (~10%). This probably indicates energy changes in the fluvial system (Keller and Swanson, 1979). The clay content increased and fluctuated around 25–30%, meanwhile the sand decreased to zero in this layer. This probably reflects a still or a slow-flowing alluvial accumulation system in this layer. The U-ratio and the GSI values fell around ~2 and ~0.5, indicating the decreased rate of coarse grains. The MS values were below 20 in this layer.

*1787–1462 cm:* In the flood plain loess layer, the OC values could refer to a gradually fell from ~3% to ~1.5%, then from 1500 cm increased above 3%. The decreasing part could refer to the gradually drying environment, and the increased OC amount in the uppermost part of the layer refer infiltration from the cover palaeosol layer. At the uppermost part of the layer, the carbonate content suggests an accumulation horizon (~20%). The clay content fluctuates between ~5% and ~30%. The highest content was at the lowermost part of the layer, then decreased to ~7% in 1600 cm. An increase (~15%) could be noticed from 1500–1462 cm. The gradual clay decrease was interrupted two times (at 1720 and 1580 cm) by increased sand deposits. The lower one resulted in ~30%, the upper one resulted in ~20% sand content. Considering the mean 3–4% sand content in the layer, these events were exceptional. The U-ratio and GSI graphs show increased values (3–4 and 1–1.5) at the sand deposit horizons and the upper part of the layer, indicating coarsen grain-size distribution. MS values reach 40 in the uppermost part of the layer.

*1462–1222 cm:* The palaeosol layer has the highest OC values (~4%) of the sequence. The carbonate content of this layer is around 8%, except at 1310 cm, where it is slightly higher (~10%). This might be linked to decalcification processes in the B horizon (Ding *et al.*, 2001). The clay content gradually increases to 35%, reflecting pedogenetic processes and intensive weathering. The clay content then decreased to 10% mean. At 1250 cm the increased U-ratio and GSI values indicate a less weathered horizon in the palaeosol. On the other hand, the MS values are around 80 in the palaeosol layer and do not indicate any less weathered horizons.

*1222–900 cm:* In the uppermost sampled loess layer the LOI determined organic OC values were around 1.5%, the carbonate content was around 12–15%, which is common in loessy layers in other sequences (Pécsi, 1990). The OC values increased (~2%) while the carbonate content decreased (to ~8%) in the lower part of the layer, initiating the next palaeosol level.

Typical loess layers with low clay and high middle to coarse silt content (Pécsi, 1990; Pye, 1995; Vandenberghe, 2013) characterise the aeolian environment. The clay content is under 10% in this layer except for the lowermost part where it reaches 10%, with increasing OC content. The layer also contains negligible amounts of very fine sand (average 5%), which may reflect higher wind energy during

accumulation (Pye, 1995). Two more intensive sand deposition horizons were noted at ~1100 cm and ~950 cm where the sand content approached 10%. These horizons are well remarked in the U-ratio and GSI graphs as well, with the values of ~6 and ~2–2.2. MS values around 22 were in this horizon, as typical in the barely weathered loess layers.

#### *Zmajevac sequence*

*2503–2403 cm (ZM Lower):* In Zmajevac Lower the organic matter content (OC) gradually increased from 1.5% to 3%, meanwhile the carbonate content (from 9% to 15%) and MS values (from 30 to 90) followed this trend (Fig. 3). Since this sub-sequence extent in the lowermost palaeosol layer, these results may suggest a transition of the palaeosol levels. The clay content, similarly to the OC and carbonate content, gradually increased, between 2430–2403 cm was around 20%. Opposite with the increased clay content, the coarse grain content (coarse silt and sand) decreased, between 2503–2450 cm its ratio reached 70–75%. In this stage, the U-ratio (between 6–13) and the GSI (between 1.5–4.5) values were exceptionally high.

*1310–1150 cm (ZM Middle):* In the palaeosol-loess transition Zmajevac Middle sub-sequence the OC values were initially low (~1.5% to ~2.3%) in the loess and higher (~3%) in the palaeosol layer. The carbonate content does not follow the same trend. In the palaeosol, it is 25% whilst in the loess, it is only 20%. The interpretation of this anomaly could be a carbonate accumulation horizon in the lower part of the palaeosol layer. The clay content fluctuates between 3% and 10% and two increased sand deposition could notice in 1175 cm and 1275 cm, surprisingly the upper one in the palaeosol. Around 1175 cm, the MS values were also surprisingly low, below 20. The U-ratio (~4.5 and ~5.7) and the GSI (~1.6 and ~2.1) evenly indicate the coarse grain deposition in these two horizons.

*525–130 cm (ZM Upper):* The OC and carbonate content of Zmajevac Upper sub-sequence are typical for loessy sediments (1–1.5% and around 15% respectively) (Fig. 3). These circumstances only break in the lower part of the sub-sequence, where a slight increase can be observed in the OC, and parallel with that, a decrease in the carbonate content. This could be indicated by pedogenetic processes of the nearby palaeosol ZSI. The grain-size distribution has a typical, loess like composition: low clay content (5–7%), and very high medium to coarse silt content, around 70% (Pécsi, 1990; Pye, 1995; Vandenberghe, 2013). The amount of very fine sand is higher than usual in the sub-sequence (10–15%), which could be linked to more intensive wind speed during accumulation (Pye, 1995). Three peaks of intensive coarse grain deposition could reconstruct via the U-ratio and GSI graphs. These peaks were around 470 cm (U-ratio: ~4.7; GSI: ~1.75), 220 cm (U-ratio: ~6.9; GSI: ~2.6) and 130 cm (U-ratio: ~5.5; GSI: ~2). MS values – similar to the OC and carbonate content – reflect its loess origins, however, in the lowest part of the sub-sequence the MS values slightly increase, similarly to the OC and carbonate content.

## Results of malacological analyses

### Šarengrad II sequence

The dominance-based malacological analyses resulted in 6 malacological zones (MZs) of 3450 specimens of 51 terrestrial and freshwater snail and clam taxa from 52 samples (Hupuczi *et al.*, 2010; Molnár, 2015). Now, these malacological zones have supplemented with additional data, such as richness, ratio of open vegetation preferring (steppe), shade-loving, temporary flooding, stagnant and moving water species, and the dominance-based cluster analysis (Fig. 4).

**MZ1 (2200–1750 cm):** Sporadic occurrence of mollusc shells have marked this zone, all of the found shells belonged to freshwater species. Regarding this zone overlaps the lowermost two sediment layers which were both fluvial originated, the molluscs support the sedimentological results. The abundance and the richness were negligible in this zone. A higher ratio of still water species could notice around 1800 cm in the alluvial silt layer, which could indicate a cut-off ox-bow lake or back-swamp environment (Figs 2 and 4).

**MZ2 (1750–1500 cm):** The second malacological horizon overlaps the floodplain loess layer and characterised by both freshwater and terrestrial species. The high number of richness (usually over 10 but reaches 20 around 1550 cm)

also represents a transition zone of fluvial and terrestrial environments. The ratio of the diverse demanding species was characterised by the noticeable ratio of stagnant water species up to 1700 cm, then moving water and mostly temporary flooding tolerate species occurred with a higher ratio. Two peaks of moving water species could be noticed in this zone, around 1650 cm and 1550 cm. These two peaks maybe refer to crevasse splay events, when higher amounts of fluvial elements could have in-washed the back-swamps.

**MZ3 (1500–1450 cm):** In this short-term zone, which lays in the uppermost part of the floodplain loess layer, the freshwater species disappeared and terrestrial species become dominant, while the richness decreased below 10 species per sample. The ratio of shade-loving species broke away (over 40%) besides mesophilous and cold-resistant hygrophilous and sub-hygrophilous (Hupuczi *et al.*, 2010; Molnár, 2015) species. These fauna changes indicated a permanently non-flooded area with increased tree cover, such as an upland forest.

**MZ4 (1450–1200 cm):** This malacological zone overlaps the palaeosol layer and could be characterized by the noticeable dominance of warmth-loving and mesophilous species, indicating a warming period (Fig. 4). The reconstructed July palaeotemperatures were over 16°C in this zone (Hupuczi *et al.*, 2010). The ratio of the steppe and the shade-loving species fluctuated in this horizon, over ~50% ratio of the steppe species was typical, only two higher

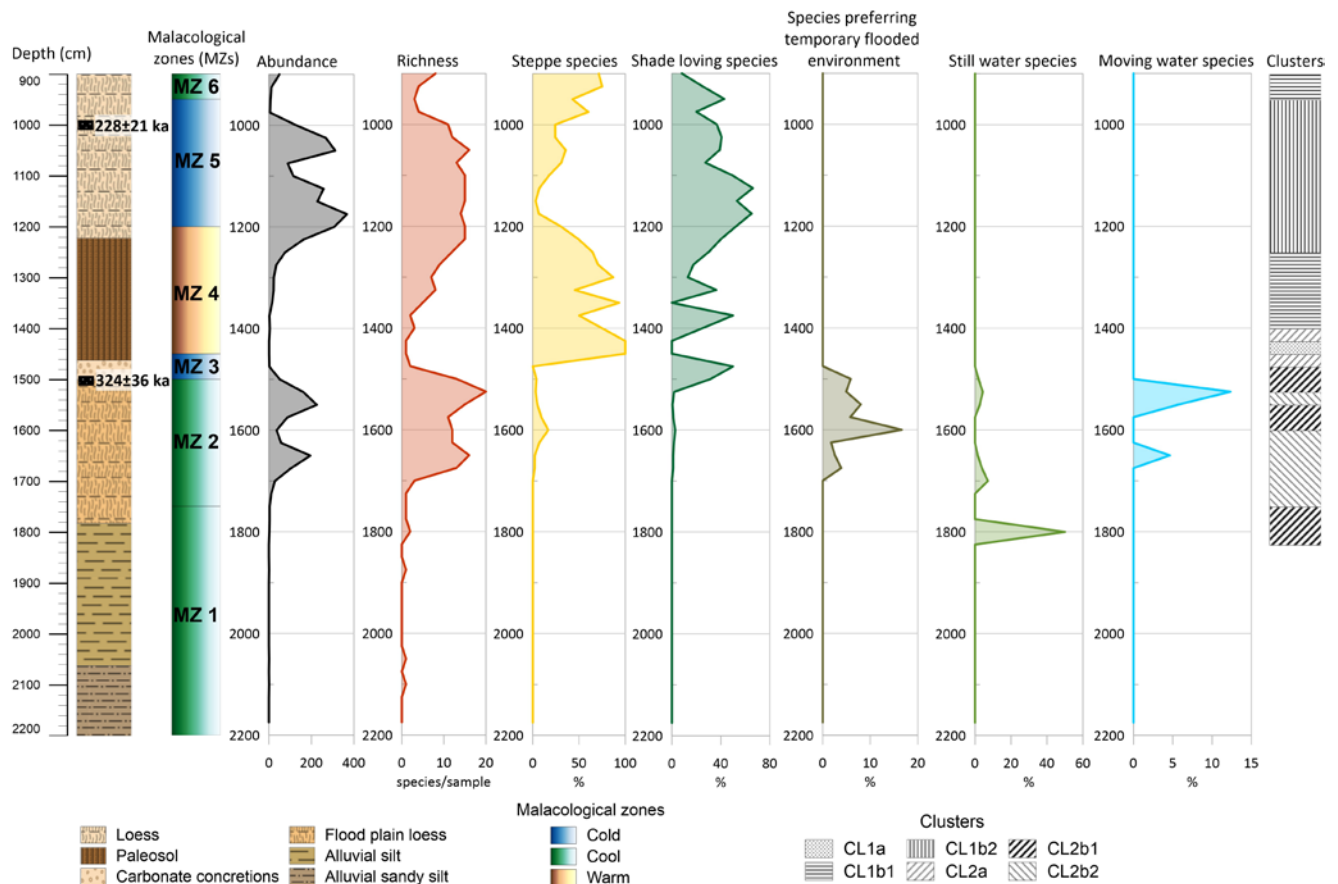


Fig. 4. Results of the supplemented malacological data from Šarengrad II. Malacological zones (MZ) were obtained from Hupuczi *et al.* (2010) and Molnár (2015).



peaks of shade-loving species could be noticed at 1375 cm and 1325 cm. The richness in this zone was relatively low but gradually increased from ~3 to ~15 species per sample. In the top of the zone, the ratio of shade-loving species increased again and reached ~50%.

*MZ5 (1200–950 cm)*: The fifth malacological zone was characterised by the decreased dominance ratio of warmth-loving species, besides the increased dominance ratio of cold-resistant and cold-loving species, indicating colder climatic conditions. The increase of the shade-loving species' ratio continued and stabilised around 60% between 1200–1100 cm. From 1100 cm the ratio decreased to ~35%. The ratio of steppe species was subordinate, it fluctuated around 40%. The richness was around 15 in this zone, but it fell (together with the abundance) to 5 species per sample in the top of the zone.

*MZ6 (950–900 cm)*: In the youngest zone the cold-loving and cold-resistant species withdrawn and the mesophilous and warmth-loving species became dominant again. During this warmer period, the ratio of shade-loving species decreased around 20%, whilst the ratio of steppe species reached 70%. The richness remained below 10 species per sample. This malacological zone could be characterised with the lowest mean ratio of shade-loving species in the Šarengrad II sequence.

*Cluster analysis (900–1825 cm)*: The cluster analysis could only be calculated with samples where at least two different species occurred, so continuously it was calculated between 900 cm and 1825 cm (Fig. 4; Suppl. Fig. 1 – supplementary figures available only in the online version). For determining the affinity of each sample's malacofauna composition, cluster analyses were executed. The cluster analysis divides the malacofauna into two sides (CL1 and CL2) with the highest affinity distance (280).

CL1 could be divided into two sub-clusters, CL1a and CL1b with affinity distance of 160 (Suppl. Fig. 1). CL1a includes only one sample, between 1425–1450 cm, where the mesophilous, steppe species *Pupilla muscorum* had its highest dominance ratio. CL1b could split further into CL1b1 (900–950 cm; 1250–1400 cm) and CL1b2 (950–1250 cm) with 135 affinity distance. CL1b1 could be described with relatively high dominance of warmth-loving species (*Pupilla triplicata*, *Granaria frumentum*, *Helicopsis stirata*) and overlaps the MZ6 and partly the MZ4 (Fig. 4). CL1b1a (1250–1375 cm) and CL1b1b (900–950 cm and 1375–1400 cm) sub-clusters could be determined with 80 affinity distance (Suppl. Fig. 1). CL1b1a could be described with *Pupilla triplicata*, *Granaria frumentum*, *Pupilla muscorum*, *Vallonia costata* hallmarked fauna composition, whilst CL1b1b could describe *P. triplicata*, *V. costata* fauna composition. CL1b2 (950–1250 cm) even could split into two sub-clusters with 80 affinity distance: CL1b2a (1000–1050 cm; 1100–1225 cm) and CL1b2b (950–1000 cm; 1050–1100 cm; 1225–1250 cm). CL1b2a could be described with presence of cold-resistant and cold-loving species, such as *Trochulus hispidus*, *Orcula dolium*, *Vallonia tenuilabris* and *Columella columella*. CL1b2b could be described with an increased dominance ratio of the mesophilous *Vallonia costata*.

CL2 could be divided into two parts with 190 affinity distance, CL2a (1400–1425 cm; 1450–1475 cm) and CL2b (1475–1825 cm) (Suppl. Fig. 1). CL2a could be described with the increased dominance ratio of the warmth-loving *Chondrula tridens*, and CL2b hallmarks the terrestrial-freshwater transition and the solely freshwater environment. CL2b could split further CL2b1 (1475–1525 cm; 1550–1600 cm; 1750–1825 cm) and CL2b2 (1525–1550 cm; 1600–1750 cm) with 150 to 45 affinity distances. CL2b1 is rather a collective group calculated by mainly the dominance ratio of freshwater species. The 1475–1525 cm horizon was hallmarked by the terrestrial *Trochulus hispidus* and the temporary floods preferring *Galba truncatula*. The 1550–1600 cm horizon could be described with the presence of the common freshwater species of *Valvata cristata* and *Planorbis corneus*. The 1750–1825 cm horizon was hallmarked by the common freshwater species *Valvata piscinalis* and the still water preferring *Viviparus contectus*. CL2b2 could split further to 2 sub-clusters: CL2b2a (1525–1550 cm; 1600–1650 cm) and CL2b2b (1650–1750 cm) with 35 affinity distance (Suppl. Fig. 1). CL2b2a could be described with the moving water preferring *Bithynia leachii*, and the common freshwater *Anisus vortex*, *Planorbis planorbis* hallmarked fauna composition. On the other hand, the CL2b2b was hallmarked with the common freshwater species *Gyraulus albus* and *Planorbis planorbis*.

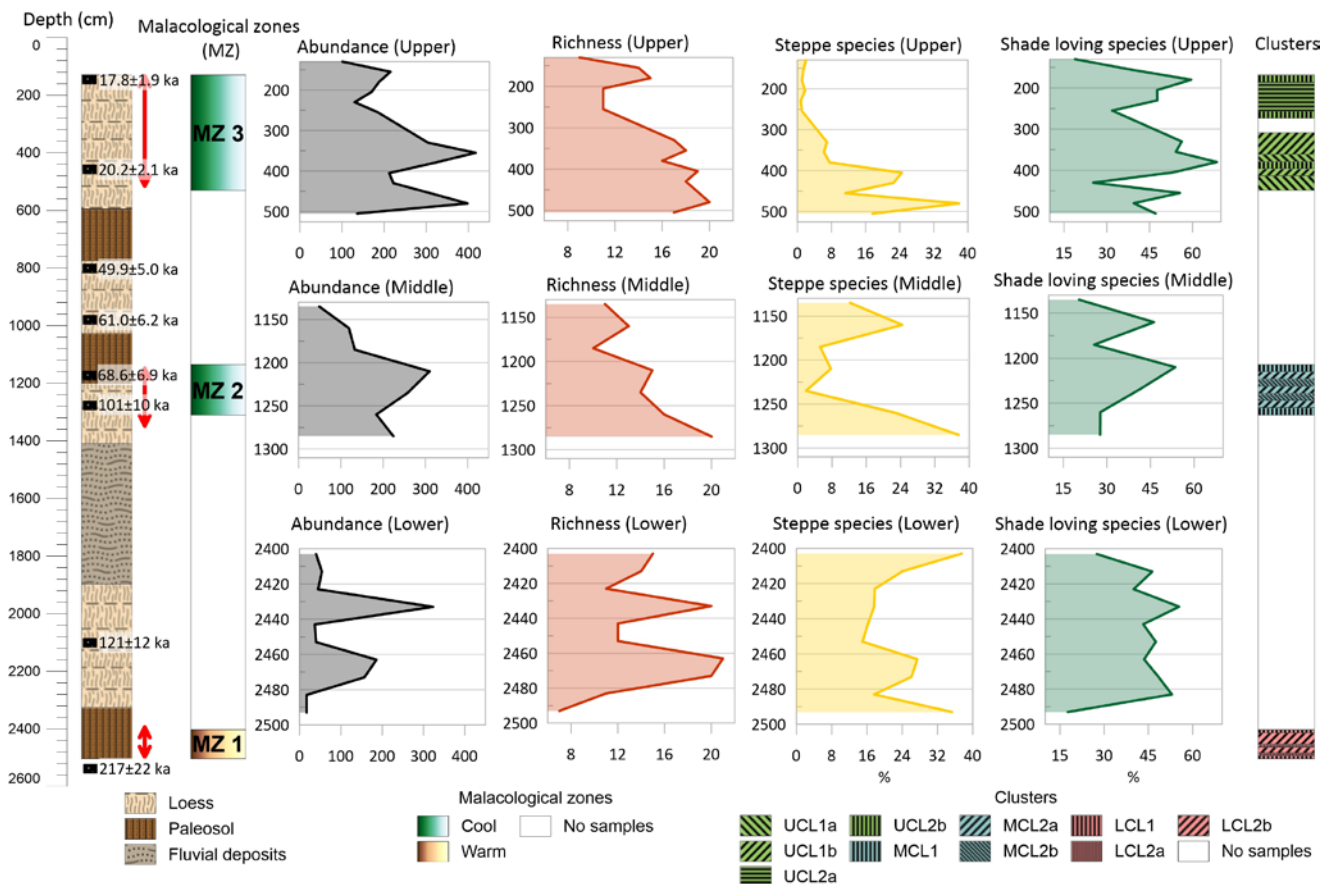
#### *Zmajevac sequence*

The dominance-based malacological analyses resulted in necessarily 3 MZs of 5501 specimens of 34 terrestrial snail taxa from 31 samples (Molnár *et al.*, 2010; Molnár, 2015). Now, these malacological zones have supplemented with additional data, such as the richness, the ratio of open vegetation preferring (steppe) and shade-loving species and the dominance-based cluster analysis (Fig. 5).

*MZ1 (2503–2403 cm)*: The lowest malacological zone could characterise by the significant dominance ratio of mesophilous elements, besides the presence of warmth-loving and some cold-resistant species. The reconstructed July palaeotemperature was around 15–16°C in this zone, thus this zone could consider as a warming period. This supported by the location of the zone since it overlaps the lowermost palaeosol layer. The richness fluctuates between 7 and 21 species per sample, two noticeable peaks could be noticed, similarly as the abundance values: ~2470 cm and ~2435 cm. The ratio of shade-loving species was around 45–55%, except the lowermost and uppermost samples where the ratio decreased to ~18% and ~30%. Responding to the decrease, the ratio of steppe species had the highest ratio in those samples, ~35% in the lowermost and ~38% in the uppermost sample. To sum up, the malacological results indicated the emerging and the withdrawal of the wooded vegetation in this zone.

*MZ2 (1310–1150 cm)*: The malacological material of Zmajevac Middle sub-sequence represents the meaningful dominance ratio of mesophilous species and the in-





**Fig. 5.** Results of the supplemented malacological data from Zmajevac sequence. Malacological zones (MZ) were obtained from Molnár *et al.* (2010) and Molnár (2015). Red arrows indicate the sampled sub-sequences (ZM Upper, Middle and Lower).

creased ratio of cold-loving species, especially in the loess part of the zone. The contradiction of the malacological composition of this zone was the common presence of the warmth-loving and cold-loving species there, which was interpreted by the fault of the 25 cm sampling strategy or the habitat change of several species (Molnár *et al.*, 2010; Molnár, 2015). The richness and the abundance gradually decrease (from 20 to 10–11 species per sample). The mean ratio of shade-loving species was around 30% with two peaks: ~52% at ~1210 cm and ~45% at ~1160 cm. The gradual decrease of steppe species could notice in this zone, from ~35% to ~6%, then from ~24% to ~16%.

**MZ3 (525–130 cm):** The uppermost zone could characterise by the likewise high dominance ratio of mesophilous species, besides with cold-resistant, warmth-loving and cold-loving species. The dominance changes indicated a step by step warming period with ~16°C July palaeotemperature (Molnár *et al.*, 2010). The richness decreased from ~18 to below ~10 species per sample in the zone. The step by step warming indicated surprisingly decreased steppe species ratio (from ~25% to ~5% in the topmost part of the zone) besides permanent high ratio (~45% mean) of shade-loving species. There are two peaks in the shade-loving species ratio, around ~380 cm (~68%) and ~180 cm

(~60%). This high ratio presumes greater wooded areas in Zmajevac.

**Cluster analysis:** Three different cluster analyses were calculated in the Zmajevac sequence (for ZM Upper, Middle and Lower), owing to the age difference of the sub-sequences (Fig. 5; Suppl. Fig. 2).

For Zmajevac Upper sub-sequence, the calculation resulted in two main clusters (UCL1 and UCL2) with 70 affinity distance (Suppl. Fig. 2). Both clusters could split further to 2 sub-clusters. UCL1a (405–430 cm; 480–530 cm) could be described with the meaningful dominance ratio of the mesophilous open vegetation preferring *Vallonia costata*. UCL1b (330–405 cm; 455–480 cm) could be characterised by the increased dominance ratio of the mesophilous, shade-loving *Punctum pygmaeum*. UCL2a (155–255 cm) sub-cluster was characterised by the common appearance of the mesophilous, shade-loving *Euconulus fulvus* and the cold-resistant *Trochulus hispidus*. UCL2b (130–155 cm; 255–280 cm; 430–455 cm) was hallmarked by the noticeable dominance values of the cold-resistant *Orcula dolium*.

The cluster analysis resulted in two clusters in Zmajevac Middle, too, (MCL1 and MCL2) with 65 affinity distance (Suppl. Fig. 2). MCL1 (1135–1160 cm; 1285–1310 cm) could

describe with the lack of cold-loving species besides the common appearance of the *Orcula dolium* and the cold-resistant *Trochulus striolatus*. MCL2a (1160–1185 cm; 1210–1235 cm; 1260–1285 cm) was characterised by the lower dominance ratio of the cold-loving *Vallonia tenuilabris* and the increased dominance values of the mesophilous, shade-loving *Punctum pygmaeum*. MCL2b (1185–1210 cm; 1235–1260 cm) was hallmarked by meaningful dominance ratio of *V. tenuilabris*.

In Zmajevac Lower sub-sequence two clusters could determine (LCL1 and LCL2) with 52 affinity distance (Suppl. Fig. 2). LCL1 (2403–2413 cm; 2493–2503 cm) was characterised by the noticeable dominance ratio of the mesophilous, open vegetation preferring *Pupilla muscorum*. LCL2a (2453–2463 cm; 2483–2493 cm) could describe with the lack of the mesophilous, shade-loving *Clausilia pumila*. LCL2b (2413–2453 cm; 2463–2483 cm) was hallmarked by the *O. dolium*, *P. pygmaeum* and the warmth and shade-loving *Macrogastra ventricosa* community.

## DISCUSSION

Both sequences yield significant data about their palaeoecological and sediment accumulation processes of Šarengrad II and Zmajevac sequences. Magnetic susceptibility, LOI (organic matter and carbonate content) and grain-size distribution analyses were carried out on both sequences. U-ratio and grain size index (GSI) were calculated from the grain-size distribution results. The previously published, dominance-based malacological interpretation (Hupuczai *et al.*, 2010; Molnár *et al.*, 2010; Molnár, 2015) had replenished with richness and habitat charts (steppe, shade-loving, temporary flooded, stagnant and moving water species), moreover with multi-variate statistical analyses (cluster analysis) for producing a more sophisticated malacological-palaeoecological reconstruction from the malacofauna. Unfortunately, the available age data from both sequences were originated from different methods (Galović *et al.* 2009; Wacha *et al.*, 2013), thus the accurate correlation of the sequences is not easy. However, there is no exact overlap between the sequences, because both represent different periods in the Pleistocene, thus the correlation is still possible (Fig. 6). Nevertheless, a uniform chronological method should have been more useful in this case, such as the palaeomagnetic chronology, which is a reliable solution for Early, Middle and also for Late Pleistocene loess/palaeosol sequences (Zeeden *et al.*, 2020).

### Šarengrad II sequence

The lowermost part of Šarengrad II sequence (from 2200–1500 cm) could be described as a fluvial/alluvial environment. The evolution of the fluvial environment is closely connected with the nearby Danube River (Fig. 1). Considering the absolute age data, more than 350,000 years ago the area was the part of the alluvial plain of the Danube

River. Between 2200–2062 cm the sedimentological analysis suggested a mesotrophic backswamp with regular discharge sediment accumulation. Between 2062–1787 cm, the backswamp could have gone off from the river, owing to the fine-grain dominance and the high organic matter content, and became a eutrophic environment (Sümegei, 2001; Sümegei *et al.*, 2012). The regional reason for this change could have been the incision of the Danube River or the elevation of the area, which continued in the flood plain loess layer, too (Timár, 2003; Ruzkiczay-Rüdiger *et al.*, 2018, 2020). In this layer, with the appearance of terrestrial snail species, flood-plain loess accumulated, which could refer to the withdrawal of the backswamp, maybe owing to two reasons: the increasing dominance of the terrestrial snail species (Molnár, 2015), and the decreasing fine-grain ratio indicates a gradual drying out of the backswamp (Fig. 2). This process was occasionally interrupted by extreme discharges while the high amount of sand and coarse silt deposits accumulated (Passega and Byramjee, 1969; Turowski *et al.*, 2015).

From 1500 cm the freshwater snails disappeared (Fig. 4) from the sequence, which presumed a permanently dry, flood-free area. Between 1462–1222 cm a thick palaeosol horizon could be found. This unit is not homogenous at all, a sedimentological analysis indicated a more weathered lower and a less weathered upper part of the palaeosol. The “borderline” of the differently weathered horizons is around 1300 cm, nevertheless, the MS results did not support this transition. Considering the grain-size distribution, the increased sand ratio could be noticed around 1350 cm and 1300 cm. The higher ratio of coarse grains in a palaeosol could refer to originally coarser sediment, where the pedogenesis proceeded. This theory may be supported by the coarse grain content of the upper loess layer, where the aggregated medium and coarse silt and sand ratio had ~75%. These amounts of coarse grains indicated higher transportation energy settings during the sediment accumulation (Pye, 1995). The source area of the coarse grains could have been the northern sand-ridges of the Danube-Tisa Interfluves (Banak *et al.*, 2013).

The habitat charts and cluster analysis supplemented malacological zones (MZs) also support the subaquatic and aerial environments in Šarengrad sequence. Between 2200–1700 cm pure freshwater species came to light, between 1700–1500 cm freshwater and terrestrial species occurred together, hallmarking a transitional period between the subaquatic and aerial environments. From 1500 cm terrestrial species occurred only. Considering the fading corrected IRSL ages, measured by Wacha *et al.* (2013), the reconstructed malacological zones could probably correlate with the MIS stages (Bond *et al.*, 1993; Björck *et al.*, 1998; Lisiecki and Raymo, 2005). The two available age data refers to a 160,000 years long period from 360,000 to 207,000 years in 500 cm (Fig. 4). But if the mean values of the ages are considered, the mentioned period is only 96,000 years. Anyway, based on the MZs, an approximation of the MIS stages could be possible. MZ1 and MZ2 were hard to correlate with any MIS stages because of the sporadic and mainly

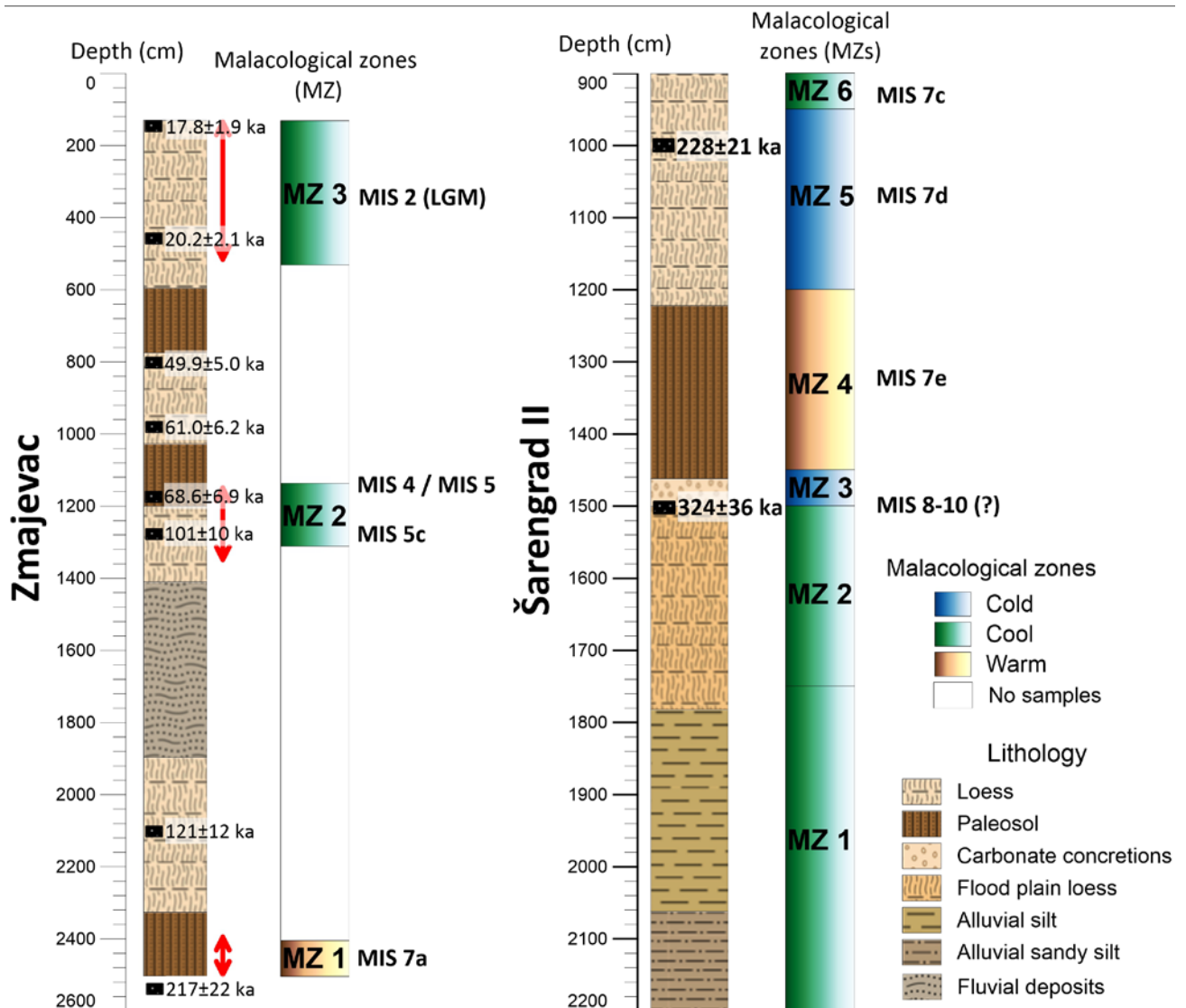


Fig. 6. Comparison of the reconstructed paleoclimatic periods with the global paleoclimatic periods (MIS stages) and the correlation of the two investigated sequences to each other.

freshwater species content. MZ3 was described as a mostly wooded upland forest environment in the border of the floodplain. The age data at 1500 cm could only provide an approximate period of the transition from alluvial to a terrestrial environment, which was occurred about 288,000–360,000 years ago, between MIS 8–10 stages. During this period, approximately in the MIS 9 interglacial, the Danube River probably changed its river-bed due to an incision process, caused by increased precipitation and/or the uplift of some areas of the Pannonian Basin (Timár, 2003; Ruszkiczay-Rüdiger *et al.*, 2018, 2020). The MZ4, MZ5 and MZ6 malacological zones could refer to the MIS 7 (Bond *et al.*, 1993; Björck *et al.*, 1998; Lisiecki and Raymo, 2005), based on the age data of 228,000±21,000 years at 1000 cm. During MIS 7 stage a slight cooling period occurred around 225,000 years ago (MIS 7d), which could consider as the MZ5 malacological zone in Šarengrad (Figs 4 and 6). Two other, particularly warmer sub-stages of the MIS

7 could infer in Šarengrad sequence, the MIS 7e, between ~230,000–240,000 years as MZ4 warmer period and MIS 7c, between ~215,000–230,000 years as MZ6 cool period.

The malacology-based cluster analysis resulted in similar results considering the main and first-order subclusters only (Fig. 4). Six main and first-order subclusters could separate remarking well the terrestrial and freshwater species dominated samples. The environmental transition period could not report accurately with the cluster analysis, the reasons could be the low abundance or the relatively big sampling distance, which probably also proved if the second-order subclusters are considered (Suppl. Fig. 1).

#### Zmajevac sequence

The sedimentological results of Zmajevac sub-sequences indicated slightly weathered loess with noticeable



sand admixture (Fig. 3). In Zmajevac Lower sub-sequence, despite it lays over a palaeosol layer, the sand content outnumbers 20% in some places. This could refer to originally coarser base sediment where the pedogenesis proceeded. The low clay, organic matter and carbonate content and MS in the lower part of the sub-sequence indicates a probable soil-eluviation horizon. In Zmajevac Middle sub-sequence, in the transition zone of the second palaeosol and the third loess layer (Fig. 3) the sand content was still around 10% or more. In the lowermost part of the palaeosol layer, a decrease of organic matter and MS could correspond with about 10–12% sand content indicating perhaps another soil-eluviation horizon there. In Zmajevac Upper the increased sand admixture remained at 8–10%. The noticeable sand and coarse silt amount could refer to permanently increased sediment transportation energy (Pye, 1995) in the vicinity of Zmajevac. The increased MS and organic matter content in the lowermost part of the sub-sequence, together with decreased carbonate content and snail abundance (Fig. 5) may indicate more weathered loess in the lowermost part of the sub-sequence.

The habitat charts and cluster analysis supplemented malacological zones (MZs) provided the possibility of more accurate palaeoecological reconstruction in the sub-sequences of Zmajevac. The reconstructed malacological zones were compared the available MAAD IRSL ages by Galović *et al.* (2009) (Fig. 3). The warmer and mainly wooded MZ1 in ZM Lower sub-sequence could consider younger than  $217,000 \pm 22,000$  years, thus it was formed probably in the MIS 7a (Bond *et al.*, 1993; Björck *et al.*, 1998; Lisiecki and Raymo, 2005). The MZ2 in the ZM Middle sub-sequence could be described with a cool climate and noticeable wood cover (Fig. 5). Two age data were available from this zone at 1175 cm (in the palaeosol layer) equal  $68,600 \pm 6900$  years and at 1275 cm (in the loess layer) equal  $101,000 \pm 10,000$  years. The calculated accumulation rate between the age data was 0.031 mm/yr, which could explain the increased transportation settings or an erosional horizon in the sub-sequence. The MIS interpretation of the sub-sequence considers the MIS 4–MIS 5 transition for the palaeosol layer and MIS 5c sub-stage for the loess layer (Bond *et al.*, 1993; Björck *et al.*, 1998; Lisiecki and Raymo, 2005). The MZ3 in ZM Upper sub-sequence could be characterised as a gradually warming period with meaningful (45–50%) shade-loving species ratio (Fig. 5). Comparing this with the fauna composition of several nearby loess-palaeosol sequences (Hupuczi, 2012; Sümegei *et al.*, 2015, 2016, 2018; Molnár *et al.*, 2019), it is clear that the MIS 2 horizon of Zmajevac sequence has two, more age data were available from this sub-sequence:  $17,800 \pm 1900$  years from 150 cm and  $20,200 \pm 2100$  years from 450 cm. The mean-value-based accumulation rate was 1.25 mm/yr. This period was considered as the MIS 2 stage or rather the late LGM period (Bond *et al.*, 1993; Björck *et al.*, 1998; Lisiecki and Raymo, 2005; Clark *et al.*, 2009). LGM could support the increased accumulation intensity in this period (Hemming, 2004) (Fig. 6).

The malacology-based cluster analysis significantly detailed the previously – necessarily – determined malacological zones and demonstrated insufficiency of the purely dominance-based reconstruction of the malacofauna evolution (Fig. 5). At least two clusters were determined per sub-sequence and some of them could split further to sub-clusters. Some places, especially in ZM Middle the clusters periodically recurred which could interpret as a cyclic fauna shift, allochthon sediment or sampling fault.

## CONCLUSIONS

The chronological, palaeoecological and sedimentological analyses allowed unravelling the sediment development and the malacofauna evolution in the vicinity of the two Croatian loess-palaeosol sequences of Šarengrad II and Zmajevac in the past 350,000 years.

In the area of Šarengrad sequence, the floodplain environment suffered a step-by-step drying process while it gradually lost the active connection with the Danube River. The sedimentological and even the malacological data supported this change. The triggering process could have been the incision of the Danube, which may occur during the MIS 9 interglacial stage, because of the supposed increased precipitation and uplift processes in the Danube catchment basin (Ruszkiczay-Rüdiger *et al.*, 2018, 2020).

In Zmajevac the sedimentological data referred to the increased sand ratio in the sampled sub-sequences, which could indicate higher wind speed during accumulation. Maybe the increased wind speed could have resulted in moderate sediment accumulation in the ZM Middle sub-sequence. The malacological results suggested an increased tree-covered area in Zmajevac, which could presume a forest refuge in the Zmajevac area. However, without the malacological data of the whole sequence, this theory cannot be proved correctly.

Considering the applied multivariate statistics (cluster analysis) in the sequences, it seems the 25 cm sampling distance would be too high. The results of the cluster analysis indicated – especially at Zmajevac – cyclic fauna transformations which were not supported by other available data. A 25 cm sample covers ca. 200–8100 years in Zmajevac and ca. 4800 years, thus a sample could cover an entire stadial or interstadial, while the mollusc fauna could have changed a lot.

The chronological order of the sequences could have made by using MAAD IRSD and fading corrected IRSL age data. The methods and the interpretation of the two methods are different, thus the combination of the two is doubtful. However, in this case, they were useful, a universal chronology method would be useful from one given lab if possible. The amount of the samples could have been multiplied, especially at Šarengrad. Maybe the best solution for these two Late and Middle Pleistocene sequences maybe the palaeomagnetic chronology for the Late Pleistocene, the radiocarbon chronology especially for the MIS 3–MIS 2 sequences.

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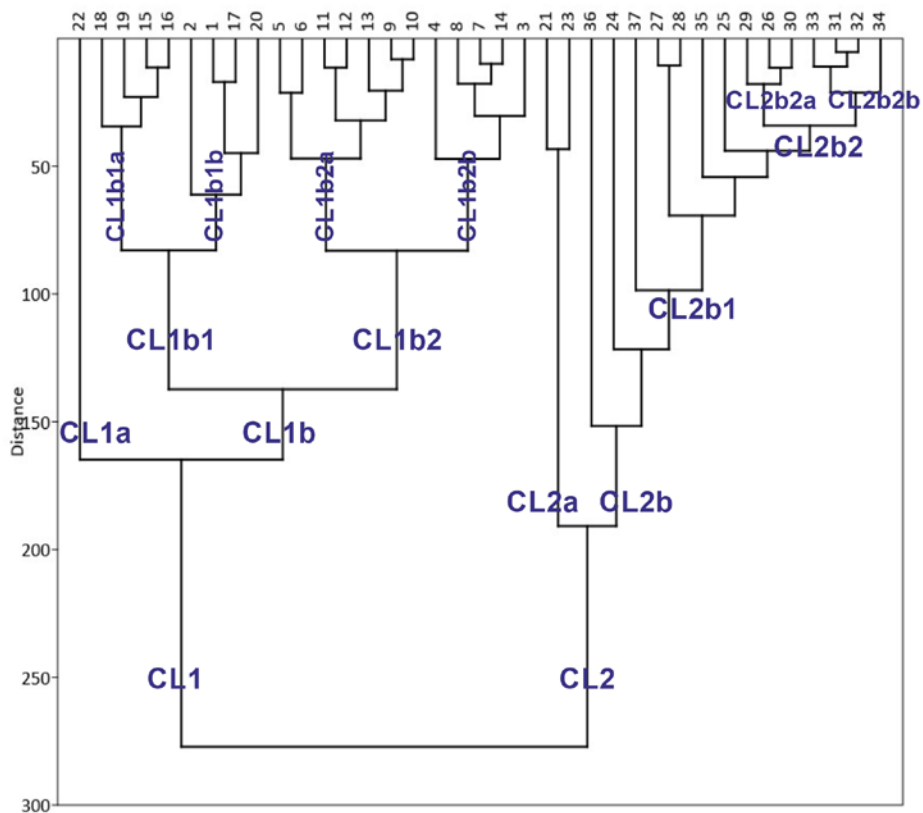
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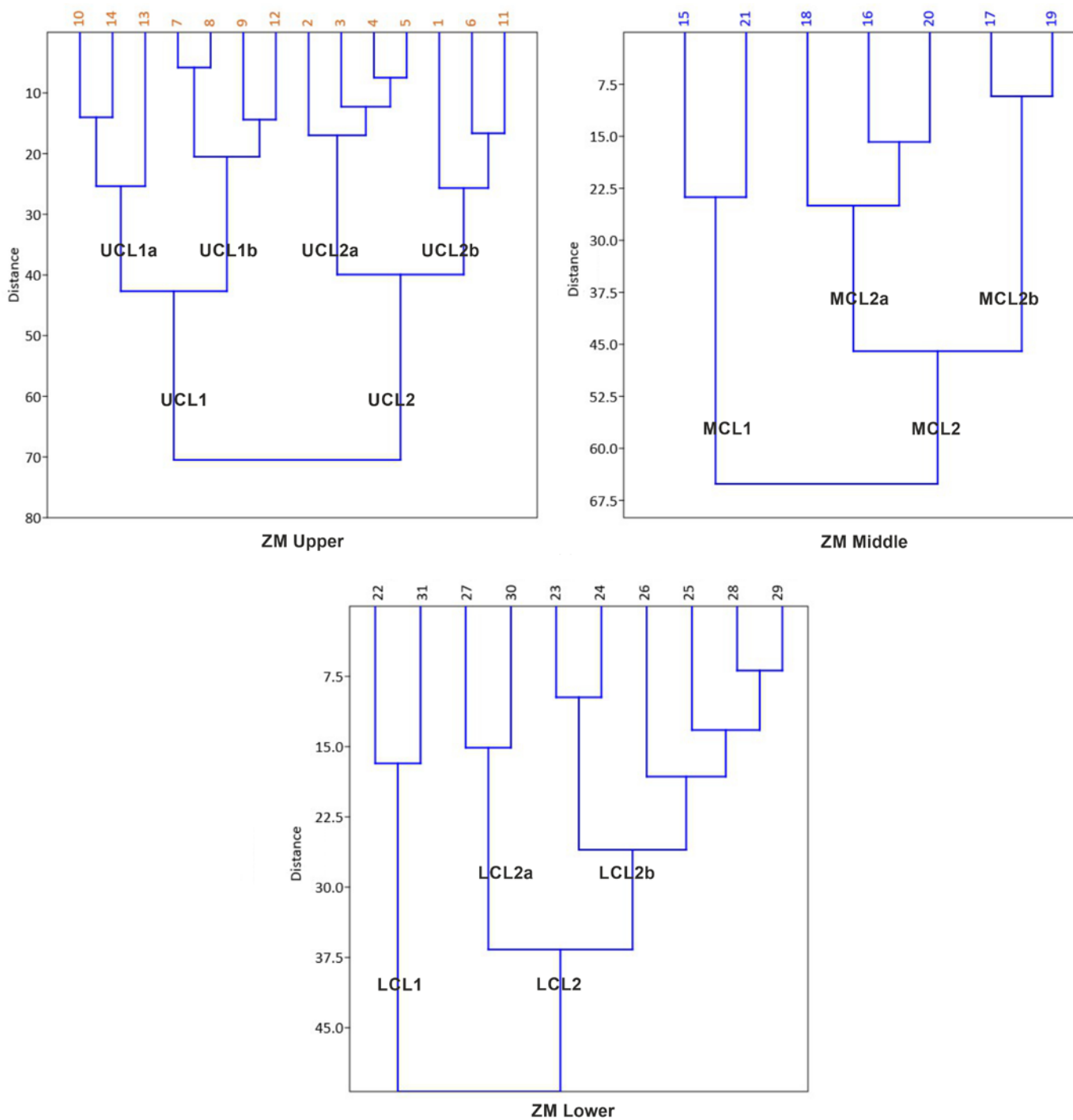
**SUPPLEMENTARY Fig. 1**

Results of the cluster analysis of the Šarengrad II sequence (the numbers at the top indicate the sample numbers).



**SUPPLEMENTARY Fig. 2**

Results of the different cluster analyses of the Zmajevac sequence (the numbers at the top indicate the sample numbers).







## SARENGRAD LOI + MS results

#	Depth (cm)	Organic %	Carbonate %	MS (SUS 10-8kg/m3)
1	900	1.52	13.16	25
2	925	1.58	13.37	24
3	950	1.3	12.74	23
4	975	1.35	13.02	23
5	1000	1.27	14.23	21
6	1025	1.29	14.47	21
7	1050	1.52	11.57	23
8	1075	1.5	11.16	22
9	1100	1.29	11.56	21
10	1125	1.34	12.09	20
11	1150	1.36	12.71	21
12	1175	1.37	12.6	20
13	1200	1.59	8.83	31
14	1225	1.71	8.12	48
15	1250	2.39	7.1	74
16	1275	2.64	8.63	70
17	1300	2.86	11.11	66
18	1325	3.04	8.57	68
19	1350	3.02	7.47	55
20	1375	3.43	6.23	63
21	1400	3.96	7.81	43
22	1425	4.06	7.37	44
23	1450	3.82	6.77	32
24	1475	2.85	20.01	20
25	1500	1.56	17.23	17
26	1525	1.7	13.22	10
27	1550	2.21	11.52	14
28	1575	2.13	10.27	11
29	1600	2.21	9.21	12
30	1625	2.15	8.73	11
31	1650	2.25	9.99	11
32	1675	2.27	11.13	11
33	1700	2.38	9.64	13
34	1725	2.64	5.59	13
35	1750	2.66	5.05	14
36	1775	2.79	5.05	13
37	1800	2.91	5.78	12
38	1825	2.89	4.86	10
39	1850	2.96	5.06	10
40	1875	3.23	5.51	11
41	1900	3.24	5.34	12
42	1925	3.29	5.51	13
43	1950	3.46	5.85	13
44	1975	3.39	5.62	12
45	2000	3.37	6.33	15
46	2025	2.61	9.78	14
47	2050	2.71	5.87	15
48	2075	2.47	6.28	17
49	2100	2.19	8.68	21
50	2125	2.38	6.35	20
51	2150	2.7	5.9	9
52	2175	2.89	6.05	15

## SARENGRAD GRAIN-SIZE

#	Depth (cm)	Clay	vf Silt	f Silt	m Silt	c Silt	vf Sand	f Sand	m Sand	U-ratio	GSI
1	900	4.9	12.5	20.1	54.2	94.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	4.70	1.75
2	925	8.2	18.6	27.1	59.9	96.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.87	1.30
3	950	4.0	10.0	16.3	48.5	92.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	5.79	2.11
4	975	4.8	11.1	18.3	51.0	94.2	100.0	100.0	100.0	5.32	1.96
5	1000	7.4	17.3	27.9	63.8	97.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.46	1.29
6	1025	12.4	24.7	35.6	70.9	99.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.07	0.99
7	1050	6.1	16.3	26.5	63.8	97.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.62	1.36
8	1075	3.4	9.1	14.8	45.2	90.2	100.0	100.0	100.0	5.94	2.27
9	1100	4.0	11.4	18.2	50.3	92.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	5.07	1.87
10	1125	10.4	23.0	34.0	70.0	98.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.05	1.03
11	1150	9.1	18.8	27.3	60.5	95.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.81	1.27
12	1175	9.2	20.4	31.4	68.4	98.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.17	1.14
13	1200	12.1	27.4	40.1	76.8	99.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	2.61	0.91
14	1225	13.7	28.4	41.4	75.8	99.6	100.0	100.0	100.0	2.58	0.87
15	1250	6.7	17.9	27.7	63.8	96.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.45	1.24
16	1275	6.1	15.8	23.7	54.6	90.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.74	1.31
17	1300	13.7	26.1	36.1	68.3	97.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.13	0.95
18	1325	16.0	29.8	41.5	75.9	99.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	2.76	0.88
19	1350	13.7	27.0	36.7	66.7	96.2	100.0	100.0	100.0	2.94	0.92
20	1375	9.3	21.6	30.7	64.1	97.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.46	1.15
21	1400	31.9	50.7	60.3	88.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	2.05	0.45
22	1425	30.3	47.5	57.6	85.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	2.23	0.51
23	1450	14.3	30.5	40.5	73.7	99.6	100.0	100.0	100.0	2.82	0.87
24	1475	15.8	31.7	42.2	75.2	99.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	2.67	0.82
25	1500	6.8	15.6	23.6	57.0	94.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	4.29	1.51
26	1525	5.9	17.3	26.1	60.5	95.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.71	1.32
27	1550	6.4	17.9	25.8	55.9	91.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.53	1.19
28	1575	5.1	13.7	19.1	43.6	79.6	98.5	100.0	100.0	4.13	1.36
29	1600	4.7	13.9	21.0	52.6	91.2	100.0	100.0	100.0	4.25	1.53
30	1625	11.8	25.1	36.7	68.5	98.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	2.85	0.98
31	1650	12.0	28.3	41.4	80.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	2.59	0.92
32	1675	11.3	25.3	37.4	76.1	99.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	2.91	0.99
33	1700	3.7	10.0	14.6	36.4	70.9	96.5	100.0	100.0	4.55	1.62
34	1725	15.2	34.7	45.8	81.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	2.42	0.75
35	1750	31.0	53.5	64.4	96.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	1.67	0.37
36	1775	26.3	45.8	57.6	89.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	1.97	0.50
37	1800	21.0	38.6	49.9	82.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	2.32	0.67
38	1825	27.3	46.2	57.1	87.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	2.02	0.50
39	1850	26.2	44.8	57.0	89.6	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	1.99	0.51
40	1875	27.1	46.2	57.3	88.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	2.03	0.51
41	1900	30.0	51.1	63.1	95.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	1.68	0.39
42	1925	27.2	46.8	58.3	90.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	1.91	0.48
43	1950	24.6	43.6	54.7	88.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	2.12	0.54
44	1975	22.1	39.8	50.9	86.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	2.32	0.62
45	2000	6.8	20.0	30.4	65.4	97.2	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.05	1.11
46	2025	19.2	39.1	51.4	86.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	2.01	0.60
47	2050	6.3	20.4	31.1	66.0	97.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	2.96	1.07
48	2075	4.9	14.2	22.7	54.2	93.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.74	1.46
49	2100	5.8	15.8	24.7	56.0	93.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.48	1.32
50	2125	6.6	18.8	30.1	64.5	96.6	100.0	100.0	100.0	2.87	1.09
51	2150	6.1	18.4	30.0	66.6	97.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.02	1.16
52	2175	7.9	24.1	36.4	75.5	98.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	2.54	0.91

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL 2 – Table of all base data of Zmajevac loess-paleosol sequence

ZMAJEVAC MALACOLOGY

#	Depth (cm)	<i>Aegopinella ressmanni</i>	<i>Arianta arbustorum</i>	<i>Chondrula tridens</i>	<i>Clausilia dubia</i>	<i>Clausilia pumila</i>	<i>Coellicopa lubricella</i>	<i>Coeliodina laminata</i>	<i>Columella columella</i>	<i>Discus ruderratus</i>	<i>Ena montana</i>	<i>Euconulus fulvus</i>	<i>Fruticicola fruticum</i>	<i>Granaria frumentum</i>	<i>Helicopsis striata</i>	Limacidae	<i>Macrogastra ventricosa</i>	<i>Mastus bielzi</i>	<i>Nesovitrea hammonis</i>	<i>Orcula dolium</i>	<i>Pseudofusus varians</i>	<i>Punctum pygmaeum</i>	<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>	<i>Pupilla triplicata</i>	<i>Semilimax semilimax</i>	<i>Succinella oblonga</i>	<i>Trocholus striolatus</i>	<i>Trocholus unidentatus</i>	<i>Trocholus edentulus</i>	<i>Trocholus hispidus</i>	<i>Vallonia costata</i>	<i>Vallonia pulchella</i>	<i>Vallonia tenuilabris</i>	<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i>	<i>Vitrea crystallina</i>	Richness	Abundance	
1	130	0.00	2.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.99	0.00	7.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.86	0.00	0.00	1.98	0.00	0.00	19.80	20.79	0.00	0.00	2.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.90	9	101	
2	155	0.47	1.40	0.00	0.47	0.47	0.00	0.93	0.00	0.47	0.00	6.05	0.00	0.00	1.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.37	0.00	5.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.86	13.49	0.00	0.00	7.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.65	14	215	
3	180	0.00	1.06	0.00	1.06	0.00	0.00	2.13	0.00	1.60	0.00	16.49	0.00	0.00	0.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.19	10.64	0.00	1.60	0.53	0.00	1.06	4.79	9.04	0.00	0.00	5.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	33.51	15	188
4	205	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.76	1.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.12	0.00	3.53	1.18	0.00	0.00	5.88	15.29	0.00	0.00	7.65	0.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.29	11	170	
5	230	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.31	0.00	1.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	18.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.54	11.54	0.00	0.77	0.00	0.00	9.23	11.54	0.00	0.00	4.62	0.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23.08	11	130	
6	255	0.00	11.89	0.00	0.00	0.54	0.00	0.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.62	20.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.16	11.89	0.00	0.00	8.11	1.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	22.70	11	185	
7	330	3.95	0.33	0.00	0.99	0.33	2.63	2.30	0.00	0.33	0.00	2.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.29	8.88	0.00	18.75	4.28	0.00	1.97	3.62	6.25	0.00	0.00	6.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23.03	17	304
8	355	0.00	0.00	0.48	0.24	1.20	2.64	2.16	0.00	0.48	0.00	3.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.44	11.51	0.00	22.78	2.40	0.00	0.00	5.76	6.95	0.00	0.24	3.36	0.72	0.00	0.24	0.00	22.30	18	417	
9	380	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.83	0.63	0.00	1.89	0.00	4.40	0.00	7.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.46	4.09	0.00	27.67	4.40	0.00	0.00	2.52	5.97	0.00	0.00	3.14	2.52	0.00	0.31	0.63	22.64	16	318	
10	405	0.00	0.00	0.47	0.00	8.96	0.47	3.30	0.00	2.36	0.00	9.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.30	5.66	0.00	2.83	5.19	4.72	0.47	1.42	4.72	0.00	0.00	3.30	12.26	0.00	2.36	1.42	22.64	19	212	
11	430	0.00	0.45	0.90	0.90	2.25	0.90	0.00	0.00	0.45	0.00	7.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.25	22.52	0.00	2.70	3.15	11.71	0.00	4.95	6.31	0.00	0.00	3.15	5.86	0.00	2.70	0.00	9.91	18	222	
12	455	0.00	1.61	0.00	0.32	7.40	0.64	0.96	0.00	0.96	0.00	11.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.93	0.96	0.00	17.04	3.22	0.96	0.96	12.54	1.61	0.00	0.00	5.79	2.89	0.00	0.00	3.54	14.47	19	311	
13	480	0.00	0.00	0.25	1.51	3.52	0.75	0.50	0.00	1.01	0.00	6.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.27	0.25	0.00	17.84	1.76	16.08	0.25	0.00	2.76	0.00	0.00	2.76	14.57	0.25	8.54	4.27	6.53	20	398	
14	505	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.47	1.47	5.15	0.74	0.00	2.21	0.00	2.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.29	11.03	0.00	8.09	0.74	2.21	0.74	0.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.94	9.56	0.00	11.76	0.00	21.32	17	136	
15	1135	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.12	10.20	0.00	0.00	2.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.08	20.41	0.00	4.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	18.37	0.00	0.00	4.08	2.04	0.00	4.08	0.00	4.08	0.00	4.08	11	49
16	1160	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.88	0.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.36	1.68	0.00	23.53	17.65	0.84	0.00	0.00	5.04	0.00	0.00	4.20	5.04	0.00	8.40	0.00	10.08	13	119	
17	1185	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.27	0.00	0.00	7.52	0.00	0.00	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.77	4.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.50	0.00	0.00	3.01	0.75	0.00	47.37	0.00	6.02	10	133	
18	1210	0.00	1.94	0.32	0.97	12.26	0.00	0.97	16.45	0.00	0.00	10.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.32	0.00	0.65	0.00	0.00	23.87	2.26	5.16	0.00	0.00	0.97	0.00	0.00	1.61	0.00	0.00	10.32	0.00	4.84	15	310	
19	1235	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.16	11.24	0.00	0.00	7.75	4.26	0.00	5.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.39	0.00	0.78	0.78	0.00	13.57	0.00	1.94	0.00	0.00	1.16	0.00	0.00	1.94	0.00	0.00	38.37	0.00	5.04	14	258	
20	1260	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.80	8.15	1.09	0.54	3.80	0.00	0.00	3.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.17	3.80	0.00	6.52	9.24	7.61	0.00	0.00	1.63	0.00	0.00	1.63	4.89	0.00	13.59	0.00	7.07	16	184	
21	1285	0.45	0.00	4.46	0.45	0.89	2.23	0.00	0.00	0.45	0.00	0.00	0.45	3.57	0.00	4.02	0.89	0.00	3.13	5.36	0.00	4.02	2.68	1.34	0.00	0.00	4.02	0.00	0.00	0.89	22.77	0.00	1.34	0.00	13.84	20	224	
22	2403	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	5.00	2.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.50	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.50	2.50	5.00	0.00	15.00	17.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.50	0.00	0.00	2.50	10.00	0.00	7.50	0.00	2.50	15	40	
23	2413	0.00	0.00	1.85	3.70	5.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.81	0.00	1.85	7.41	0.00	18.52	7.41	3.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.85	11.11	0.00	3.70	0.00	3.70	14	54	
24	2423	0.00	0.00	4.44	8.89	6.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.11	0.00	0.00	8.89	0.00	11.11	2.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.11	0.00	6.67	0.00	8.89	11	45	
25	2433	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.93	10.53	3.72	2.48	0.00	0.31	0.00	4.02	0.00	0.93	0.31	0.00	5.88	2.48	4.64	5.26	0.00	16.10	1.55	3.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	7.12	0.00	5.57	0.93	8.67	20	323	
26	2443	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.41	8.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.70	0.00	5.41	0.00	2.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.41	13.51	2.70	10.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.51	0.00	2.70	0.00	8.11	12	37	
27	2453	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.50	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.50	0.00	0.00	7.50	0.00	5.00	2.50	0.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.50	10.00	7.50	0.00	7.50	0.00	7.50	12	40	
28	2463	0.00	0.00	0.54	4.30	2.15	2.15	0.00	0.00	0.54	1.08	1.61	0.00	0.54	0.54	0.00	2.69	0.00	4.30	7.53	0.00	18.28	1.61	4.30	0.00	0.00	2.69	1.61	0.00	0.00	16.67	0.00	1.08	1.08	11.29	21	186	
29	2473	0.00	0.64	0.00	5.10	4.46	5.10	0.00	0.00	1.91	0.64	2.55	0.00	0.00	0.64	0.00	1.27	0.64	6.37	5.10	0.00	21.02	5.10	4.46	0.00	0.00	1.27	0.00	0.00	0.64	10.83	0.00	0.64	0.00	9.55	20	157	
30	2483	0.00	5.88	0.00	5.88	0.00	5.88	0.00	0.00	5.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17.65	5.88	0.00	23.53	5.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.88	0.00	5.88	0.00	5.88	11	17	
31	2493	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.88	5.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.76	29.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17.65	5.88	0.00	5.88	0.00	0.00	7	17	

## ZMAJEVAC LOI+MS

#	Depth (cm)	Organic%	Carbonate%	MS (SUS 10-8kg/m3)
1	130	1.32	15.26	21
2	155	1.44	15.25	22
3	180	1.41	14.79	22
4	205	1.59	13	23
5	230	1.48	12.77	23
6	255	1.58	13.56	23
7	330	1.4	13.94	24
8	355	1.36	13.54	24
9	380	1.34	13.46	25
10	405	1.46	11.9	27
11	430	1.4	10.72	29
12	455	1.54	10.69	26
13	480	1.64	10.27	27
14	505	1.8	8.5	35
15	1135	3.04	22.4	29
16	1160	2.18	20.2	18
17	1185	2.21	19.33	18
18	1210	2.19	17.82	18
19	1235	1.74	13.74	0
20	1260	1.49	13.69	24
21	1285	1.5	14.29	24
22	2403	3.18	14.58	79
23	2413	2.95	11.78	90
24	2423	2.51	13.14	78
25	2433	2.21	14.52	53
26	2443	1.46	13.15	39
27	2453	1.38	10.58	31
28	2463	1.33	10.22	32
29	2473	1.46	9.81	35
30	2483	1.64	10.03	27
31	2493	1.47	8.97	30

## ZMAJEVAC GRAIN-SIZE

#	Depth (cm)	Clay	vf Silt	f Silt	m Silt	c Silt	vf Sand	f Sand	m Sand	U-ratio	GSI
1	130	4.7	10.9	16.4	44.2	90.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	5.60	1.96
2	155	8.6	17.5	24.8	55.1	94.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	4.29	1.39
3	180	6.2	13.1	20.5	52.0	93.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	4.65	1.69
4	205	2.6	7.0	11.8	38.5	86.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	6.76	2.57
5	230	4.6	11.7	18.2	48.7	91.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	5.04	1.81
6	255	8.4	17.4	25.7	57.5	95.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.94	1.37
7	330	4.8	12.8	20.6	53.3	94.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	4.37	1.63
8	355	4.4	12.8	20.0	52.3	92.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	4.41	1.62
9	380	6.1	16.4	25.8	59.9	95.6	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.60	1.32
10	405	6.6	17.3	26.6	57.7	94.6	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.38	1.22
11	430	4.5	12.6	19.3	50.8	91.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	4.56	1.66
12	455	3.0	9.8	16.7	46.0	87.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	4.65	1.84
13	480	5.7	17.8	26.9	59.2	95.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.32	1.18
14	505	8.6	22.2	32.4	67.5	98.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.06	1.05
15	1135	10.9	21.7	30.3	63.3	97.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.72	1.17
16	1160	5.0	11.4	17.6	45.9	86.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	4.84	1.71
17	1185	8.7	17.2	24.6	54.1	91.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	4.02	1.33
18	1210	11.2	20.8	30.5	64.9	98.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.74	1.21
19	1235	3.2	8.4	12.8	36.1	79.1	99.4	100.0	100.0	5.79	2.13
20	1260	6.7	17.1	27.0	63.3	97.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.55	1.31
21	1285	16.2	28.2	34.5	56.1	93.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.18	0.82
22	2403	18.5	31.8	39.2	64.5	97.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.10	0.81
23	2413	6.0	12.2	17.4	42.2	82.9	99.9	100.0	100.0	5.18	1.64
24	2423	5.8	15.1	22.7	52.0	88.6	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.72	1.30
25	2433	3.3	9.1	13.3	33.4	75.2	99.2	100.0	100.0	4.99	1.81
26	2443	3.3	8.5	11.5	28.5	76.0	99.4	100.0	100.0	6.48	2.13
27	2453	2.9	7.2	10.1	26.0	70.5	98.2	100.0	100.0	6.36	2.14
28	2463	7.0	14.0	17.4	34.3	76.8	99.6	100	100.0	4.66	1.29
29	2473	4.9	10.8	14.0	38.8	89.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	7.81	2.34
30	2483	2.1	4.3	6.0	24.6	78.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	14.60	4.51