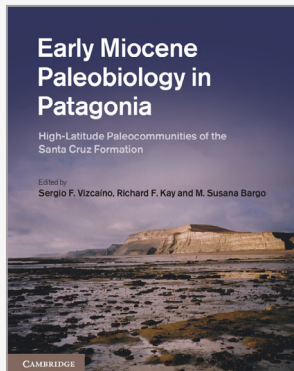




Early Miocene Paleobiology in Patagonia

High-Latitude Paleocommunities of the Santa Cruz Formation



Edited by Sergio F. Vizcaíno,
Richard F. Kay and M.
Susana Bargo

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY
PRESS

378 pages | Hardback
1st edition | October 2012
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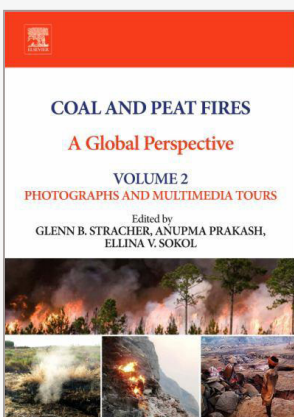
Price: £99 (~€115)

Publisher's summary

Coastal exposures of the Santa Cruz Formation in southern Patagonia have been a fertile ground for recovery of Early Miocene vertebrates for more than 100 years. [This volume](#) presents a comprehensive compilation of important mammalian groups which continue to thrive today. It includes the most recent fossil finds as well as important new interpretations based on 10 years of fieldwork by the authors. A key focus is placed on the palaeoclimate and palaeoenvironment during the time of deposition in the Middle Miocene Climatic Optimum (MMCO) between 20 and 15 million years ago. The authors present the first reconstruction of what climatic conditions were like and present important new evidence of the geochronological age, habits and community structures of fossil bird and mammal species. Academic researchers and graduate students in palaeontology, palaeobiology, palaeoecology, stratigraphy, climatology and geochronology will find this a valuable source of information about this fascinating geological formation.

Coal and Peat Fires: A Global Perspective

Volume 2: Photographs and Multimedia Tours



Edited by Glenn B. Stracher,
Anupma Prakash and Ellina
V. Sokol

ELSEVIER

584 pages | Hardback
1st edition | September 2012
ISBN 978-0-44-4594129

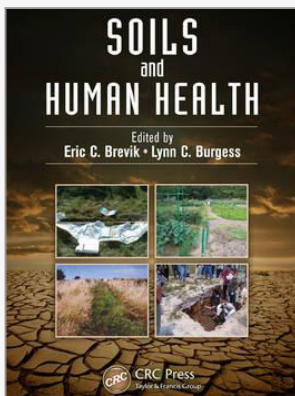
Price: €200 (currently
reduced to €140)

Publisher's summary

[Coal and Peat Fires: A Global Perspective](#) is a compelling collection of research conducted by scientists and engineers around the world. It presents the scientific and industrial communities as well as the interested lay reader with studies about prehistoric as well as historic coal and peat fires and magnificent illustrations of such fires and related research from countries around the world—a totally new contribution to science. The second of four volumes in the collection, Photographs and Multimedia Tours features stunning photographs from around the world, including Australia, Canada, Northern China, India, Borneo, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Russia, the United States, and more. This essential reference also includes a companion website with a collection of slide presentations and videos about coal and peat fires.

Soils and Human Health

A book review



Edited by Eric C. Brevik and
Lynn C. Burgess

CRC PRESS (TAYLOR &
FRANCIS)

408 pages | Hardback
1st edition | December 2012
ISBN 978-1-43-984454-0

Price: £76.99 (~€90.00)

[Soils and Human Health](#) covers a wide range of topics clearly addressed to soil scientists, agronomists and human nutritionists but at the same time includes topics of potential interest to environmental scientists, geologists and physicians of different specialties. The book describes a common scientific basis and several specific scientific topics to a wide variety of readers, including experts, identifying areas to be further studied and investigated. It reaches this aim by using an accessible, although technical, language that is understandable by professionals across multiple disciplines.

The editors, Eric C. Brevik and Lynn C. Burgess, both have a solid academic position, with several years of experience teaching and communicating soil science, biology, environmental health and related disciplines. Their particular focus is on the philosophical, historical and sociological aspects of soil science and environmental health, and on the toxicological impact of environmental pollution to both human and animal health.

The editors guide the authors of this comprehensive and inter-disciplinary work throughout a communicative and cooperative product, extremely rich in figures, tables and several case studies. Their ability is to strongly connect extremely specialised and focused disciplines, which traditionally lack direct communication, using distinct methodologies and impressive language.

Three main sections complete the work, starting with an introduction to general aspects of soil science that offers the reader an overview of soil and human health interactions. In Section II, the book describes the main classes of pollutants, toxic elements occurring in soil and water environments and their connection to human exposure and health. Soils have always been important repositories and

sinks of inorganic and organic agents generated by both natural and anthropogenic processes. Consequently, they have been recognised as physical media of direct toxicity and indirect exposure through agricultural products. In addition, in recent decades, soil biology has also revealed the role of microorganisms in transmitting diseases to humans through the close relationship of humans with soils.

Section III of the book examines the aspects of the use of soil and/or soil portions for human purposes and describes the close relationship between soil and the health and wealth of humans. A key aspect of this interaction is agriculture, especially organic farming, which is commonly believed to stimulate soil biology, overall quality of food products and indirectly affect nutritional quality and human health. The section closes with the mission of promoting soil conditions that protect and advance human health, the complex concept of soil quality, how human exposure to soil-related hazards can be reduced, and the promotion of measures that prevent toxic chemicals and contaminants from reaching the soil.

This last section balances the theme of food security, which is declining through processes that threaten soil functions and reduce its ability to support plant growth and food products for the world population, and the increase in the global population combined with the decline in arable land. The adaptation of humans to climate change is also described for various geographical areas and society cradles.

Theoretical and practical aspects of the connections and the relationships between soils and human health and wealth are still far from being exhaustively disclosed but this book is the first attempt to show the key issues and scientific topics that still need to be investigated. It guides both students and scientists to understand the physical, chemical and biological complexity of different issues throughout the book. Soils are more often used (or abused) as environmental sinks of all kind of products generated by modern society and therefore soil systems tend to accumulate all kinds of chemicals and living organisms that are potentially very harmful to humans in the short or long term. A deep dive through the chapters will surely stimulate the reader to think about the overall concerns that are going to affect human beings in the future.

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