

**NEW DATA ON QUATERNARY FRESHWATER AND LAND MOLLUSCS
IN THE SAHARA**

by Alberto Girod *)

Abstract: The Libyan Fezzan has been affected by different bodies of water during different periods of its history. A study of the Holocene freshwater molluscs gathered during the years 2000 and 2001 by Italian expeditions in the Libyan Fezzan is the foundation of a palaeoenvironmental evaluation of this area. The biological and ecological needs of aquatic species depend on factors such as hydro dynamism, temperature and salinity, the parameters of which often differ from species to species. The land snails encountered in this study seem to belong to the Saharan Middle-Upper Palaeolithic and point to a dry environment. The biogeographical aspects and the possibilities of Holocene diffusion of molluscs in the Saharan area are also discussed.

Key words: freshwater and land molluscs, Sahara, Quaternary, Palaeoenvironment.