Tilia Training Sessions
9-11 May 2011, Liverpool, England
16-18 May, Aix-en-Provence, France

The new all-Windows version of Tilia was released in January 2011. This version includes the spreadsheet and graphics in a single program and includes many new enhancements, such as a component for generating and viewing age models. The program can also carry out stratigraphically constrained (and unconstrained) cluster analysis. The program is also designed to be compatible with the Neotoma Paleoecology Database, and will be used by Neotoma data stewards for data entry. It has forms for metadata, including site data, core data, geochronologic data, age models, contacts, and publications. The Neotoma Paleoecology Database is a multiproxy paleodatabase for the Quaternary and Pliocene. Constituent databases include the European Pollen Database and the North American Pollen Database.

Eric Grimm, author of Tilia, will conduct training sessions that will cover all aspects of the Tilia program, including data entry, metadata entry, age-model construction, cluster analysis, and construction and editing of pollen diagrams. The workshop will also provide an introduction to the Neotoma Paleoecology Database—how to use the website tools as well as make simple queries in Access to the full database.

Additional sessions and lectures:

Maarten Blaauw (Queen's University Belfast). Half-day session (Wednesday morning): "Paleochronology, age models, and Bacon – software for flexible Bayesian age-depth modeling." Liverpool and Aix-en-Provence.

John Birks (University of Bergen). Lecture: "Using ordination methods in palaeoecology." Lecture: Discussion of PCA, CA, DCA, and NMDS; when and why to use them, their strengths and weaknesses in palaeoecology, and some of their uses in analogue matching, rate of change, testing if a reconstruction is statistically significant, estimating turnover, and avoidance of the more complex topics of spatial autocorrelation and pitfalls of transfer functions. Liverpool only.

Jane Bunting (University of Hull). Lecture: "Quantitative vegetation reconstruction using pollen data." Liverpool only.

What to bring: Participants should bring a laptop computer and have administrative rights to install new software. The newest version of Tilia will be distributed to those who have not yet obtained it. Having Access installed is recommended, but not required. Time will be allotted for participants to work with their own data, which they should bring.

Costs: There will be no registration fee. However, participants are responsible for their own travel, lodging, and meals. Recommendations for lodging will be made in a future announcement.

Registration: Please reply to Richard Bradshaw (Richard.Bradshaw@liv.ac.uk) if you would like to participate and indicate whether you choose Liverpool or Aix. You will have to pay for travel and accommodation but we hope to subsidise some of the on-site costs. There are several cheap flights to Liverpool or Manchester airports and we can organize budget accommodation. Practical details and registration forms will be sent later. Please pass this on to interested colleagues.