Baez Rockshelter and Climate

- 35 km northwest of Damascus
- At pass and near springs - ecotone
- Excavated by Conard/Damascus in 1999-2004
- 7strata, VII-V are Upper Paleo
- IV-II are Late Natufian

Dates from Baez

PN/Chalcolithic 4500-4000 cal BC

Late Natufian ca 11,000-10,300 cal BC

Late Upper Paleo 23,000-21,000

Upper Paleolithic 34,000-32,000

Natufian Occupation

- Levels IV-II have Natufian lithics
- Best preserved is floor in IIIa, with mortar and fireplace
- Lithics show hunting, meat preparation, wood working, plant processing, tool making
- Natufian occupation during Younger Dryas

Study of Vegetation

- Deckers et al (2009) *Veget. Hist.Archaeobotany* 18:329-340
- Studied charcoal, fruit, seed, pollen and phytoliths
- Climatic history and effect of Younger Dryas on Natufians

Environmental Changes

- Upper Paleolithic 34-32,000 cool and moist with expansion of pine woodland
- Late Upper Paleolithic 23-21,000 arid Late Glacial Maximum steppe shrubs
- Natufian 12,000-11,000 Younger Dryas-almond-pistachio woodland; permanent spring/march near site; no local wild cereals; absence of fruits and seeds; legumes abundant

Faunal Remains

- During Natufian, hunted wide spectrum
- Hare and gazelle predominate
- Cow,fallow and red deer from wetter habitats not far from site
- Sheep, goat, tortoise, wolf and horse are local steppe species

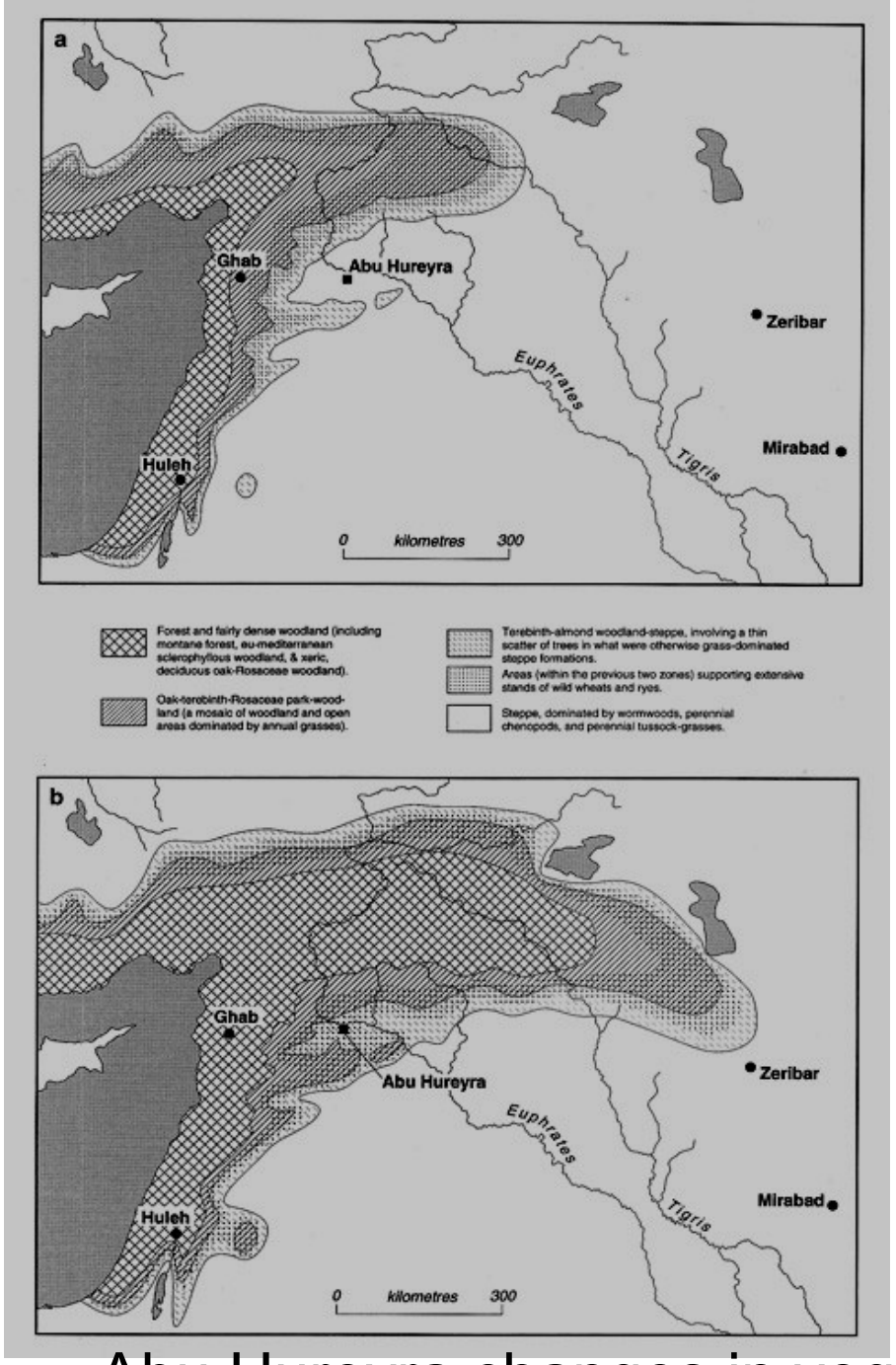
Regional Comparisons

- Soreq Cave indicates wetter late Pleistocene. Baez VI and VII have pine pollen, probably reflecting broad region
- Lack of pollen in V may be same as extreme arid in Soreq at 25,000, followed by LGM
- Expansion of trees in regional records from at least 16,000
- Younger Dryas' effects not fully determined
- Neolithic wetter conditions with HCO

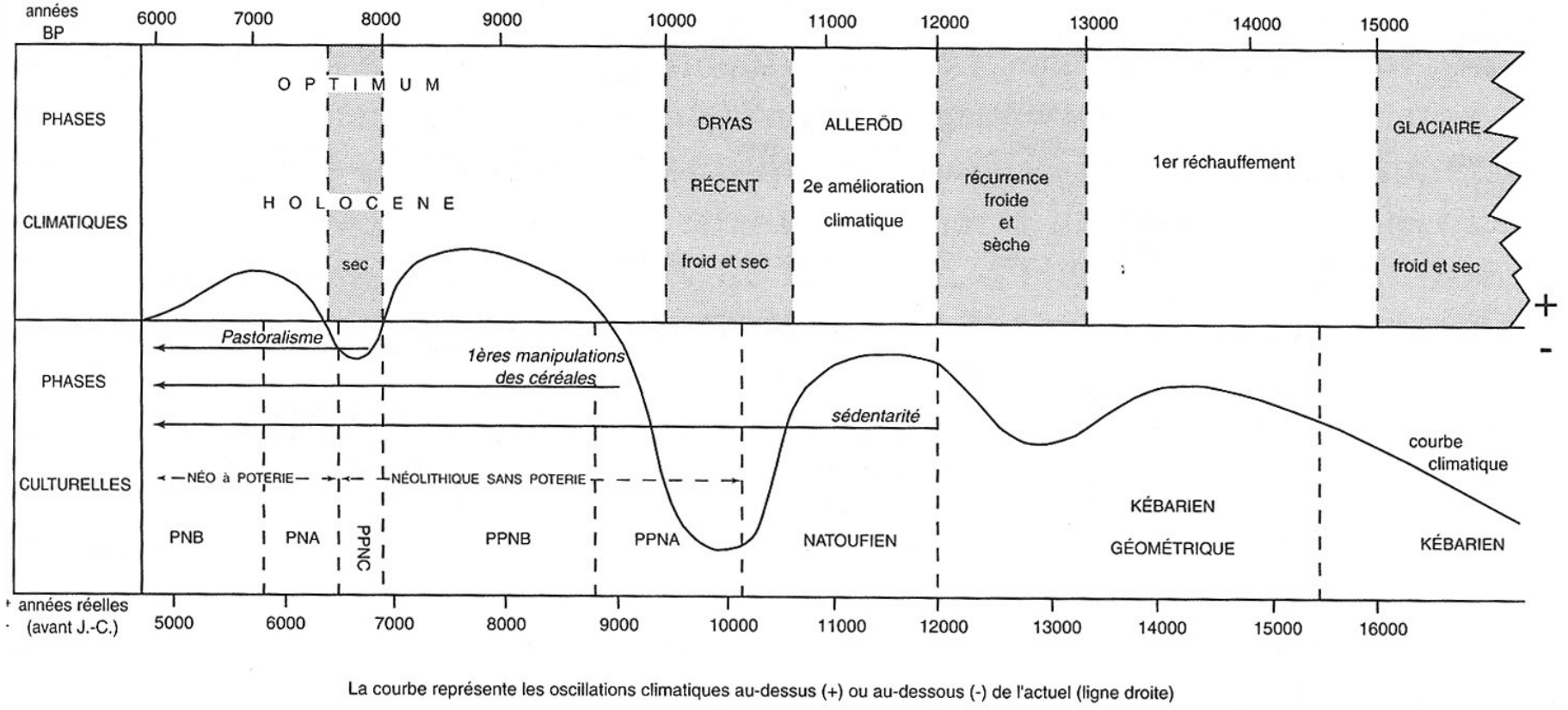
VILLAGE ON THE EUPHRATES

FROM FORAGING TO FARMING AT ABU HUREYRA

A. M. T. MOORE
G. C. HILLMAN
A. J. LEGGE



Abu Hureyra changes in vegetation



La courbe représente les oscillations climatiques au-dessus (+) ou au-dessous (-) de l'actuel (ligne droite)

Figure 72 Phases climatiques et évolution des sociétés humaines dans la zone levantine entre 16 000 et 5 000 av. J.-C.

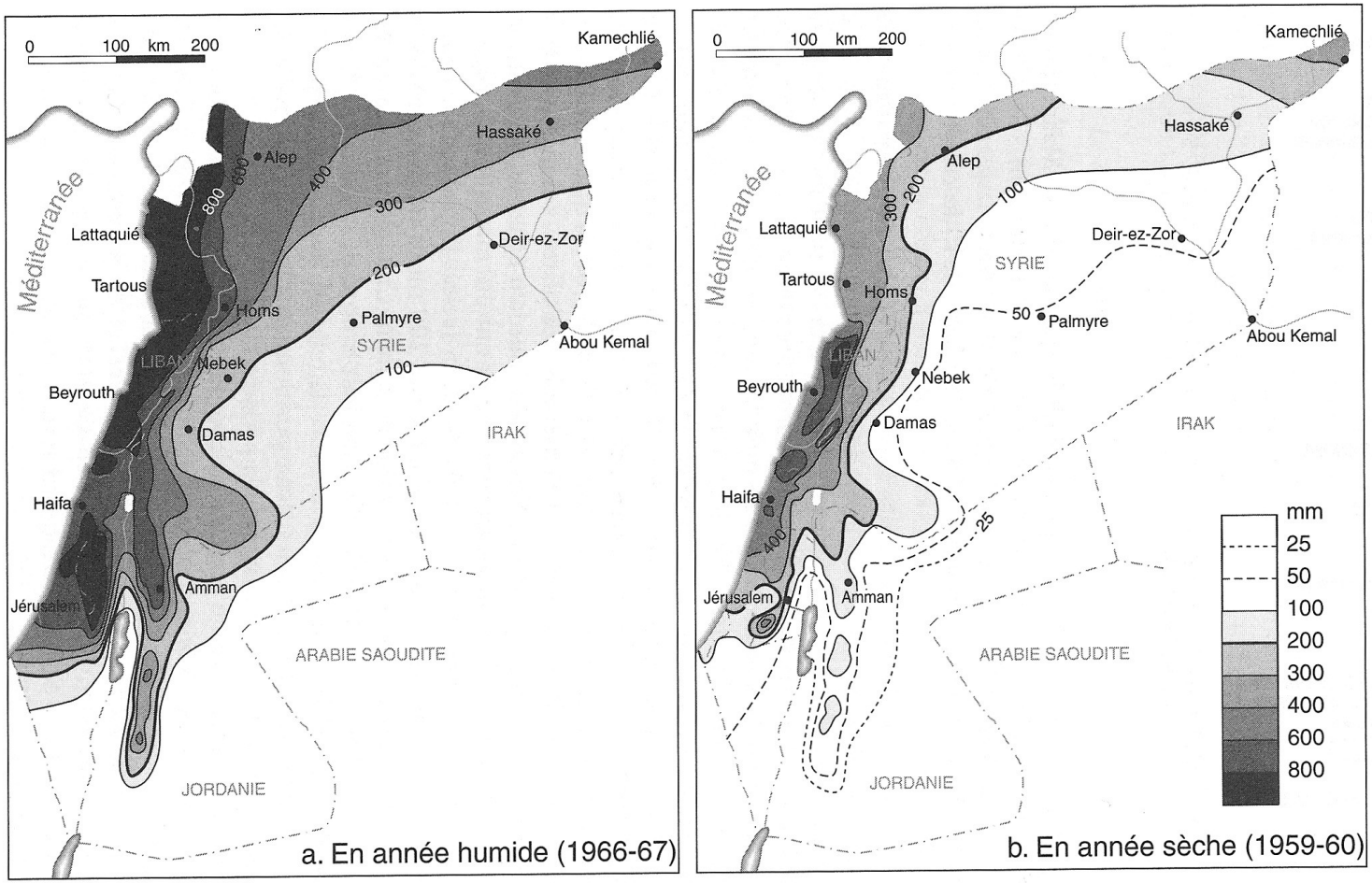


Figure 47 Variations interannuelles des précipitations dans quelques pays du Proche-Orient

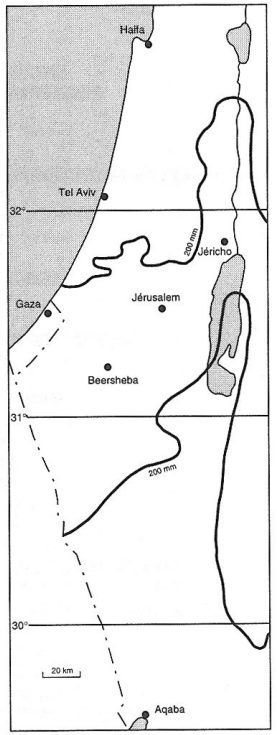


Figure 48 Limites extrêmes de l'isohyète de 200 mm dans le sud-ouest du Levant entre 1931 et 1975 (d'après Atlas of Israel, 1985)

Interannual variability in precipitation

Conclusions

- Baez shows temporary camps of Upper Paleolithic hunters during both wetter and dryer episodes of the Late Pleistocene
- Natufians had relatively more permanent settlement, although very small
- Wide range of activities but possibly not year-round
- Optimal ecotonal environment