

The Holocene

# Comparison of quantitative Holocene temperature reconstructions using multiple proxies from a northern boreal lake

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3	Shala S, Helmens KF, Luoto TP, Salonen JS, Väliranta M, Weckström J.
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5	Key words: Pollen, diatoms, chironomids, plant macrofossils, driving factors, northern
6	boreal Fennoscandia.
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13	July temperatures recorded by the terrestrial pollen are the result of site-specific factors
14	possibly combined with a delayed response of the terrestrial ecosystem compared to the
15	aquatic ecosystem. Our study shows that all the reconstructions are influenced at least to
16	some extent by local factors, and highlights the benefit of using multi-proxy data in
17	Holocene climate reconstructions.

# 1 Introduction

Reconstructing Holocene temperatures through the use of quantitative methods has received considerable attention in the past decades (e.g. Juggins, 2013). While this has allowed to explore their potential and detect strengths and weaknesses of the various quantitative reconstruction tools available (Birks et al., 2010; Juggins and Birks, 2012), more detailed studies of underlying drivers and reasons for divergent temperature reconstructions yielded from different biotic proxies are still needed. The reasons for the differences are mainly related to the transfer-function approach itself due to the complex nature of biotic response to environmental change (Anderson, 2000; Velle et al., 2010, 2012; Brooks et al., 2012; Juggins, 2013). Recent studies discussing the effect of various parameters on the reconstructed temperatures, e.g. choice of calibration-set or regression method, have further emphasized the complexity and sensitivity of the transfer-function approach, suggesting that additional caution should be exercised in the interpretation of transfer-function-based climate reconstructions (Salonen et al., 2012; 2013a, b; Juggins, 2013; Luoto et al., 2014). Furthermore, the classical view of low summer temperatures during the first millennia of the Holocene and a mid-Holocene maximum warming in northern Europe has recently been challenged. While this traditional view has been based mainly on pollen-inferred climate reconstructions (Seppä and Birks, 2001; Salonen et al., 2011; Renssen et al., 2012), fossil assemblages of plant macrofossils and insect remains often suggest high summer temperatures already during the earliest Holocene (Brooks and Birks, 2001; Jones et al., 2011; Paus et al., 2011; Väliranta et al., 2011b; Birks et al., 2012; Luoto et al., 2014; Väliranta et al., 2015). Thus, the present study based on a multi-proxy approach can further increase our understanding in the applicability of biotic proxy-based temperature inferences 

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especially in the boreal bio-climate zone of Fennoscandia, where detailed records are
 still scarce.

3 In this paper, Holocene mean July air temperature  $(T_{iul})$  reconstructions based on four biological assemblages (plant macrofossils, pollen, chironomids, and diatoms) are 4 compared and evaluated in the light of local-scale and site-specific processes, as these 5 6 factors have been shown to significantly influence fossil assemblages extracted from lake sediments (Velle et al., 2005; Anderson et al., 2008; Shala et al., 2014). While the 7 plant macrofossil-based reconstructions make use of the presence of certain indicator 8 taxa and yield a minimum  $T_{jul}$  only (Väliranta et al., 2015), the other three  $T_{jul}$ 9 reconstructions are based on the multivariate transfer-function approach in which both 10 the most likely past temperature and the sample-specific reconstruction error are 11 estimated. The compositional distance between fossil samples and their closest modern 12 analogues in the calibration-set, the temperature optima of the dominating taxa as well 13 14 as the distribution of calibration sites along the temperature gradient of the calibration-15 set are used to compare and evaluate the reconstructions.

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## 17 Study site

The coring site is situated in the eastern part of Lake Loitsana, at Sokli, NE Finland
(67°48'17"N, 29°16'56"E; 214 m a.s.l.; Fig. 1 A-B). Regional present-day vegetation
consists of northern boreal forest with birch (*Betula pubescens* and *B. pendula*), pine
(*Pinus sylvestris*) and spruce (*Picea abies*) as the dominating tree species. The mean
annual temperature in the area is approximately -1 °C, with a January mean of -13.8 °C,
and a July mean of 13.4 °C. Mean annual precipitation is approximately 550 mm (Fig.
1C). The underlying bedrock consists of a Palaeozoic carbonate-rich magma intrusion

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(Sokli Carbonatite Massif), which is surrounded by bedrock consisting of crystalline
 rocks of the Precambrian Shield (Vartiainen, 1980).

Lake Loitsana is situated in a former meltwater channel associated with NW-SE oriented esker chains. The lake area is 8 ha, water depth of 1–2 m, water pH c. 7.4, and autumnal total phosphorus (TP) concentration c. 19-25  $\mu$ g l<sup>-1</sup> (Finnish Environmental Institute, 2010). The lake is currently mainly fed by groundwater inflow and by limited surficial input from a small stream in the NW part of the lake. It has also one narrow outflow. An extensive aapa mire complex borders the lake to the south (Fig. 1B).

## [insert Figure 1.]

The general lake development history and associated processes were described and 10 discussed in Shala et al. (2014) and general regional vegetation development in Salonen 11 et al. (2013a). Shala et al. (2014) identified six lake stages with associated local 12 processes, each affecting the different biological assemblages during various periods 13 14 (Fig. 2). These local stages were; a deep glacial lake (Stage 1), glacial lake drainage 15 resulting in a shallow glacial lake (Stage 2), the formation of Lake Loitsana (Stage 3) with a morphometric eutrophication (Stage 3A) and a period of stratification (Stage 3B), 16 nearby wetland development with changes in fluvial inflow (Stage 4), a river diversion 17 (Stage 4B), a shallowing lake with limited surficial inflow (Stage 5), and a more or less 18 isolated groundwater-fed lake (Stage 6). A summary of the Holocene lake development 19 as well as regional vegetation development is presented in Fig. 2. This summary is 20 expanded in the Supplementary information, where a detailed pollen/macrofossil 21 diagram (Supplementary Figure 1) is also included. 22 [insert Figure 2.] 23

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# Materials and methods

## 2 Fossil data

Down-core fossil data were obtained from nine meters of lacustrine sediment, collected with a Russian peat corer from the ice-covered Lake Loitsana in spring 2008. The core was subsampled with a resolution of 1 cm between 0 and 735 cm consisting of organicrich sediments and at 5 cm resolution between 735 and 900 cm, where the sediment was of minerogenic origin. Fossil analyses (plant macrofossils, pollen, chironomids, and diatoms) were performed at intervals of 3–20 cm in the organic-rich sediment and 5–10 cm in the underlying minerogenic unit. Details on the different analytical procedures are presented in Shala et al. (2014). 

*Quantitative reconstructions* 

Holocene  $T_{jul}$  reconstructions based on plant macrofossils (henceforth  $T_{julM}$ ), pollen ( $T_{julP}$ ), chironomids ( $T_{julC}$ ), and diatoms ( $T_{julD}$ ) were performed on fossil data obtained from the Loitsana sediment sequence.

*Plant macrofossils.* The  $T_{julM}$  reconstruction method is adopted from Väliranta et al. (2015). The method is an implementation of the indicator-species method, with information on modern species distribution limits is combined with measured  $T_{iul}$  from the same grid cells (10x10 km) in Finland. First, the most indicative plant species is selected from the macrofossil assemblages. Next, modern species distribution observations (Lampinen et al., 2014) and a  $T_{jul}$  based on daily measurements (1970– 2000) by the Finnish Meteorological Institute (Venäläinen et al., 2005), is used to estimate current taxon-specific minimum  $T_{jul}$  requirement. The taxon-specific minimum

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1	$T_{\rm jul}$ requirement is a median value calculated over 5-6 observations along the taxon's
2	northernmost distribution limit. Estimates of past minimum $T_{jul}$ are derived as the
3	highest modern minimum $T_{jul}$ requirement among the taxa found in the fossil sample.
4	
5	Pollen, chironomids, and diatoms. $T_{julP}$ , $T_{julC}$ , and $T_{julD}$ , were reconstructed using two-
6	component weighted averaging-partial least squares (WA-PLS; Ter Braak and Juggins,
7	1993) regression calibration models. Leave-one-out cross-validations (Birks, 1995)
8	were used to calculate model performance statistics (Table 1), and estimated standard
9	errors of prediction (eSEPs) for each fossil sample were obtained using random re-
10	sampling (bootstrapping with 1000 iterations).
11	
12	Table 1. Summary of calibration-set data, applied regression methods and model
13	performance statistics for the different proxies. Two-component WA-PLS models were

chosen for the pollen-, chironomid-, and diatom-based reconstructions. RMSEP = root 14

mean square error of prediction.			
Proxy	Pollen	Chironomids	Diatoms
No. of lakes in the calibration set	218	139	64
No. of taxa calibration set	127	117	370
Temperature range (°C)	9.0-17.3	7.9–17.1	7.9–15
Regression method	WA-PLS	WA-PLS	WA-PLS
Cross-validation approach	Jack-knifing	Jack-knifing	Jack-knifing
R2	0.884	0.880	0.882
Average bias (°C)	-0.018	0.005	0.032
Maximum bias (°C)	1.248	1.088	2.300
RMSEP (°C)	0.831	0.839	0.957

mean square error of prediction. 15

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17 The modern analogue technique (MAT; Overpeck et al., 1985; Simpson, 2012) was used to assess the reliability of the reconstructions, by calculating the compositional 18 distance (squared-chord distance) between fossil samples and their closest modern 19

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1	analogues in the calibration set (CS) used. Qualitative estimates of the fit are made by
2	comparing down-core distances to closest modern analogues to the distances found with
3	the most-recent fossil samples, using increasing distance values as an indication of a
4	worsening fit.
5	Species-response analysis was performed by using weighted averaging (WA; Birks
6	et al., 1990) to extract the species temperature optima. As WA-PLS uses transformed
7	species optima which are not readily assessable, we used the WA temperature optima
8	and tolerances instead as a rough guideline to analyzing the trends and probable driving
9	taxa in the reconstructions. All reconstructions and the analyses of compositional
10	distances and species optima/tolerances were performed using the program C2 Data
11	Analysis, version 1.7.2 (Juggins, 2007).
12	
13	Calibration sets
14	Basic information about the three different CS's used in this study are summarised in
15	Table 1.
16	The CS for $T_{julP}$ consists of 218 lakes and 127 taxa (further details in Salonen et al.,
17	2013a). The lakes are distributed along a latitudinal gradient from the Arctic Ocean
18	coast to Lithuania and have a $T_{jul}$ gradient of 9.0–17.3 °C.
19	The CS for $T_{julc}$ consists of 139 lakes and 117 taxa (Luoto et al., 2014). The lakes
20	are situated in northern Finland and distributed along a temperature gradient of 7.9-17.1
21	°C.
22	The CS for $T_{julD}$ consists of 64 lakes and 370 taxa. The lakes are distributed along a
23	temperature gradient of 7.9–14.9 °C in NW Finnish Lapland (Weckström and Korhola,
24	2001).

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# Results Plant macrofossil-based reconstructions

- 3 The minimum  $T_{\text{julM}}$  estimations are based on the local presence of aquatic and wetland
- 4 plants; *Glyceria lithuanica* ( $\geq$  15.7 °C), and *Typha* seeds ( $\geq$  15.7 °C), *Callitriche*
- 5 *hermaphroditica* seeds ( $\geq$  14.0 °C), *Callitriche cophocarpa* seeds ( $\geq$  13.7 °C) and
- 6 narrow-leaved *Potamogeton* species ( $\geq$  13.6 °C). The results suggest that high  $T_{julM}$  (>
- 7 present day values) prevailed already during the earliest part of the Holocene and
- 8 temperatures at least as warm as today are indicated also for the rest of the Holocene
- 9 (Fig. 3). After 10 100 cal. yrs BP no plant macrofossil remains indicating similarly high
- 10 temperatures were found and this is reflected as a decline in  $T_{julM}$ .
  - [insert Figure 3.]

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13 Transfer function-based reconstructions and modern analogues

14 Pollen-based reconstructions. Zone I (c. 10 800-10 570 cal. yrs BP) is characterized by rather low reconstructed  $T_{iulP}$  values (c. 11.5 °C), which prevail throughout Zone II 15 16 (10570-10200 cal a. BP). In Zone III, from c. 9000 cal. yrs BP onwards  $T_{julP}$  values gradually increase until c. 7000 cal. yrs BP, where it remains at ~14 °C (Fig. 3). 17 Temperatures higher than present day (i.e. 13.4 °C) prevailed since then (Zones III and 18 IV). The best fit between the fossil samples and modern analogues was recorded in 19 20 Zone IV. In general, the fit is decreasing with increasing age. Cross-validation statistics for the pollen-based calibration model are good (Table 1). Furthermore, scattered 21 occurrences of *Typha latifolia* and Nymphaceae pollen, which are currently distributed 22

23 in the boreal zone of Finland, were noted until c. 6500 cal. yrs BP (Supplementary

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1	Figure 1).
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3	<i>Chironomid-based reconstructions</i> . During the earliest Holocene $T_{julC}$ is c.12 °C (Fig.
4	4). Since c. 10 700 cal. yrs BP (Stage 1), $T_{julC}$ values rapidly increase up to c.15 °C,
5	where it remains throughout Stage 2 and 3A, until c. 9700 cal. yrs BP. This period is
6	followed by a decline in $T_{julC}$ (Stage 3B) with values below present day (13.4 °C)
7	between c. 8700–6800 cal. yrs BP (Stage 4) and 6000–4300 cal. yrs BP (Stage 5). From
8	c. 4300 cal. yrs BP (Stage 6) $T_{julC}$ values were higher than present-day temperatures,
9	with an increasing trend towards present. In general, the squared-chord distances of
10	fossil samples to the closest modern analogue suggest a good fit. However, there
11	appears to be a somewhat tendency to decreasing fit with increasing age (Fig. 4). Cross-
12	validation statistics suggest that the model is strong, with similar performance compared
13	to the $T_{julP}$ model (Table 1).
14	[insert Figure 4.]
15	
16	<i>Diatom-based reconstructions.</i> The reconstructed $T_{julD}$ values are below the present-day

17 temperature throughout the Holocene (Fig. 5). The  $T_{julD}$  temperature varies between 12.1–13.1 °C with most values around 12.5 °C. The highest temperatures (around 13.1 18 °C) were reconstructed during Stages 1-3, i.e. prior to c. 8200 cal. yrs BP. A minor dip 19 in  $T_{julD}$  (to ~12.4 °C) can be observed in Stage 3A, at c. 9500 cal a BP. During Stage 4, 20 5 and 6,  $T_{julD}$  is relatively constant around 12.5 °C. The compositional fit between the 21 22 fossil and modern samples is more or less constant throughout the Holocene, and there is no trend towards a deteriorating fit with increasing age. The model performance 23

1	statistics, however, are slightly weaker compared to the pollen and chironomid models
2	(Table 1).
3	[insert Figure 5.]
4	
5	Discussion
6	Evaluation of $T_{jul}$ reconstructions
7	Plant macrofossils. The composition of plant macrofossils in sediment records is
8	affected by factors such as water depth and distance to closest shore (e.g. Hannon and
9	Gaillard, 1997; Väliranta 2006a, b), water chemistry and nutrient availability (e.g.
10	Jackson and Charles, 1988), and temperature (e.g. Birks, 1991; Väliranta et al., 2015).
11	Remains can be transported into lakes by wind, birds, inflowing streams, solifluction,
12	and slope-wash (Birks, 2007).
13	In the Lake Loitsana sediment record, the presence of plant macrofossil remains
14	appears to be mainly influenced by taphonomic factors such as distance to the shore,
15	inflow of streaming water to the coring site and water depth (Shala et al., 2014). The
16	near continuous presence of littoral zone species such as narrow-leaved Potamogeton,
17	suggests that changes in water depth did not result in a marked alteration of the distance
18	to the nearest shore, most likely due to the presence of an esker in the vicinity of the
19	coring site with a steep side facing the lake.
20	In general, a high amount of terrestrial macrofossil remains in relation to littoral
21	plant remains in sediment records reflects shallow conditions (Väliranta et al., 2006b).
22	In Lake Loitsana, however, this relationship appears to be reflecting changes in inflow
23	of streaming water. For example, a marked decline of terrestrial macrofossil remains,
24	such as seeds and catkin scales from tree-type Betula, occurs at c. 6500 cal. yrs BP and

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coincides with the redirection of the Soklioja rivulet (Supplementary Information). This
further highlights that absence of certain species in the fossil record does not necessarily
reflect its actual absence from the local vegetation (Birks, 1973; Hannon and Gaillard,
1997; Väliranta, 2005). Accordingly, the apparent decline in T<sub>julM</sub> after 10 100 cal. yrs
BP should not be interpreted as an indication of cooling.

6

Pollen. One advantage of using plant macrofossils in this study is that they confirm 7 local presence of specific taxa, and are thus highly valuable also for the evaluation of 8 9 pollen-based temperature reconstructions (Salonen et al., 2013a) allowing us to identify 10 pollen or spore types, which are likely to be locally produced and not representative of the regional vegetation. In the pollen-climate CS used, the sites were carefully chosen 11 to avoid littoral vegetation in order to restrict the amount of local pollen in the samples. 12 This makes the pollen-reconstruction sensitive to taphonomic differences between the 13 14 datasets resulting from e.g. changes in depositional settings. This, in turn, could affect 15 the relative representation of regionally transported and locally produced pollen from 16 e.g. a nearby shore or wetland and might cause an over-representation of locally produced pollen. The local origin of Cyperaceae, *Equisetum* and Gramineae (syn. 17 Poaceae) following deglaciation and until 9200 cal. yrs BP is confirmed by presence of 18 macrofossil remains (Carex seed, Equisetum remains, Glyceria lithuanica) and grass 19 20 phytoliths. These taxa are more common in the tundra calibration sites and have thus low temperature optima in the CS (Salonen JS, personal observation). An 21 overrepresentation of locally produced pollen could explain the poor compositional fit 22 observed during the early Holocene as well as cause an underestimation of the 23 reconstructed T<sub>iulP</sub>. Since 8000 cal. yrs BP occurrences of Alnus, Filipendula and long-24

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1	distance transported Corylus coincide with reconstructed temperatures above present
2	day value (13.4 °C). Warmer temperatures (>13.4 °C) are generally driven by the
3	occurrence of tree pollen (e.g. Tilia, Ulmus, Corylus, Carpinus, Fraxinus), which are
4	presently only found in the southernmost part of the CS (Salonen JS, personal
5	observation). The poor fit observed in the mid Holocene appears to be associated to
6	high Alnus values. Alnus has a preference for moist habitats (Mossberg and Stenberg,
7	2003) and is a strong pollen producer (Bradshaw, 1981). Its pollen can be strongly over-
8	represented when locally present (Tinsley and Smith, 1974). It is thus possible that the
9	sharp, mid-Holocene peak in Alnus was caused by the presence of Alnus in the wetland
10	habitat immediately surrounding the lake. This is further supported by the concurrent
11	presence of Alnus macrofossil remains. Relatively low Picea pollen percentages are
12	encountered since c. 4000 cal. yrs BP in comparison to other sites in Finnish Lapland
13	(Salonen et al., 2013a). The WA-optima of <i>Picea</i> (15.2 °C) is 4 <sup>th</sup> highest among the
14	dominating taxa in the used CS and might thus to some extent have overestimated the
15	reconstructed $T_{jul}$ values during the late Holocene, despite its underrepresentation in the
16	fossil samples compared to other sites in Fennoscandia.
17	Chironomids. The low temperatures reconstructed during the earliest Holocene (> 10
18	700 cal. yrs BP), i.e. during the deep glacial lake stage, appear to be driven by the cold-
19	and deep-water taxa <i>Heterotrissocladius maeaeri</i> -type and <i>Tanytarsus lugens</i> -type. The

and deep-water taxa *Heterotrissocladius maeaeri*-type and *Tanytarsus lugens*-type. The former is also reported to have dominated the deep waters of the late-glacial Baltic Ice Lake (Luoto et al., 2010). The high  $T_{jul}$  values, which are reconstructed already during the existence of the deep glacial lake (until c. 10 570 cal. yrs BP), rise during the shallow glacial lake and peak during the initiation of Lake Loitsana with morphometric

eutrophication (Shala et al., 2013). The  $T_{julc}$  remains relatively high following the

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1	morphometric eutrophication at c. 10 200 cal. yrs BP. At c. 10 700-10 100 cal. yrs BP,
2	there is a clear representation of taxa preferring more nutrient-rich conditions, e.g. the
3	eutrophic littoral taxon Polypedilum nubeculosum-type (Raunio et al., 2010). This taxon
4	thrives under shallow lake conditions, increases in littoral vegetation and/or higher
5	nutrient availability, and might therefore cause the overestimation of $T_{julC}$ . However, as
6	this taxon occurs in high abundances already in the deep phase of the glacial lake (prior
7	to 10 570 cal. yrs BP), the high $T_{julc}$ values appear to be primarily climatically driven.
8	This is further supported by the generally low presence of cold-water indicators with the
9	exception of Tanytarsus lugens-type (Brooks et al., 2007), which nevertheless also
10	clearly decreases in abundance since 10 700 cal. yrs BP. A slight overestimation of the
11	$T_{\rm jul}$ values cannot, however, be ruled out as littoral vegetation was closer and
12	transported to the coring site during 10 600–10 200 cal. yrs BP. It could thus be argued
13	that this early Holocene peak in temperature was maintained or even prolonged by the
14	morphometric eutrophication that followed and persisted until c. 9300 cal. yrs BP by
15	causing an increase in several taxa with warm temperature optima (Chironomus
16	anthracinus-type, Cricotopus cylindraceus-type and Procladius) and preference to
17	higher nutrient conditions (Luoto, 2011). This seems, however, unlikely as temperature
18	begins to decline during this period and continuing well into Stage 3B.
19	The low $T_{\text{julc}}$ values (<13 °C) between c. 8700–6800 cal. yrs BP and 6000–4500
20	cal. yrs BP appear to be driven by high occurrences of <i>Corynocera ambigua</i> and <i>C</i> .
21	oliveri-type (Fig. 4). The former has the third lowest WA temperature optimum of all
22	dominating taxa in the CS and the latter has the lowest optimum with a value of 10.6 $\pm$
23	1.4 °C (Fig. 6). The modern distribution of Corynocera ambigua in Finnish lakes is
24	related to cold oligo-mesotrophic waters, but it is known to have a complex ecology

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1	(Brodersen and Lindegaard, 1999). In the sediment sequence of Lake Loitsana it
2	appears to be favoured by dense macrophyte communities of e.g. Myriophyllum (Shala
3	et al., 2014, Fig. 2). Though generally considered a cold indicator, the stenotherm
4	Corynocera oliveri-type has also been found in warmer lakes (Palmer et al., 2002) as
5	well as associated to higher DOC concentrations (Gajewski et al., 2005; Medeiros and
6	Quinlan, 2011). In the sediment record of Lake Loitsana it seem to be driven by
7	increased DOC contents. The low $T_{julC}$ from c. 8700 until 4500 cal. yrs BP, might thus
8	to be an artefact caused by locally driven changes (e.g. river diversion). With the
9	exception of Corynocera ambigua, which had high abundances throughout 6290-6790
10	cal. yrs BP, oligotrophic/cold-indicating taxa clearly decline or are completely absent
11	while meso/eutrophic taxa such as <i>Dicrotendipes pulsus</i> -type and <i>Procladius</i> , with a
12	WA-optima above 13 °C, clearly increase.
13	The gradually increasing and higher than present-day $T_{julC}$ from c. 4500 cal. yrs BP
14	until present is associated with declining abundances of cold-indicating Corynocera
15	<i>ambigua</i> and <i>Paratanytarsus</i> . The most recent rise in $T_{julC}$ values from c. 1800 cal. yrs
16	BP to present, however, appears to be driven by increased abundances of warm-
17	indicating Cladotanytarsus mancus-type and Tanytarsus mendax-type (Eggermont and
18	Heiri, 2012), which also have a preference for shallow waters and nutrient-rich
19	conditions (Brooks et al., 2007; Luoto, 2011). The $T_{julc}$ of c. 15 °C is therefore probably
20	unrealistically high and driven by the further shallowing of the lake (e.g. Nyman et al.,
21	2008).
22	[insert Figure 6.]
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1	Diatoms. The diatom record at Lake Loitsana is characterized by mass-occurring
2	Fragilariaceae (Staurosira venter, S. construens, Pseudostaurosira brevistriata,
3	Staurosirella lapponica, Staurosira binodis and Staurosirella pinnata) throughout the
4	Holocene (Fig. 5), comprising 55-96% of each diatom assemblage. These taxa are
5	generally considered as opportunistic and pioneering due to their wide range of
6	ecological preferences and they often dominate lakes with disturbed conditions, for
7	example, alpine proglacial lakes or recently deglaciated lakes (e.g. Lotter et al., 1999;
8	Seppä and Weckström, 1999; Bigler et al., 2003; Schmidt et al., 2004). At lake Loitsana
9	they seem to be favoured by the alkaline water and disturbances caused by
10	fluvial/minerogenic influx as well as groundwater inflow from the nearby esker. WA-
11	optima of the dominating Fragilariaceae taxa (Fig. 6) shows a clear pattern with
12	generally low $T_{\text{julD}}$ optima (~11.5–12.5 °C), most likely resulting from the uneven
13	distribution of CS sites along the temperature gradient. The low $T_{julD}$ values throughout
14	the Holocene appear to be an artefact of the mass-occurrence of Fragilariaceae and the
15	distributional bias of the CS lakes towards the cold end of the temperature gradient. The
16	high distance to the closest modern analogue, although rather constant throughout the
17	Holocene, suggests that the similarities between the fossil samples and CS are low.
18	Diatoms have been shown to capture Holocene climate variability (e.g. Pienitz et al.,
19	1995; Korhola et al., 2000; Bigler, 2001; Weckström et al., 2006), although their
20	sensitivity to other variables (e.g. pH, trophic state) complicates temperature
21	reconstructions especially during time periods when the other variables are not constant
22	(Anderson, 2000; Battarbee, 2000; Bigler and Hall, 2003; Laroque and Bigler, 2004).
23	The general trend of the reconstruction, with higher temperatures during the early
24	Holocene, and limited variation during the mid- and late-Holocene, is most likely to

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1	some degree reflecting regional climate development, as diatoms depend on water-
2	temperature for various processes (e.g. Pienitz et al., 1995 and references therein).
3	However, the complex relationship between diatoms and environmental variables makes
4	it difficult to disentangle the climate signal from the site-specific processes (e.g. pH,
5	substrate, turbidity and trophic state) that have affected species distribution at Lake
6	Loitsana (Shala et al., 2014).
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8	Comparison of the $T_{jul}$ reconstructions
9	A comparison of the reconstructed $T_{jul}$ deviations from the present day value reveals
10	that not only the absolute values but also the general trend differs considerably between
11	the different proxies. While the pollen-based reconstruction displays low early
12	Holocene (prior to 8200 cal. yrs BP) $T_{jul}$ (~2 °C below present day) and temperatures
13	higher than present only after c. 8000 cal. yrs BP, the plant macrofossils and
14	chironomids suggest high $T_{jul}$ already in the early Holocene (prior to 8200 cal. yrs BP)
15	with temperatures of at least 2 °C higher than present day prior to 10 500 cal. yrs BP
16	(Fig. 7). Diatoms mirror this trend with higher temperature throughout the early
17	Holocene, but with considerably lower values (around 12.8 °C).
18	[insert Figure 7.]
19	Local presence of plants is generally inferred from plant macrofossils although in some
20	cases, also pollen from aquatic and wetland plants can be indicative of local presence
21	(Birks and Birks, 2000). For example, Typha latifolia has been found to have a highly
22	localized pollen dispersal (Krattinger, 1975; Ahee et al., 2015). In Lake Loitsana,
23	scattered pollen occurrences of Typha latifolia and aquatic plants such as
24	Nymphaeaceae were noted until c. 6500 cal. yrs BP and could be considered to indicate

local presence like plant macrofossil remains. This would suggest that temperatures were at least 15.6 °C, which is slightly higher than the reconstructed  $T_{julP}$ , although this falls within the margin of the sample specific errors. Also  $T_{julC}$  displays a trend with rising temperatures around 6500 cal. yrs BP, although the values are, in similarity with  $T_{julD}$ , below present day temperature throughout middle Holocene (8200-4200 cal. yrs BP).

While plant macrofossils suggest at least comparable T<sub>jul</sub> throughout the late Holocene
(4200 cal. yrs BP to present), T<sub>julP</sub> and T<sub>julC</sub> reconstructions indicate higher than present
T<sub>jul</sub> temperatures (Fig. 7).

The somewhat different  $T_{jul}$  reconstructions based on different biological proxies revealed that local processes seem to have a strong impact on the results. While the macrofossil minimum  $T_{jul}$  reconstruction is mainly limited by taphonomic factors such as distance to the shore, water depth and inflow of streaming water to the coring site, the pollen record is clearly hampered by taphonomic differences between the modern and fossil data (Salonen et al., 2013a). Chironomid  $T_{jul}$  instead seem to be affected by macrophyte abundance, nutrient dynamics, and the general infilling of the lake, whereas the diatom  $T_{jul}$  is hampered by poor analogue situation due the mass occurrence of Fragilariaceae and the biased distribution of the CS lakes towards the cold end of the temperature gradient (Fig. 6). 

## 21 Timing of the regional highest $T_{jul}$ reconstructions

22 Early-Holocene warming suggested by chironomids and aquatic/wetland plant

- 23 macrofossils and low  $T_{jul}$  suggested by pollen-based models has been observed at
- several locations in northern Fennoscandia (Väliranta et al., 2011b; Paus, 2013; Luoto et

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1	al., 2014; Väliranta et al., 2015) and NE European Russia (Jones et al., 2011; Salonen et
2	al., 2011; Väliranta et al., 2015). In contrast, pollen and macrofossil evidence of an early
3	Holocene warming in NE Canada, where have been presented by Ritchie et al. (1983)
4	who concluded that maximum summer temperatures prevailed at c. 10 000 a BP
5	(uncalibrated). In central Norway, chironomid-based reconstructions show an early-
6	Holocene warming with $T_{jul}$ higher than present day values prior to 9000 cal. yrs BP
7	(Paus et al., 2011), while in western Norway and northern Norway $T_{julc}$ higher than
8	present-day was observed prior to 10 000 cal. yrs BP (Brooks and Birks, 2001; Birks et
9	al., 2012). Pine stomata preserved in the late glacial sediments and the presence of pine
10	megafossils dated to 9500–9700 cal. yrs BP further support an early-Holocene warming
11	(Paus et al., 2011). In NE European Russia, the chironomid record of Lake Kharinei
12	also suggests high $T_{jul}$ during the early Holocene and is contrasting with the $T_{julP}$ (Fig.
13	7), while the presence of aquatic macrofossils such as <i>Elatine hydropiper</i> and
14	Potamogeton spp reflect warm conditions during the early Holocene (Jones et al.,
15	2011).
16	The high $T_{julM}$ and $T_{julC}$ values coincide with the early-Holocene high summer
17	insolation level. In contrast to higher-than-present summer insolation, the early
18	Holocene winter insolation was approximately 28% lower (~5 W/m <sup>2</sup> ) than present day
19	(Berger and Loutre, 1991). The seasonal insolation deviation where the summer
20	insolation was 10% higher and winter 28% lower than today around c. 11 000 cal. yrs
21	BP, supported by the chironomid-inferred continentality-index (Self et al., 2011; Engels
22	et al., 2014), suggests increased seasonality and more continental early Holocene

conditions (Fig. 7). The early Holocene warming is also consistent with increased sun

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1	spot activity (Solanski et al., 2004) as well as high summer sea-surface temperatures
2	(SST) from the Barents Sea (Fig. 7).
3	To summarise, despite a relatively poor fit of the chironomid fossil samples to the
4	closest modern analogue, the early-Holocene July warming appears to be significant and
5	is supported by the independent macrofossil-based minimum $T_{jul}$ estimates. The
6	observed inconsistencies between $T_{julP}$ and the chironomid/macrofossil-inferred $T_{jul}$
7	appear to be mainly related to the overrepresentation of locally dispersed pollen types
8	during the early Holocene, which have low modelled temperature optima due to their
9	common occurrence in the NE European tundra region, but which also occur as
10	elements of wetland habitats in a range of climates. In the sediment record of Lake
11	Loitsana these cold-indicator pollen taxa are more likely associated with a wetland
12	habitat immediately surrounding the lake. This inference is supported by the abundant
13	preservation of plant macrofossils representing the same taxa. As the higher
14	temperatures (i.e. > present day value) are driven mainly by the occurrence of tree
15	pollen (e.g. Tilia, Ulmus, Corylus, Carpinus, Quercus, Pinus), the increasing $T_{julP}$ values
16	during the mid-Holocene might well be the result of a delayed response of the terrestrial
17	vegetation due to e.g. soil maturation processes (Väliranta et al., 2011a, 2015).
18	
19	Conclusions

Holocene July air temperature history of a northern boreal Lake Loitsana, Finland was
reconstructed using multiple proxies (plant macrofossils, pollen, chironomids, and
diatoms). The comparison between the different reconstructed temperature histories
revealed that not only the absolute values, but also the general trend differs considerably
between the different proxy-based reconstructions. While pollen-based temperatures

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1	follow the classical trend of gradually increasing early Holocene temperatures with a
2	mid-Holocene maximum, the aquatic/wetland assemblages reconstruct higher than
3	present temperatures already during the early Holocene, i.e. at the peak of summer
4	insolation. Both the aquatic/wetland macrofossils and chironomids suggest $T_{jul}$ about 2
5	°C higher than present-day, whereas $T_{julP}$ is approximately 2 °C lower than present-day
6	and $T_{julD}$ remains below present-day value, throughout the Holocene.
7	Since all the used proxies have some shortcomings regarding their use in
8	palaeolimnological research it is essential to acknowledge them and carefully evaluate
9	their impact on the final results. We show that during specific time windows all the
10	climate reconstructions are substantially influenced at by local factors in addition to the
11	underlying trend in regional climate. However, our study also highlights the
12	considerable promise and benefits of multi-proxy datasets in palaeoclimate
13	reconstruction, e.g. to identify outlier reconstructions and to exploit the most robust
14	climate proxies in each time window.
15	
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# 1 Figure caption

Figure 1. Map of the study site showing A. the location of the study site in Finland; B.
the location of Lake Loitsana, coring point and geomorphology of the area (modified
from Johansson (1995)), and C. climatogram showing mean monthly precipitation and
temperature for the time period of 1971-2000 for Savukoski (67°17'N, 28°10'E, 193 m
a.s.l.). Data were obtained from the Finnish meteorological institute.

7

Figure 2. A summary of the terrestrial vegetation development (Salonen et al., 2013a) 8 and local development of Lake Loitsana (Shala et al., 2014). The carbon content (Corg) 9 of the sediments, C/N ratio and selected local elements are included. Macrofossil 10 remains (black silhouette) are presented as bars showing concentrations (amount/10cm<sup>3</sup>) 11 or as relative abundances; + = rare, ++ = occurring, +++ = abundant, ++++ = dominant, 12 +++++ = main constituent of the sample. Microfossils (grey silhouette) are represented 13 14 by graphs; phytoliths (%, relative to diatoms), *Pediastrum* (%, relative to pollen landsum). 15

16

Figure 3. Minimum  $T_{jul}$  based on presence of aquatic/wetland plants ( $T_{julM}$ ) and pollen-17 18 based  $T_{jul}$  reconstruction using a two-component weighted averaging-partial least squares (WA-PLS) regression. The indicator species used to infer minimum  $T_{julM}$  are; 1 19 = Nymphaea (13.49 °C), 2 = narrow-leaved *Potamogeton* spp such as *P. filiformis* 20 (13.61 °C), 3 = Callitriche cophocarpa (13.65 °C), 4 = Callitriche hermaphroditica21 (14,0 °C), 5 = Glyceria lithuanica (15.65 °C) and <math>6 = Typha (15.69 °C). Closest modern 22 analogue (C.M.A.) of each fossil sample is calculated using the squared chord distance 23 24 in order to assess the fit between the fossil and modern calibration set and LOESS

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1	smoother (span 0.25, one robustifying iteration) is added to the $T_{jul}$ reconstruction. Lake
2	development (Local stages) and Pollen Zones generalized from Fig. 2, selected pollen
3	taxa (%; grey silhouette) and macro/microfossil remains (dashed line) that confirm local
4	presence of the plants are also included.
5	
6	<b>Figure 4.</b> Chironomid-based $T_{jul}$ reconstruction ( $T_{julc}$ ) using a two-components WA-
7	PLS regression. The fit of the fossil and calibration set is estimated using the squared
8	chord distance to calculate the closest modern analogue (C.M.A.) of each fossil sample.
9	LOESS smoother (span 0.25, one robustifying iteration) is added to the $T_{julC}$ . Lake
10	development (Local stages), generalized from Fig. 2, and selected chironomid taxa are
11	included.
12	
13	Figure 5. Diatom-based $T_{jul}$ reconstruction using a two-components WA-PLS
14	regression. The fit of the fossil and calibration set is estimated using the squared chord
15	distance to calculate the closest modern analogue (C.M.A) of each fossil sample.
16	LOESS smoother (span 0.25, one robustifying iteration) is added to the $T_{julC}$ . Lake
17	development (Local stages), generalized from Fig. 2, and mass-occuring Fragilariaceae
18	are included.
19	
20	Figure 6. The distribution of lakes along the sampled temperature gradients of the
21	diatom calibration-set (7.9-15.7°C), chironomid calibration-set (7.9-17 °C) and pollen
22	calibration-set (9.0-17.3 °C) and mean July air temperature optima for the most
23	common taxa occurring in the fossil data. $T_{jul}$ optimum for the different taxa was
24	calculated using the WA-approach.

- 3 Lake Loitsana. The  $T_{jul}$  reconstructions are here compared to the  $T_{julP}$  and  $T_{julC}$
- 4 reconstructions at Lake Kharinei (Jones et al., 2011; Salonen et al., 2011), the 60N
- 5 summer and winter insolation (Berger and Loutre, 1991) and Barents Sea SST at 75N
- 6 (Hald et al., 2007). Chironomid-inferred continentality index for both Lake Loitsana
- 7 (Engels et al., 2014) and Lake Kharinei (Jones et al., 2011) are also included.

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1	SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION to "Comparison of quantitative Holocene
2	temperature reconstructions using multiple proxies from a northern boreal lake"
3	Shala S, Helmens KF, Luoto TP, Salonen JS, Väliranta M, Weckström J.
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5	
6	Holocene lake development
7	Sedimentation in the Loitsana basin initiated prior to 10 700 cal. a BP (Shala et al.,
8	2014). The glacial lake that took form following the early Holocene deglaciation of
9	the Sokli area was initially deep and covered extensive areas (Local Stage 1). The
10	initiation of glacial lake drainage at c. 10 600 cal. a BP, resulting from the
11	deglaciation of the Nuortti river canyon, caused a dramatic lowering in lake level,
12	placing a smaller and shallowing glacial lake in a restricted catchment (Stage 2). After
13	the final glacial lake drainage and formation of Lake Loitsana at c. 10 200 cal. a BP
14	(beginning of Stage 3), a morphometric eutrophication (Stage 3a) occurred as a result
15	of the decrease in lake volume and rapid infilling. This event lasted until c. 9500 cal. a
16	BP and was followed by lake stratification starting at c. 9300 cal. a BP (Stage 3B).
17	During its initial phase of infilling the Lake Loitsana was deep and received fluvial
18	input from the Soklioja (Stages 3-4A). The infilling of the southern part of the
19	Loitsana basin resulted in the redirection of the Soklioja at c. 6500 cal. a BP and
20	wetland expansion (Stage 4B). The on-going infilling, although with reduced
21	sedimentation rates, caused further shallowing of the lake throughout Stage 5 and 6.
22	The lake was mainly groundwater fed from the adjacent esker from c. 4300 cal. a BP
23	onwards (Stage 6).
24	The deep glacial lake was initially characterised by high influx of minerogenic
25	sediments and a poor aquatic flora (Stage 1). As the ice-sheet retreated further away

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1	from the coring-site, shore erosion, phytolith abundance and species diversity of
2	diatoms, chironomids and aquatic macrophytes increased. The shallow glacial lake
3	(Stage 2), was also characterised by occurrences of wetland/shore vegetation.
4	Following the river diversion, in-lake vegetation seems to have become less diverse.
5	Organic carbon content ( $C_{org}$ ) is generally low during the deep glacial lake (Stage
6	1) and increases gradually during the shallowing glacial lake and initial stage of Lake
7	Loitsana (Stages 2-3A). Only minor variations in $C_{org}$ (~7–15%) are observed
8	throughout Stages 3B-5 with the exception of Stage 4B when the redirection of the
9	Soklioja at c. 6500 cal. a BP resulted in an increase in Corg. During Stage 6, a similar
10	increase in $C_{org}$ (~ 17–37 %) is recorded, most probably reflecting low minerogenic
11	input from the catchment as well as the high aquatic macrophyte abundance.
12	
13	Regional Holocene vegetation development
14	A simplified pollen record from the Holocene was first published in Salonen et al.
15	(2013). The entire terrestrial vegetation record, complemented with macrofossil data
16	are presented in Fig. 1. Four pollen zones were distinguished (Zones I-IV).
17	During the initial stages of lake formation, i.e. prior to 10 500 cal. a BP (Pollen
18	Zone I), the vegetation surrounding Loitsana consisted mainly of shrubs (Betula nana,
19	Ericaceae and Salix) and herbs. The latter included a variety of light demanding
20	helophytes such as Asteraceae (Artemisia, Inula salicina), Brassicaceae (Rorippa
21	palustris), Caryophyllaceae, Chenopodiaceae and Polygonaceae (Polygonum bistorta
22	type, Rumex acetosella). Seeds of Carex suggest that at least part of the Cyperaceae
23	pollen is of local origin from a nearby wetland. Similarly, Glyceria lithuanica seed
24	and pooid phytoliths indicate that also part of the grass pollen in Zone I had a local
25	source. The vegetation was thus rather open during Zone I with tree-type Betula

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1	locally present as suggested by the occurrence of seeds as well as high percentages of
2	pollen (up to 40%). Zone II pollen assemblages (c. 10 200-9200 cal. a BP) indicate
3	the presence of birch forest in the Sokli area. Macroscopic Equisetum remains that are
4	present throughout Zone II indicate a local wetland source same as during Zone I
5	(Fig. 1), whereas ferns, including Athyrium, and Dryopteris types, are well
6	represented in the pollen record during Zone II-B.
7	The establishment of pine-birch forest (beginning of Zone III) occurred at c. 9200
8	cal. a BP. Zone III is further characterised by a near coninous presence of long-
9	distance transported pollen of Corylus and Ulmus. Alnus as well as the herb
10	Filipendula are well represented during Zone III-B (c. 8000-4000 cal. a BP). An
11	increase in <i>Picea</i> pollen is observed during the last c. 4000 cal. a BP (Zone IV).
12	
13	Figure captions
14	Supplementary Figure 3. Pollen and macrofossil diagram for terrestrial taxa from
15	the Holocene sediment succession of Lake Loitsana. Macrofossil remains (green) are
16	presented as bars showing concentrations (amount/10 cm <sup>3</sup> ) or as relative abundances;
17	+ = rare, ++ = occurring, +++ = abundant. Microfossil (pollen and spores) abundances
18	are shown with grey silhouette curves, single samples with percentage values $< 1\%$
19	are represented by dots.
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21	References
22	Salonen JS, Helmens KF, Seppä H and Birks HJB (2013) Pollen-based palaeoclimate
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- 2 (2014) Evaluating environmental drivers of Holocene changes in water chemistry
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- *Paleolimnology* 52: 311-329.



Figure 1. Map of the study site showing A. the location of the study site in Finland; B. the location of Lake Loitsana, coring point and geomorphology of the area (modified from Johansson (1995)), and C. climatogram showing mean monthly precipitation and temperature for the time period of 1971-2000 for Savukoski (67°17'N, 28°10'E, 193 m a.s.l.). Data were obtained from the Finnish meteorological institute. 258x198mm (300 x 300 DPI)



Figure 2. A summary of the terrestrial vegetation development (Salonen et al., 2013a) and local development of Lake Loitsana (Shala et al., 2014). The carbon content ( $C_{orq}$ ) of the sediments, C/N ratio and selected local elements are included. Macrofossil remains (black silhouette) are presented as bars showing concentrations (amount/10 cm<sup>3</sup>) or as relative abundances; + = rare, ++ = occurring, +++ = abundant, ++++ = dominant, ++++ = main constituent of the sample. Microfossils (grey silhouette) are represented by graphs; phytoliths (%, relative to diatoms), Pediastrum (%, relative to pollen landsum). 81x43mm (300 x 300 DPI)



Figure 3. Minimum *T*<sub>jul</sub> based on presence of aquatic/wetland plants (*T*<sub>julM</sub>) and pollen-based *T*<sub>jul</sub> reconstruction using a two-component weighted averaging-partial least squares (WA-PLS) regression. The indicator species used to infer minimum *T*<sub>julM</sub> are; 1 = *Nymphaea* (13.49 °C), 2 = narrow-leaved *Potamogeton* spp such as *P. filiformis* (13.61 °C), 3 = *Callitriche cophocarpa* (13.65 °C), 4 = *Callitriche hermaphroditica* (14,0 °C), 5 = *Glyceria lithuanica* (15.65 °C) and 6 = *Typha* (15.69 °C). Closest modern analogue (C.M.A.) of each fossil sample is calculated using the squared chord distance in order to assess the fit between the fossil and modern calibration set and LOESS smoother (span 0.25, one robustifying iteration) is added to the *T*<sub>jul</sub> reconstruction. Lake development (Local stages) and Pollen Zones generalized from Fig. 2, selected pollen taxa (%; grey silhouette) and macro/microfossil remains (dashed line) that confirm local presence of the plants are also included.

91x70mm (300 x 300 DPI)







included.





Figure 5. Diatom-based  $T_{jul}$  reconstruction using a two-components WA-PLS regression. The fit of the fossil and calibration set is estimated using the squared chord distance to calculate the closest modern analogue (C.M.A) of each fossil sample. LOESS smoother (span 0.25, one robustifying iteration) is added to the  $T_{julD}$ . Lake development (Local stages), generalized from Fig. 2, and mass-occuring Fragilariaceae are included. 87x50mm (300 x 300 DPI)





Figure 6. The distribution of lakes along the sampled temperature gradients of the diatom calibration-set (7.9-15.7°C), chironomid calibration-set (7.9-17°C) and pollen calibration-set (9.0-17.3°C) and mean July air temperature optima for the most common taxa occurring in the fossil data.  $T_{jul}$  optimum for the different taxa was calculated using the WA-approach.

34x20mm (300 x 300 DPI)

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Figure 7. Holocene lake proxy-based temperature reconstructions on the fossil record of Lake Loitsana. The  $T_{iul}$  reconstructions are here compared to the  $T_{iulP}$  and  $T_{iulC}$  reconstructions at Lake Kharinei (Jones et al., 2011; Salonen et al., 2011), the 60°N summer and winter insolation (Berger and Loutre, 1991) and Barents Sea SST at 75°N (Hald et al., 2007). Chironomid-inferred continentality index for both Lake Loitsana (Engels et al., 2014) and Lake Kharinei (Jones et al., 2011) are also included. 98x49mm (300 x 300 DPI)