

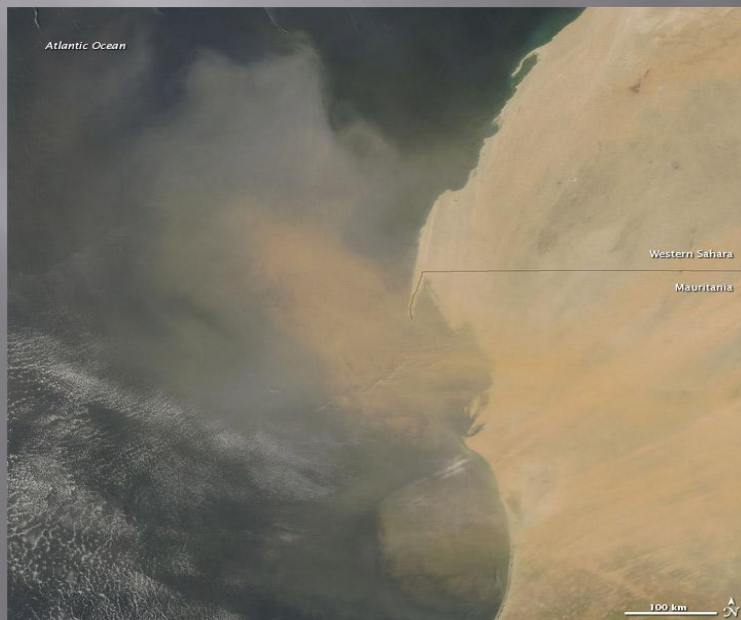
North African response to climate change over the past 20ka: Comparing methods of grain-size analysis at continental margins

Ben Purinton

Advisors: David McGee and Gisela Winckler

How has North Africa's climate changed?

- Cyclic shifts between arid (desert) and humid (vegetation) periods.
- Most recent long-term shift was the African Humid Period (11.7-5.5ka)
- Caused by changes in insolation and sea surface temperatures in the North Atlantic.



How can terrigenous dust tell us about this change?

- Possible to use inorganic dust blown off Sahara to track this change in sediment cores.
- Smaller grains=fluvial (humid period)
- Larger grains=eolian (arid period)

What are the problems with studying terrigenous dust?

- How can we separate the eolian from the fluvial component in mixed samples?
- End-member modeling!

GC37 Weibull Distribution

