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LARGE FANS-LIKE IN MIDDLE AMAZONIA: EVIDENCE OF ARIDITY DURING THE LATE PLEISTOCENE

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The Amazon rainforest suffered climatic changes and bio-geographic impacts during the Late Pleistocene. Hydrological changes were strong as well. Two large fans-like occupying an area of tens of thousands km² were recorded in Middle Amazonia.

The fans were formed by two tributaries of the Madeira River: the Ji Parana and the Aripuana-Roosevelt rivers. The Aripuana -Roosevelt systems is the larger of two and extends over an area of more than 15,000 km². Fluvial inactive belts of up to 2.5 km in width and nearly 200 km in length were recognised in the larger system. Typically the fluvial belts are relicts and fragmentary and not more than 10-20 km in length.

TL dating suggest a Late Pleistocene age, indicating deposition during the LGM.

The paleohydrological interpretation of the fans indicate aridity in the area, replacement of the forest by savannah and avulsion process acting in the rivers.