



## **Borehole climatology: In search of the long-term subsurface thermal signature of deforestation events**

**H. Beltrami** (1), D. Nitoiu (1), V. Bense (2), L. Kellman (1), J. Fidel González-Rouco (3), H. Kooi (4), M. Montoya (3), A. Diochon (1), G. Ferguson (1), and M. B. Stevens (1)

(1) Environmental Sciences Research Centre, St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada (hugo@stfx.ca). (2) School of Environmental Sciences, University of East Anglia. (3) Departamento de Astrofísica y CC. de la Atmósfera, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain, (4) Department of Hydrology and Geo-Environmental Sciences Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

The subsurface temperature signal of deforestation and related land-use changes is not well understood. However, subsurface temperature anomalies resulting from such changes will complicate the reconstruction of surface temperatures from borehole temperature logs. Moreover, land-use change will introduce temporal discontinuities in the relation between air and soil temperatures. Subsurface temperature profiles measured in areas affected by deforestation or forest fire up to 60 a before measurements show warming between 0.5 and 1 K in the upper 100 m. Subsurface temperature measurements immediately after deforestation are significantly cooler than those data acquired 30 a after re-growth. In addition, short term (5 a) continuous monitoring of air and soil temperatures at five sites in Atlantic Canada with different land-use and cover histories shows that annual mean soil temperatures are about 2 K higher in deforested areas than in areas covered by vegetation. However, there are no significant differences in annual mean surface air temperatures at any of these sites. Long-term data along a chronosequence shows that annual soil temperatures vary with time in rough agreement with the Nitoiu and Beltrami (2005) proposed model of long-term subsurface thermal anomalies due to land-use changes. Here we summarize the model and data, and discuss the relation these measurements may have to small-scale land-use and climate modeling.