
Lithic technological organization in short-term occupations at Teixoneres Cave (Moià, Spain)

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Résumé

During the Pleistocene, climatic fluctuations and seasonal environmental variations imposed significant restrictions on the subsistence strategies of prehistoric hunter-gatherers who did not produce food and, consequently, moved on the landscape in relation to the changes in the spatial and temporal distribution of resources. Frequent seasonal movements from different habitats were a typical strategy in foragers groups but how they organized their technology during these displacements in order to minimize the risk of subsistence failure is little known. This paper aims to contribute new data to the current debate, by exploring the technological behaviors during the Late Middle Paleolithic at Teixoneres Cave (Moià, Spain). Multidisciplinary studies on the archaeological record indicate that Neanderthals occupations at the site were of short-term and space out by the visiting of carnivores, mostly

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hyenas. The technological analysis on the lithic assemblages of subunit IIIa and IIIb reveals the use of two main strategies. Configured cores and curated artefacts on chert and metamorphic rocks were transported during the movements on the landscape whereas, at the site, the exploitation of the local quartz nodules is generally expedient. Although the lithic assemblages are interpreted as palimpsests of repeated short-term settlements at the cave, the data shows the versatility of Neanderthals in the artefacts production with a clear differentiation between toolkit preparations and domestic activities. This pattern in raw material transport and exploitation is very different in comparison with the neighboring Middle Paleolithic sites where bigger amounts of higher quality raw materials are transported inside the natural shelters. The study evidences also the production of pointed blanks on local quartz and the frequent import of Mousterian points and convergent tools. These latter artefacts are rare in the north-east of the Iberian Peninsula suggesting an extended network with groups from the north-eastern Pyrenees and southern France.

Mots-Clés: Middle Paleolithic, Neanderthals, Short term occupations, Lithic technology