The phylogenetic position of *Homo antecessor* in the Eurasian Human Evolution: a review eighteen years later

José María BERMÚDEZ DE CASTRO[1,*]

1 – National Research Centre on Human Evolution (CENIEH), Spain

*josemaria.bermudezdecastro@cenieh.es

It is eighteen years since the human fossils recovered from the TD6-2 level of the Gran Dolina cave site, in Sierra de Atapuerca (Burgos, northern Spain) were assigned to a new hominin species, *Homo antecessor* (Bermúdez de Castro *et al*., 1997). In this presentation I summarize the main results obtained from different studies of the TD6-2 hominin hypodigm during this period. At present, we can argue that this species is defined by a unique mosaic of primitive traits for the Homo clade, a certain number of derived features present in modern humans, a significant suite of derived features shared with Neanderthals and their ancestors in the European Middle Pleistocene (in particular with the Atapuerca-Sima de los Huesos hominins), and some derived features shared with the Chinese Middle Pleistocene hominins. I present an evolutionary scenario for interpreting these results. I suggest that a speciation event could have occurred in Africa/Western Eurasia, originating a new Homo clade. *Homo antecessor*, most probably dated to the MIS 21, could be a side branch of this clade placed at the westernmost region of the Eurasian continent.