

necessary, that those materials should no longer be considered as second-rate and poorly informative ones.

ORAL

3. QUARTZ MOUSTERIAN TECHNOLOGY IN NAVALMAÍLLO ROCKSHELTER (PINILLA DEL VALLE, MADRID, SPAIN). PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE TECHNOLOGICAL AND USE-WEAR ANALYSIS OF QUARTZ IMPLEMENTS.

Márquez, Belén (Museo Arqueológico Regional de la Comunidad de Madrid) belen.marquez@madrid.org

Mosquera, Marina (Universitat Rovira i Virgili/IPHES) marina.mosquera@urv.net

Baquedano, Enrique (Museo Arqueológico Regional de la Comunidad de Madrid) enrique.baquedano@madrid.org

Pérez González, Alfredo (Centro Nacional de Investigación sobre la Evolución Humana (CENIEH) alfredo.perez@cenieh.es

Arsuaga, Juan Luis (Centro Mixto UCM-ISCIII de Evolución y Comportamiento Humanos) jlarsuaga@isciii.es

Panera, Joaquín (Institute of Evolution in Africa (I.D.E.A.) joaquin.panera@gmail.com

Espinosa, Juan Antonio (Estudios Arqueológicos ARQUEO S.C.) juan.espinosa.arqueosc@gmail.com

Gómez Hernanz, Juan (Arqueostrato S.L.) arqueostrato@gmail.com

Navalmaíllo rockshelter, a Mousterian site at Pinilla del Valle in the Madrid region of central Spain, was discovered in 2002. Over time the shelter was completely buried by sediments.

Our work describes a preliminary study of the site's lithic industry. The most characteristic feature of the lithic sample at Navalmaíllo is that the artifacts are mostly made of quartz. Chert and other good raw materials, such as quartzites—found in river terraces—are relatively abundant in the central Iberian Peninsula, where Navalmaíllo rockshelter is located. Quartz cobbles are also common locally, but this material was usually avoided during the Middle Paleolithic period. The few exceptions are always in rockshelters or caves. Although archaeological assemblages dominated by quartz are not common in the central Iberian Peninsula, they are more common in peripheral areas such as Catalonia and Galicia.

As documented in other European sites, the abundance of quartz led to its becoming the main raw material used in tool-making in the area, even though it seems to be more difficult to knap than other, more homogeneous types of rock that fracture conchoidally.

The cores found at the Navalmaíllo site appear to have been intentionally worked to a very small size, a finding also reported for other European assemblages of similar age. The other raw materials found at the site include chert, quartzite, porphyry, rock crystal, and sandstone, all of which appear to have been worked in the same manner as the quartz. The scarcity or quality of raw materials is not the reason for this behavior.

The lack of any clear traces of soft-hammer percussion is notable. On the contrary, a large number of percussion marks that correspond to bipolar knapping on an anvil were identified on tools and cores of all materials. These are particularly visible on the quartz artifacts. Working small cores via the bipolar knapping technique is the best method for making small tools since the core is easily held in place when striking it.

A cultural explanation for this "microlithism" can be proposed in the sense that the Neanderthal groups that occupied the Navalmaíllo rockshelter may have followed a "microlithic-like" tradition of tool-making. To conclude, we have undertaken the use-wear analysis of some quartz implements to resolve, among others, questions related to the use of the small tools, as well as determining the possible intentionality of *Siret* fractures.

ORAL

4. TWO ACTORS, ONE SCENARIO: THE MANAGEMENT OF QUARTZ AND QUARTZITE RESOURCES ALONG THE UPPER PLEISTOCENE SEQUENCE OF COVA EIRÓS.

de Lombera-Hermida, Arturo (Institut Català de Paleoecologia Humana i Evolució Social (IPHES) C/ Marcel·lí Domingo s/n - Campus Sescelades URV (Edifici W3) 43007 Tarragona - Grupo de Estudos para a Prehistoria do Noroeste (GEPN) Dpto. Historia I Universidade de Santiago de Compostela) artulomb@gmail.com

Rodríguez-Álvarez, Xosé Pedro (Institut Català de Paleoecologia Humana i Evolució Social (IPHES) C/ Marcel·lí Domingo s/n - Campus Sescelades URV (Edifici W3) 43007 Tarragona) xprodriquez@iphes.cat

Fábregas Valcarce, Ramón (Grupo de Estudos para a Prehistoria do Noroeste (GEPN) Dpto. Historia I Universidade de Santiago de Compostela Fac. Xeografía e Historia Pz. da Universidade, nº1 15782 Santiago de Compostela) ramon.fabregas@usc.es

Traditionally, quartz has been considered as a second-rate resource for the Paleolithic communities and as