An approximation to the Neanderthals lithic procurement at Teixoneres Cave (Moià, NE Iberian Peninsula)

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Form of communication: poster
Session: Ancient lithic trade and economics
Day 3 (20 November) 14:20-15:20

Teixoneres Cave is located northeast of the Iberian Peninsula at 760 m a.s.l., near the town of Moià at 50 km north of the city of Barcelona. The cave belongs to the karstic system of the Toll caves developed on the Neogene limestone of the Collsuspina Formation, and has a size of approximate 30 m length. The sedimentary sequence is 8 m thick and 10 different stratigraphic units have been identified. The upper part of the sequence is dated from ~16 ky BP at the top (stalagmitic crust over unit II) to more than 100 ky BP at the base (stalagmitic layer under unit III). Unit III, which is the focus of this work, is radiocarbon dated from greater than 51,000 to 44,210 cal. BP.

From a geomorphological perspective, Teixoneres Cave is located in the Moianès plateau, between two fluvial systems, the Llobregat at the south and the Ter at the north. This plateau is situated in the Catalan Central Depression, and near the contact with the Prelittoral range, a region with a great diversity of raw materials including sedimentary rocks, located in the marine and lacustrine sediments of the Eocene and Oligocene of the Catalan Central Depression, and sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rocks of the Paleozoic and Mesozoic materials from the Prelittoral ranges. Moreover, the river systems Llobregat and Ter provide an additional variability of raw materials from Pyrenean origin. Most of the lithotypes identified at Teixoneres Cave (eg., quartz, cherts, limestones, hornfels, slates) can be found in one of these areas, situated at a distance of ~20-25 km. In the archaeological assemblages, the most represented lithologies are located no further than...
12 km. Quartz pebbles are abundant in the surroundings of Moià, whereas chert nodules are found in the Lower Muschelkalk facies at the Prelitoral range.

**Keywords:** Lithic procurement, Texioneres Cave, Neanderthals, quartz, chert