New paleontological records of the Cova del Tabac (Camarasa, Lleida). Preliminary data of the new Ursidae fossils

The Cova del Tabac is situated in the Mont-Roig mountain range (660 m.a.s.l.), located to the north of the Noguera region (Lleida). During the intervention of 2018, a series of ursid remains were identified in an archaeological survey at the entrance of the cavity. No other archaeopaleontological records have been registered in this section. This discovery allowed us to start the first paleontological excavations in the cave in order to know the extension of the paleontological level and to perform a morphometric analysis of the ursid fossils.

A total of 41 ursid remains were recovered but only 27 were analyzed due to their state of preservation and belong to the same individual: 3 carpal bones, 1 patella, 2 calcaneus, 2 talus, 7 tarsal bones, 4 metapodials and 8 phalanges. The metric analysis shows that the pieces have similar dimensions to those of the brown bear, with punctual overlap with the smallest specimens of *U. deningeri*. Morphological characteristics such as the lower robusticity of metapods or phalanges, together with the morphology of the articular surfaces of calcaneus and talus, have allowed us to exclude the deningeri-splaeaeus line. Based on both morphological and metric analysis, the fossil remains has been assigned to *U. arctos*.

The discovery of bear fossils in the Cova del Tabac provides new insights about the distribution of the brown bears in the Pyrenees. Awaiting for new geological and chronological data of the site, the stratigraphic and chronological situation of the remains is uncertain.