



# Preliminary zooarchaeological analysis of Dupuy Rockshelter (La Toma, San Luis Province, Argentina): Faunal and paleoenvironmental tendencies related to geoarchaeological and phytoarchaeological evidence

Gustavo N. Gómez<sup>a,\*</sup>, Jorge O. Chiesa<sup>b</sup>, Verónica Lalinde<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> INCUAPA, CONICET, UNICEN, Av. Del Valle 5737, Olavarría, B7400JWI, Buenos Aires, Argentina

<sup>b</sup> Geology Department, U.N.S.L., Ejército de los Andes 950, 5700, San Luis, Argentina

## ARTICLE INFO

### Article history:

Available online 9 October 2015

### Keywords:

Zooarchaeology  
Taphonomy  
Late Holocene  
Sierras Centrales  
Paleoenvironments

## ABSTRACT

This paper shows the preliminary results of the zooarchaeological analysis of Dupuy Rockshelter (La Toma, San Luis Province, Argentina). This rock shelter has evidence of Late Holocene (Last Millennium) human occupation dating from  $340 \pm 40$  BP. Some species, including *Lama guanicoe* and *Ozotoceros bezoarticus*, were exploited and their bones were used as raw material to make instruments. The zooarchaeological analysis is complemented by geological and phytoarchaeological evidence which indicates a humid environment during the Holocene and a mixed diet that included vegetables.

© 2015 Elsevier Ltd and INQUA. All rights reserved.

## 1. Introduction

This work is part of ongoing multidisciplinary analysis on the archaeological remains of Dupuy Rockshelter. The zooarchaeological, geological and phytoarchaeological analysis reveals the environmental conditions and the availability of resources during the human occupation of the site Dupuy Rockshelter, as well as the consumption and exploitation of diverse plant and animal resources.

This research is part of a multidisciplinary project, with the main objective of understanding the way hunter–gatherers used space in the central–west area of San Luis Province (Fig. 1), and how this may be related to the social changes that occurred. The study area is an ecotone, the confluence of the ecosystems of Pampa and Sierra Centrales. In general, it aims to analyze and characterize the behavior developed by human groups in the past in a landscape of ecotone formed by the intersection of hills and plains (Soriano et al., 1992). This part of the province of San Luis can be seen as one of the northernmost areas of Argentina's Pampas and is considered as a route for settlement. This peculiarity, among others, arouses interest for archaeological research and for further areal comparisons.

Holocene climatic alterations have not only affected the geomorphological conditions of the area but also the availability of wildlife resources. In this sense, focusing the analysis on the last portion of the Holocene, it is important to know how human groups adapted and used these resources, along with the social restructuring of these groups due to the arrival of the European conquerors. A process of diversification, improved management and exploitation of various types of resources, as well as the incorporation of small-scale farming practices and the usage of all the microenvironments of the mountain seem to be some of the macro-regional characteristics since 1000 BP in Sierras Centrales (Outes, 1926; Greslebin, 1928; González, 1960; Gambier, 1985; Laguens, 1999; Berberían and Roldán, 2001; Medina and Pastor, 2006; Medina and Rivero, 2007; Curtoni et al., 2010).

The zooarchaeological and taphonomic studies in the Pampean and the Sierras Centrales regions have provided relevant information that contributed to a better understanding of the hunter–gatherers' animal use in the regions. During recent decades, different faunal exploitation models were elaborated.

Martínez and Gutiérrez (2004) propounded a faunal exploitation model for Pleistocene and Holocene times in the Pampean region based on its diversity and intensification. There is an important diversity and richness of taxa on the archaeological sites associated with other evidence, such as new technologies, and a probable demographic increase in the Late Holocene.

\* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: [ggomez@soc.unicen.edu.ar](mailto:ggomez@soc.unicen.edu.ar) (G.N. Gómez).

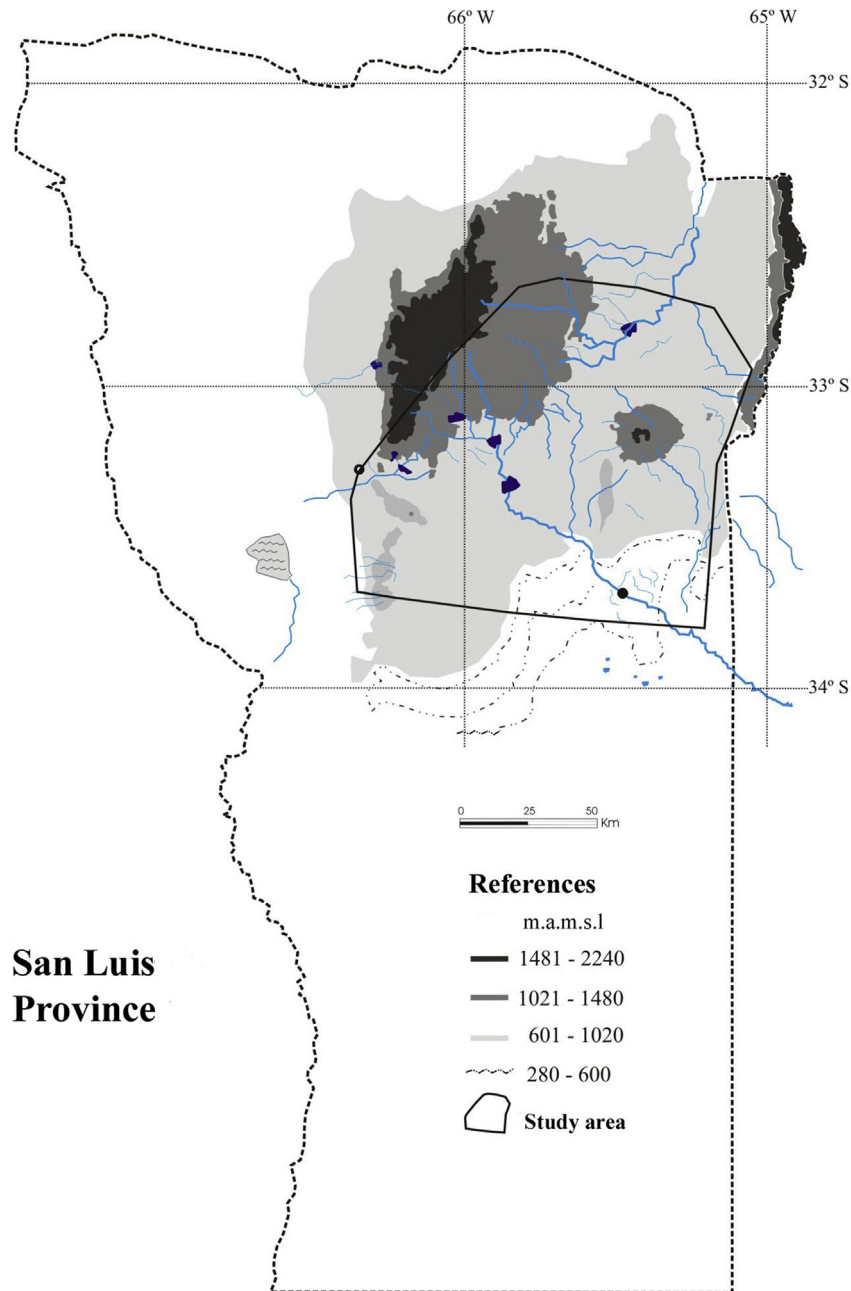


Fig. 1. Geographical location of the site.

Some Late Holocene zooarchaeological exploitation models were proposed for the Sierras Centrales, especially Córdoba. Berberian and Roldán (2001) indicate that an economy based on agriculture practices was developed in this period, especially in valleys and depressed zones, while the high zones were used for hunting guanacos and pampas deer.

Medina and Rivero (2007) note this “insular” scheme for the high pampas highlighting the sensitivity of the predation of the guanaco and the pampas deer due to the small population of these species, meaning that the loss of an individual was very susceptible. Furthermore, the isolation did not produce any population increase or genetic replacement, which also weakened the local populations. Moreover, new predators including humans produced a high impact on the local ecosystem. Medina and Rivero (2007) state

that the hunting of *Lama guanicoe* produced a decrease of relative abundance in the archaeological record through time and an incorporation of diverse species of low dietary value (vegetables and small mammals). Another consequence was the growing number of immature individuals found with cut marks and other alterations caused by humans.

An important issue in zooarchaeological research of ecotonal areas between the Pampas and Sierras Centrales is to corroborate the population dynamics of *Lama guanicoe* through the archaeological record; verify if the population of *Lama guanicoe* decreased or retreated to other regions through both pre- and post-conquest times, and if the exploitation of this species was replaced or sustained by incorporating other available species (Politis et al., 2011).

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/1040416>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/1040416>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)