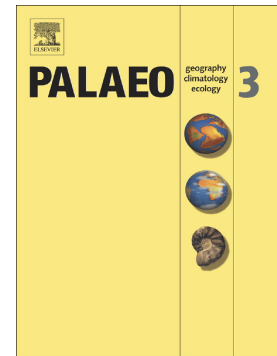


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Lateglacial to Late Holocene palaeoclimatic and palaeoenvironmental reconstruction of El Mirador cave (Sierra de Atapuerca, Burgos, Spain) using the small-mammal assemblages

Sandra Bañuls-Cardona, Juan Manuel López-García, Juan Ignacio Morales Hidalgo, Gloria Cuenca-Bescós, Josep María Vergès



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LATEGLACIAL TO LATE HOLOCENE PALAEOCLIMATIC AND
PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL RECONSTRUCTION OF EL MIRADOR CAVE
(SIERRA DE ATAPUERCA, BURGOS, SPAIN) USING THE SMALL-MAMMAL
ASSEMBLAGES

Sandra Bañuls-Cardona¹, Juan Manuel López-García^{2,3}, Juan Ignacio Morales Hidalgo^{2,3}
Gloria Cuenca-Bescós⁴ and Josep María Vergès^{2,3}

¹Sezione di Scienze Preistoriche e Antropologiche. Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici,
Università degli Studi di Ferrara. C.so Ercole 1 d'Este 32, 44121 Ferrara, Italy.

²IPHES, Institut Català de Paleoecologia Humana i Evolució Social, C/Escorxador s/n, 43003
Tarragona, Spain.

³Àrea de Prehistòria, Universitat Rovira i Virgili (URV), Avinguda de Catalunya 35, 43002
Tarragona, Spain,

⁴Aragosaurus-IUCA-EIA. Paleontology, Earth Sciences Dpt. University of Zaragoza,
Spain.

E-mail addresses: bnlsdr@unife.it (S. Bañuls-Cardona), jmlopez@iphes.cat (J.M.
López-García), jignacio.morales@gmail.com (J.I. Morales Hidalgo),
cuencag@unizar.es (G. Cuenca-Bescós), jmverges@iphes.cat (J. M. Vergès).

ABSTRACT

El Mirador is a cave in the Sierra de Atapuerca (northern Iberian Peninsula) that contains 27 archaeological layers from the Lateglacial to the Late Holocene. A total of 4436 small-mammal remains have been analysed from these layers, and 19 taxa have been identified (three insectivores, seven chiropters and nine rodents). The palaeoenvironmental reconstruction based on a small-mammal analysis suggests that the entire sequence is dominated by a woodland landscape. Our climatic analysis characterises the climate in terms of an evolution from a cool and arid period in the Pleistocene layers (16000 to 14000 cal yr BP), probably related to Heinrich Event 1, to humid conditions and temperatures similar to nowadays in the Holocene layers in general. In MIR23 and MIR22 (7300 to 6800 cal yr BP) we detect an increase in temperature to levels above current values and an important decrease in rainfall. These

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