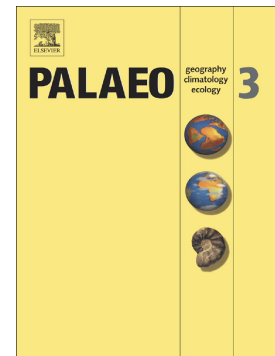


Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0031-0182(18)30240-2
DOI: doi:[10.1016/j.palaeo.2018.06.031](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.palaeo.2018.06.031)
Reference: PALAEO 8836

To appear in: *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology*

Received date: 16 March 2018
Revised date: 18 June 2018
Accepted date: 19 June 2018

Please cite this article as: Mónica Fernández-García, Juan Manuel López-García, Maria Bennàsar, Maria Joana Gabucio, Amèlia Bargalló, M. Gema Chacón, Palmira Saladié, Josep Vallverdú, Manuel Vaquero, Eudald Carbonell, Paleoenvironmental context of Neanderthal occupations in northeastern Iberia: The small-mammal assemblage from Abric Romaní (Capellades, Barcelona, Spain). *Palaeo* (2018), doi:[10.1016/j.palaeo.2018.06.031](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.palaeo.2018.06.031)

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Paleoenvironmental context of Neanderthal occupations in northeastern Iberia: the small-mammal assemblage from Abric Romaní (Capellades, Barcelona, Spain)

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ABSTRACT

The Abric Romaní site (Capellades, Barcelona, Spain) constitutes a key site for understanding the latest Neanderthal occupations in Western Europe. Here we present a comprehensive systematic and taphonomic analysis of a small-mammal assemblage from Level O of the Abric Romaní site, with the aim of reconstructing the paleoecological context in which the Neanderthals lived. The assemblage, which probably dates from a stadial episode between Interstadial 15 and Interstadial 14, contains fifteen small mammal species, including species uncommon for the northeast of Iberia, such as *Sciurus vulgaris*, *Nyctalus lasiopterus* and *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*. Taphonomic studies suggest a predatory origin for the assemblage, probably related to *Strix aluco*, and paleoecological inferences suggest lower temperatures (-

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