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# Molluscs and Crustaceans in the SE Iberian Peninsula in the late Palaeolithic: new data from the caves of Nerja (Mina Chamber) and Victoria (Malaga, Spain)

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## Abstract

This presentation offers new information about the remains of marine invertebrates (molluscs and crustaceans) from two sites with late Pleistocene levels in the Province of Malaga (southeast Spain): *Mina Chamber* in Nerja Cave (Maro) and Victoria Cave (Rincón de la Victoria).

The mollusc assemblages, from Levels 15 and 16 at Nerja and the shell-midden at Cueva Victoria, dated to ca. 12,100 BP (ca. 14,200 cal BP), consist mostly of grooved carpet clams *Ruditapes decussatus* (> 75%). Mussels (*Mytilus edulis*), limpets (*Patella* sp.) and turbate monodonts (*Phorcus turbinatus*) are also present. Additionally, some shells of mollusc species with no nutritional value were picked up on beaches and turned into beads (e.g. *Littorina obtusata* and *Tritia pellucida*)

In turn, an opportunistic gathering of different crab species has been observed. Crustaceans have also provided indirect evidence of the consumption of beached cetaceans at both sites. The presence of plates of *Tubicinella major*, a barnacle endemic to the southern right whale (*Eubalaena australis*) shows that meat and fat of this cetacean were consumed by the hunting-gathering-shellfishing groups that lived on the Mediterranean coasts of Iberia in the upper Magdalenian

**Keywords:** Nerja Cave, Victoria Cave, coastal exploitation, animal resources, Mediterranean Iberia.

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