Adaptive variability in the earliest Aurignacian of Western Europe – The Proto- & early Aurignacian revisited.

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Résumé

Recent studies of lithic and zooarchaeological assemblages of the earliest Aurignacian appearances have provided a more detailed picture of adaptation processes among hunter-gatherers of this time period. Without doubt the standardized and highly variable bladelet and microblade production plays a key role within these technological systems. While for quite a long time Protoaurignacian and early Aurignacian assemblages have been understood as chronologically and culturally distinct testimonies of the same technocomplex, different studies have recently questioned the straightforward differentiation of both postulated phases on the basis of techno-typological criteria (Sitlivy et al. 2014; Tafelmaier 2015; Falcucci & Peresani 2016; Bataille et al. 2017; Tafelmaier 2017).

Furthermore, zooarchaeological and taphonomic analyses of ancient collections under current paradigms, in combination with techno-economic and chrono-cultural data have provided new data to understand anatomically modern human’s adaptation to South-western European Early Upper Palaeolithic environments (Villaluenga et al., 2012; Villaluenga, 2016; Villaluenga et al., 2016).

In this presentation empiric data on lithic techno-typological variability and zooarchaeological remains of Proto- & early Aurignacian assemblages of Northern Spain, Labeko Koba, Ekain and Arbeda, will be presented. Special focus will be given to a diachronic view on variability of laminar production and hunting strategies. Moreover, attention will be drawn to the typological variability within the considered assemblages, which subsequently will be

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contextualized within a supraregional perspective.

Based on the empiric results, it has been proposed to interpret earliest Aurignacian assemblies, including Proto- as well as early Aurignacian inventories, as more complex adaptive manifestations drawing upon a common technological repertoire (Tafelmaier 2017).

Literature cited


Mots-Clés: Aurignacian, lithic technology, adaptation, modern human dispersal