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# Late Early Pleistocene age of the hand-axe and Palaeolithic assemblage at Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, Spain)

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## Abstract

For XIV-1 The first European peopling: chronology, behaviour and environment Abstract submitted here. Full text currently in preparation.

The Cueva Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar sediments, 5 m deep, have provided a Palaeolithic assemblage, including a bifacially-flaked limestone hand-axe, together with many small artifacts, some produced by repetitive knapping of small chert nodules, evidence of combustion in deep layers, and an archaic fauna, including 400 micromammalian teeth that testify to presence of several late Early Pleistocene Arvicoline rodent taxa throughout the sedimentary sequence which corresponds to the Matuyama chron and likely belongs to MIS-21. (References: Walker et al., 2016, A view from a cave: Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, southeastern Spain). Reflections on fire, technological diversity, environmental exploitation, and palaeoanthropological approaches. *Human Evolution* 31: 1-67; Walker et al., 2016, Combustion at the late Early Pleistocene site of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Murcia, Spain). *Antiquity* 90: 571-589; Rhodes et al., 2016, Fire in the Early Palaeolithic: Evidence of small mammal burning at Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar, Murcia, Spain, *Journal of Archaeological Science Reports* 9: 427-436; Angelucci et al., 2013, Rethinking stratigraphy and site formation of the Pleistocene deposit at Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Spain); *Quaternary Science Reviews* 89, 195-199; Walker et al., 2013, Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Murcia, Spain): A late Early Pleistocene hominin site with an "Acheulo-Levallois-Mousteroid" Palaeolithic assemblage, *Quaternary International* 294: 135-159; Scott & Gibert, 2009, The oldest hand-axes in Europe, *Nature* 461: 82-85; A.López, M.Haber Uriarte, M. López Martínez, M.J. Walker, (submitted, 2017) Small-mammal indicators of biochronology at Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia, SE Spain), *Historical Biology*)

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