Archeology and paleoenvironment during the Middle Stone Age (MSA) in Equatorial Guinea: preliminary advances.

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Résumé

Because the region of Montes Cameroon-Monte Alen-Monte Mitra-Montes de Cristal (Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon) have one of the highest indexes of biodiversity and botanic endemism in Africa, it has been postulated that no major environmental changes have occurred since the end of the Miocene, being one of the oldest rainforest of the continent. For this reason, it is considered that Equatorial Guinea is the ideal place to study the role of the tropical forest in the evolution of *Homo sapiens*.
The project "Early settlement of *Homo sapiens* in the tropical rainforest of Equatorial Guinea" of the Institute of Anthropological Research of the National Autonomous University of Mexico, aims to know when the first colonization of the rainforests of Central Africa occurred and what were the adaptations and subsistence strategies that hunter-gatherer groups used to survive in this new environment.

Surface surveys and excavations have been carried out in archaeological sites of the MSA period in the continental territory of Equatorial Guinea. Documenting human presence in open air sites and in rock shelters. Analysis of the paleosols associated with archaeological materials has been carried out to reconstruct the paleoenvironmental conditions and the absolute antiquity of Mabewele and Ebian archaeological sites .

These sites have diagnostic lithic artifacts from the Sangoan and Lupemban traditions of the MSA of Central Africa: Discoidal cores, Levallois debitage, bifacial points, core-axes, trihedral pics and other large-format core-tools.
In this paper we will present the preliminary results of the materials analysis of the 2016 and 2017 seasons in Equatorial Guinea and the first interpretations.

Mots-Clés: Middle Stone Age (MSA), Equatorial Guinea, Homo sapiens, Paleoenviroments

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