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# On the appearance of the Noaillian Gravettian in Italy

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## Résumé

In the present state of knowledge, the oldest evidences of the Noaillian Gravettian, dating about 28/27.000 years BP, have been found between Pyrenees area and Southwestern France. Instead, the few radiocarbon dates available from Noaillian sites in Italy fall around 26/25.000 years BP at the beginning of the climatic changes due to the onset of LGM. As already suggested by other scholars, these data support the idea of a progressive diffusion of this *facies* towards the Italian peninsula, assuming the passage of these hunter-gather groups through the Southeastern France. However, an explanatory framework letting to understand the dynamics of the Noaillian spread in Italy is lacking. In order to test this hypothesis the entire Noaillian lithic collection from the well-known site of the Riparo Mochi (Balzi Rossi archaeological complex, Italy) has been studied by means of a technological approach. The site located at the border between France and Italy provide one of the most complete Upper Paleolithic sequences in Italy allowing to discuss the Noaillian appearance and development. The relation between raw material provenance and technical adaptations shows that the Noaillian sequence can be divided in different phases, which are the result of different site functions during the time. In order to assume a wider perspective other lithic assemblages located between the Liguro-proveçal arc and Tyrrhenian Italy are compared. Finally, a model based on the ethnographic comparisons, which takes into account also the paleoenvironmental contextualization, can be stressed. This gives important advances in our comprehension of the Noaillian Gravettian in Italy, considering migrations processes and territorial mobility of hunter-gatherer groups.

**Mots-Clés:** Noaillian, Gravettian, Lithic technology, Hunter, gatherers, Mobility

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