

---

# The Magdalenian sequence of Coímbre cave (Asturias, Northern Iberia), from 20.7 to 14.2 Ka BP

David Álvarez-Alonso<sup>\*1</sup>, José Yravedra<sup>2</sup>, Esteban Álvarez-Fernández<sup>3</sup>, María De Andrés-Herrero<sup>4</sup>, Arantza Aranburu<sup>5</sup>, Martin Arriolabengoa<sup>5</sup>, Alvaro Arrizabalaga<sup>6</sup>, Pilar Carral<sup>7</sup>, Mikel Elorza<sup>8</sup>, Sonia Gabriel<sup>9</sup>, Eneko Iriarte-Avilés<sup>10</sup>, M<sup>a</sup> José Iriarte-Chiapusso<sup>11</sup>, Jesús F. Jordá-Pardo<sup>12</sup>, Carmen Sesé<sup>13</sup>, and Paloma Uzquiano<sup>14</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Dpto. Prehistoria y Arqueología. UNED-Asturias – Gijón, Asturias, Espagne

<sup>2</sup>Dpto. Prehistoria. UCM – Espagne

<sup>3</sup>Departamento de Prehistoria, Historia Antigua y Arqueología, Universidad de Salamanca – Espagne

<sup>4</sup>Institute of Prehistoric Archaeology. University of Cologne / Neanderthal Museum. – Allemagne

<sup>5</sup>Departamento de Mineralogía y Petrología. Universidad del País Vasco – Espagne

<sup>6</sup>Área de Prehistoria, Facultad de Letras - Universidad del País Vasco – Espagne

<sup>7</sup>Departamento de Geología y Geoquímica. Universidad Autónoma de Madrid – Espagne

<sup>8</sup>Sociedad de Ciencias Aranzadi – Espagne

<sup>9</sup>Laboratório de Arqueociências. Direção Geral do Património Cultural y EnvArch – CIBIO-InBIO – Portugal

<sup>10</sup>Laboratorio de Evolución Humana. Universidad de Burgos – Espagne

<sup>11</sup>Área de Prehistoria, Facultad de Letras - Universidad del País Vasco. IKERBASQUE – Espagne

<sup>12</sup>Laboratorio de Estudios Paleolíticos, Dpto. de Prehistoria y Arqueología, UNED – Espagne

<sup>13</sup>Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales. Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas. – Espagne

<sup>14</sup>UNED – Espagne

## Résumé

Coímbre cave is located in the small valley of Besnes river, tributary of Cares river, in a medium-higher mountain area in the central-western Cantabria (Northern Iberian Peninsula). The landscape in the surroundings of the cave, situated in an interior valley but near to the current coast in a low altitude, can be described as a mountainous environment where valleys, small hills and steep mountains with high slopes are integrated, which confer a relative variety of ecosystems to this area. Coímbre contains an important archaeological site divided in two different areas. B Area, is the farthest from the entrance, and is the place where took place the excavations carried out to date, between 2008 and 2012.

Coímbre B shows a complete and very interesting Magdalenian sequence (with Lower, Middle and Upper Magdalenian levels), and a Gravettian level, that converts this cave in one of the biggest habitat areas in Western Cantabria. Its rich set of bone industries, mobilier art and ornaments, provide key information that shows the connections between this area, and the Pyrenees and the southwestern of Aquitaine.

Moreover, Coímbre cave presents an interesting set of Magdalenian engravings, located in

---

\*Intervenant

different places of the cavity, both in open and accessible areas, and in narrower and inaccessible places, which clearly define two different symbolic spaces

This work presents the results of the study of Magdalenian occupations in Coímbre, after the end of the excavations in B Area, and its chronostratigraphic sequence for the Cantabrian Magdalenian, which has the interest of being one of the most recently excavated and most complete sequence in terms of its variety of levels and chronology, ranging from the Archaic to the Upper Magdalenian.

**Mots-Clés:** Coímbre, Magdalenian, Upper Pleistocene, Cantabrian Spain