
What if anything does the discovery of Middle Paleolithic in China tell us about population movements during the Late Pleistocene

Feng Li^{*†1}, Fuyou Chen , and Gao Xing

¹Institute of Vertebrate Palaeontology and Palaeoanthropology, Chinese Academy of Sciences – Chine

Résumé

For many years now, there have been debates about whether the term ‘Middle Paleolithic,’ generally associated with Neanderthals in western Eurasia, was even applicable to China and adjoining areas. As a result, a two-phase model of the Chinese Paleolithic record has been increasingly suggested: Early and Late Paleolithic. However, recent discoveries from Chinese Central Asia and Inner Mongolia have largely changed our knowledge of Middle Paleolithic in the region. Since the beginning of this century several lithic assemblages with Levallois technology and Middle Paleolithic typological tools in northern China have been located. Here we will introduce the stratigraphy, chronology, and the general lithic technology of Jinsitai and Sanlong caves in Inner Mongolia, and Tongtian cave in Xinjiang Province. A preliminary comparison with the artifact assemblages from the Russian Siberian Altai sheds light on our understanding of population movements and technology diffusion in eastern Eurasia during Late Pleistocene.

Mots-Clés: East Asia, Middle Paleolithic, population movements

*Intervenant

†Auteur correspondant: lifeng@ivpp.ac.cn