

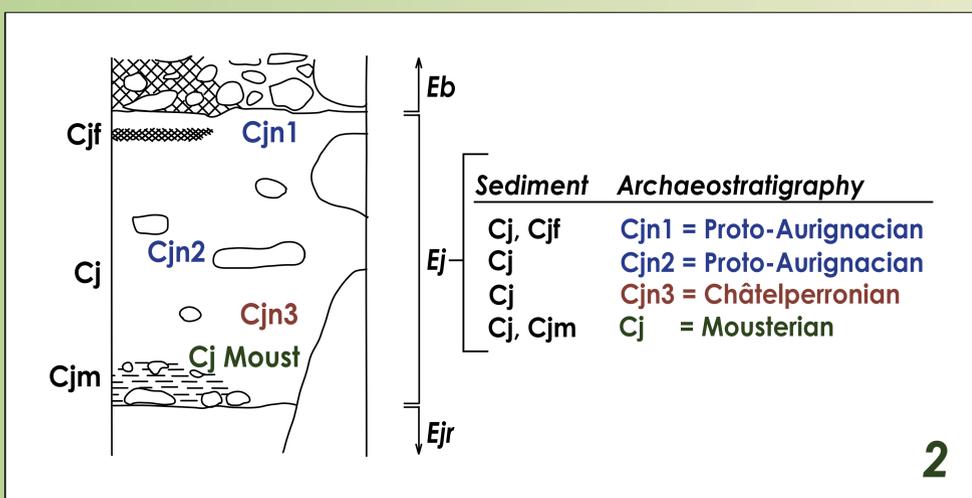
Mousterian Faunal Remains from Gatzarria Cave



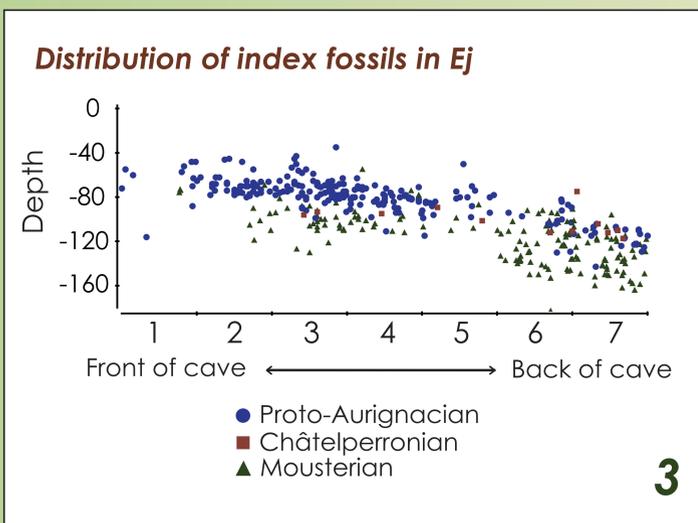
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Gatzarria Cave is a karstic cave in the Atlantic Pyrenees (1) with deposits spanning the Middle to Upper Palaeolithic transition. This study examines faunal remains from the most recent Mousterian deposit at the site, and reassesses the stratigraphic integrity of this deposit. The full text of my thesis can be accessed online at: <http://trentu.academia.edu/ElspethReady/Papers>.

Stratigraphy



The sediments in the Middle Ensemble (Ej) at Gatzarria (2) are homogeneous and the lithic industries were mostly distinguished *a posteriori*. We re-identified lithic index fossils in Ej and found that the original attributions by G. Laplace were sometimes problematic. Using our new attributions (3), it was possible to isolate a subset



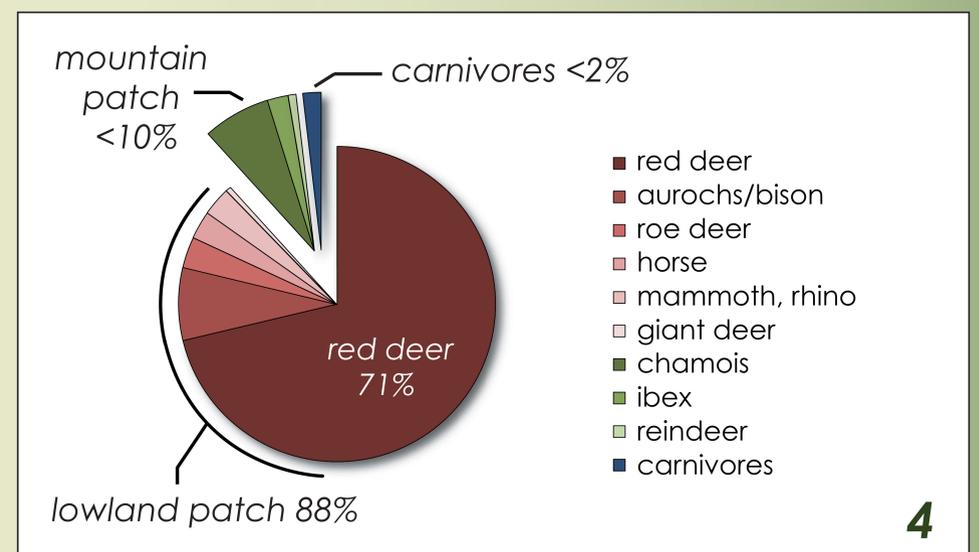
of *décapages* containing predominantly Mousterian artifacts. This sample was used in the faunal analysis.

Acknowledgements

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Neandertal Foraging

Faunal remains from the Cj Mousterian sample suggest fall and/or winter occupation(s). Numerous species are present, but red deer heavily dominate the assemblage (4). Small game was not a significant component of Neandertal diets at the site.



Due to taphonomic factors, low density bone portions are poorly represented. Among high density bone portions, red deer long bones with high unsaturated marrow fat content are dominant (5). Mandibles were transported more frequently than crania. The patterns of faunal remains at Gatzarria are similar to other Mousterian sites in southwestern France, such as Saint-Césaire and Grotte XVI.

