



**ABSTRACTS**



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cold-climate taxa have been identified, such as *Microtus oeconomus*, *Chionomys nivalis*, *Marmota marmota*, *Ochotona pusilla* and, possibly, *Microtus gregalis*. This faunal composition resembles the Late Pleistocene assemblages found in the Cantabrian region, but differs from them in the presence of *Ochotona*, presently the single record of this taxon in the Iberian Peninsula.

Thus, the small mammal record of the Cueva de la Buena Pinta site provides evidence that cold-climate adapted species reached the centre of the Iberian Peninsula during the mid-Late Pleistocene, distinctly earlier than the LGM. Furthermore, most of them are, to the moment, the southernmost records these taxa attained in the Iberian Peninsula, and even some of them, in Europe.

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ORAL

## 9. EXTINCTION OF SELECTED MICROMAMMAL TAXA DURING THE MIDDLE PLEISTOCENE OF EUROPE

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The Middle Pleistocene (c. 780-130ka) is a period that is characterised by significant climatic oscillations, which can be correlated with faunal changes. The small mammal biostratigraphic subdivision of this time period relies primarily on the extinction of several key taxa, such as *Talpa minor*, *Drepanosorex*, *Macroneomys*, *Beremendia*, *Hypolagus*, *Petauria*, *Trogotherium* and *Pliomys*. This paper examines changes in the spatio-temporal distribution of these micromammals during the Middle Pleistocene and discusses the possible extinction mode for each taxon. Prior to becoming extinct, several of the taxa exhibited a marked contraction of their geographical ranges, whereas in others retardation effects have to

be taken in account, and thus some taxa survived much longer in some areas than in others. The survival of populations in restricted geographical areas has important biostratigraphical implications. The second portion of the paper compares the Middle Pleistocene extinctions with the faunal situation within the late Quaternary.

ORAL

## 10. EVOLUTION OF SMALL MAMMAL COMMUNITIES DURING THE LATEGLACIAL IN THE SOUTH-WESTERN FRANCE

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The Lateglacial is a slow gradual warming associated with cold short events that occurred between 18.0 and 11.7 ky cal. BP. Pollen analyses from deep-sea and lacustrine cores have well documented the evolution of floral communities in West Europe and have suggested that climatic fluctuations have influenced the evolution of terrestrial ecosystems. However, the exact impact of these climatic changes on small faunal communities in Southwestern France is still poorly documented.

Peyrazet Cave is an archaeological site located in Lot (France) excavated since 2008, that has delivered a Lateglacial sequence dated between 15.5 and 11.1 ky cal. BP. Thousands of small faunal remains resulting from a natural accumulation were recovered. Investigation of this material reveals the presence of at least 4 insectivores and 9 rodents and more surprisingly the northern birch mouse (*Sicista betulina*) that had been never documented in this region before.

The occurrence of this migrant taxa coming from the east is most likely related to climatic fluctuations of Lateglacial and complexify traditional scenarios developed to explain the evolution of small faunal communities between Last Glacial Maximum and Holocene.

ORAL

## 11. EAST-WEST BAT DIVERSITY DIFFERENCES IN THE LATE PLIOCENE AND PLEISTOCENE OF EUROPE: FACT OR ARTIFACT?

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