

THE LITHIC ARTEFACTS OF THE LOWER PLEISTOCENE SITE AT FUENTE NUEVA-3 (ORCE, GRANADA, SPAIN)

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About a hundred lithic artefacts, found in two of the three archaeological levels of Fuente Nueva III, give unquestionable evidence of human occupation in the Orce region during the lower Pleistocene. The faunal assemblage of micro and macromammals and the paleomagnetic data reveals that this site is located in the reverse chron 1r.2r, below the Jaramillo normal event (chron 1r.1n). The association of these artefacts and the fauna in a sedimentary environment excluding any risk of reworking, and a remarkable state of freshness of the lithic pieces, guarantee the homogeneity of the lithic assemblages. The use of local alluvial flint pebbles allow the production of blanks from a preferential debitage surface. Very rare flakes are retouched and some are used unretouched or turned into 'pièces esquillées'.

The complete absence of soft hammer use and of biface debris, seem to exclude the attribution to the Acheulean (Martínez-Navarro *et al.*, 1997), which is really no evidence in Spain before 400.000 years.

Reference

MARTÍNEZ-NAVARRO B., TURQ A., AGUSTÍ J. & OMS O., 1997. Fuente Nueva-3 (Orce, Granada, Spain) and the first human colonization of Europe. *Journal of Human Evolution* 33:611-620.