

Early hominins in north-west Europe: a punctuated long chronology?

Article

Supplemental Material

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Table 4: Inferred environments and key supporting evidence at Atapuerca in the Early and Middle Pleistocene (after Rodríguez et al., 2011: table 9).

Evidence	Key Patterns (Early & Middle Pleistocene)	
Small vertebrates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant woodland component in herpetofauna • Small mammals suggest moist, open habitats 	
Large mammals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of temperate affinity • None unequivocally indicating cold or arid environments 	
Vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous presence of Mediterranean taxa & mesic trees • One possible cold steppe landscape phase 	
Palaeotemperature (amphibian & squamate assemblages)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always warmer than Burgos today • “Cold”/“warm” period differences of only c. 2°C 	
Annual precipitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 750mm (dry)–1049mm (humid), compared to c. 570mm in present 	
Environment types	<p>Early Pleistocene</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mediterranean open woodland • Open woodland and steppe • Open arid (?) • Open woodland and moist meadows • Temperate open woodlands and meadows with lagoons 	<p>Middle Pleistocene</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humid temperate open woodland • Mediterranean open woodland • Moist meadows with scattered trees • Open woodland and meadows • Steppe