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PD en Cuaternario: Cambios Ambientales y Huella Humana

STUDY OF THE SMALL MAMMALS OF BRONZE AGE LAYERS FROM ARENAZA I CAVE (GALDAMES, BIZKAIA, NORTH OF IBERIAN PENINSULA)

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The study of the small mammals from the uppermost layers (ca. 3695-4414 cal BP) from Arenaza I Cave (Galdames, Bizkaia, North of Iberian Peninsula) is reported in this work. This cave is developed in Lower Cretaceous limestones at 190 meters above actual sea level. First archaeological intervention began in 1972, documenting a stratigraphic sequence from the Upper Magdalenian to the late Bronze Age, with sporadic late Roman occupations. Nevertheless, the small vertebrate assemblage presented here comes from the excavations carried out between 1991 and 1993, from layers 8 to 10 of the Q15 quadrant. At least, 14 taxa have been identified, nine belonging to the Order Rodentia and five to Order Eulipotyphla. Palaeoecological data obtained for the three layers indicate a clear predominance of deciduous forest landscape in cave's surrounding area during the Bronze Age, being the layer 9 when it was most extended. Therefore it was probably at that time when the most humid conditions and mild temperatures took place.