

# **The Early to Middle Pleistocene Atapuerca caves and their Vertebrates**

## **ICAZ Meeting 2006, México City**

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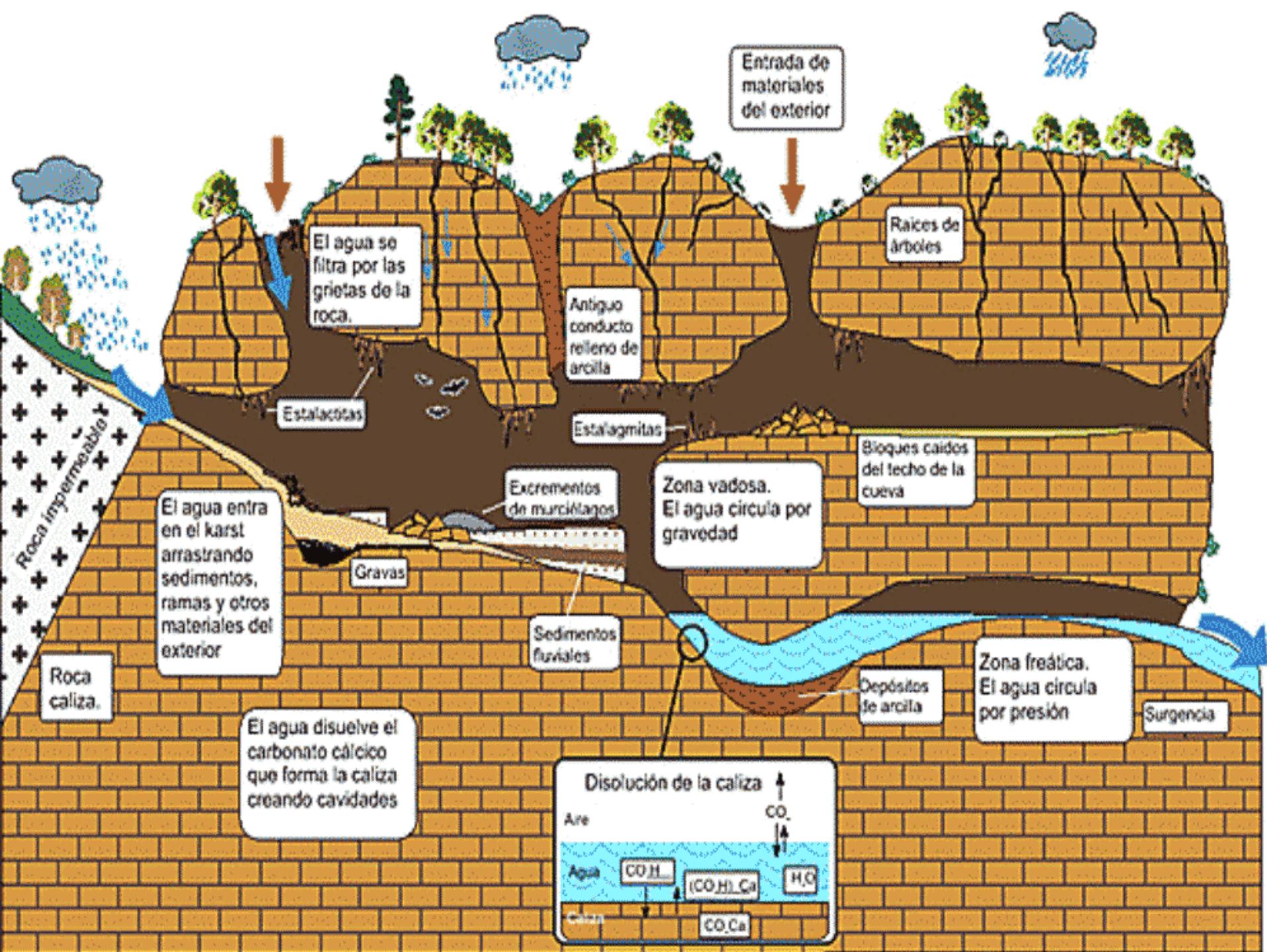
## **ORAL PAPER SLIDES**



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# The Early to Middle Pleistocene Atapuerca Caves and their Vertebrates

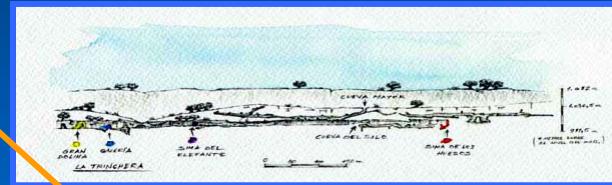
Gloria Cuenca Bescós and Juan Rofes



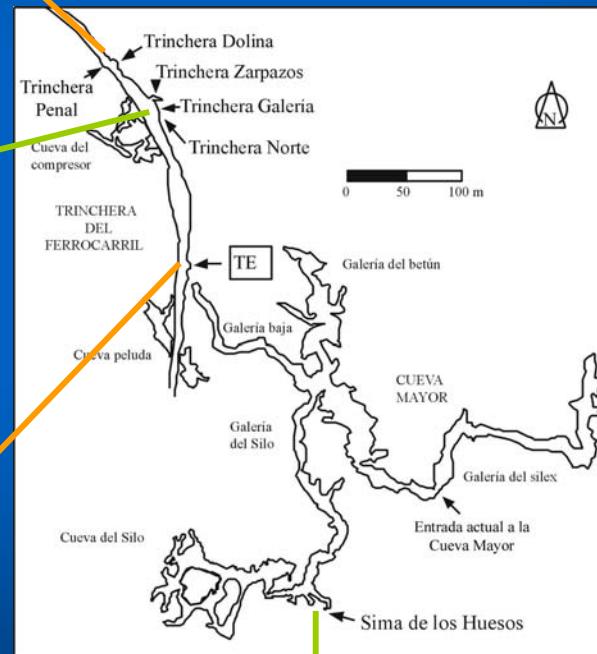


## Gran Dolina

**Atapuerca**  
patrimonio de la humanidad



## Galeria



## Sima del Elefante

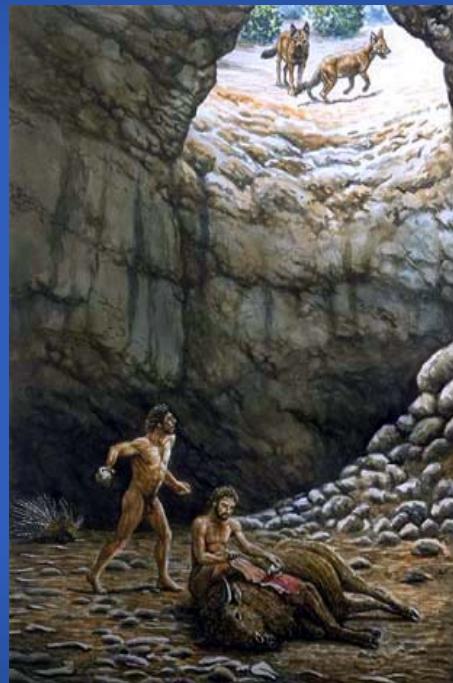


## Sima de los Huesos

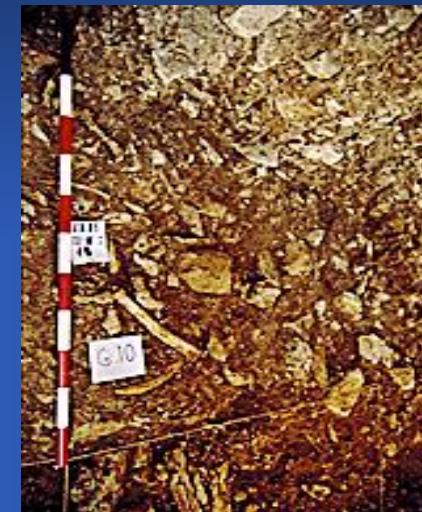
# LARGE MAMMAL BONE ACCUMULATIONS



*Animal Behavior* +



*Homo Behavior*



*Hyena*  
GD



*Lion*  
G



*Mammoth*  
tooth GD



*Horse foot*  
GD



*Bear SH*



*Homo*  
*antecessor*  
GD



*Homo*  
*heidelbergensis*  
SH



# SMALL VERTEBRATE BONE ACCUMULATIONS



*Birds of Prey Behavior* =

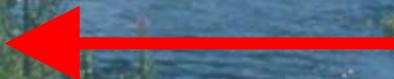
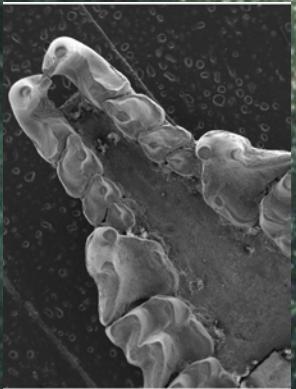




Washing-screening and sampling field lab next to the Arlanzon River



Analysis and research at Universidad de Zaragoza

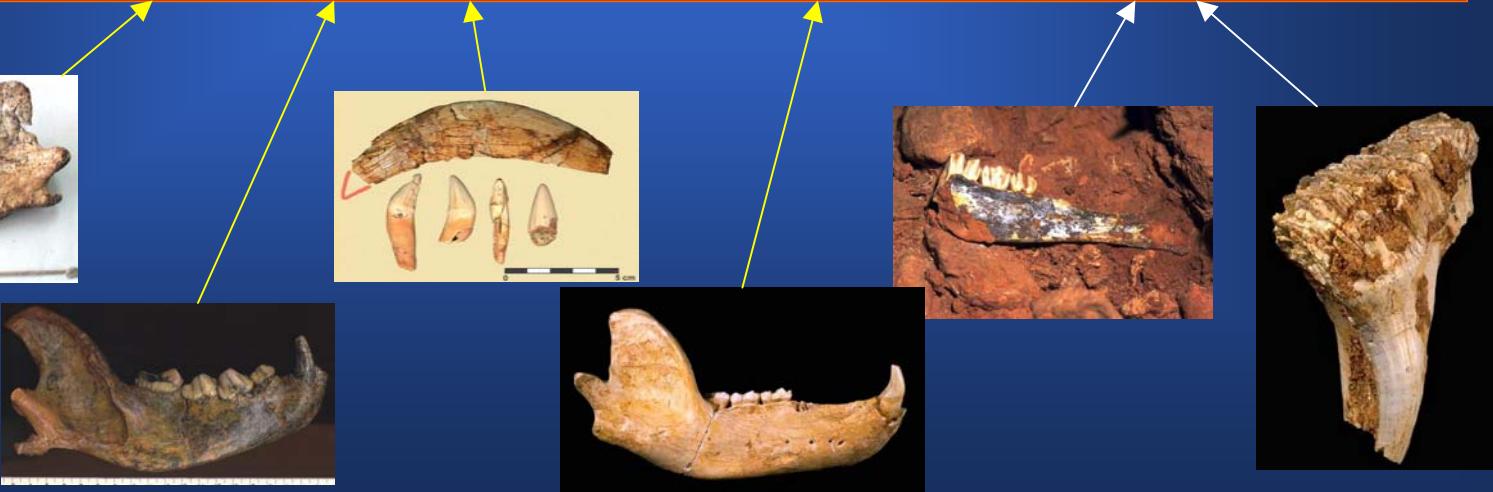


Small vertebrate samples

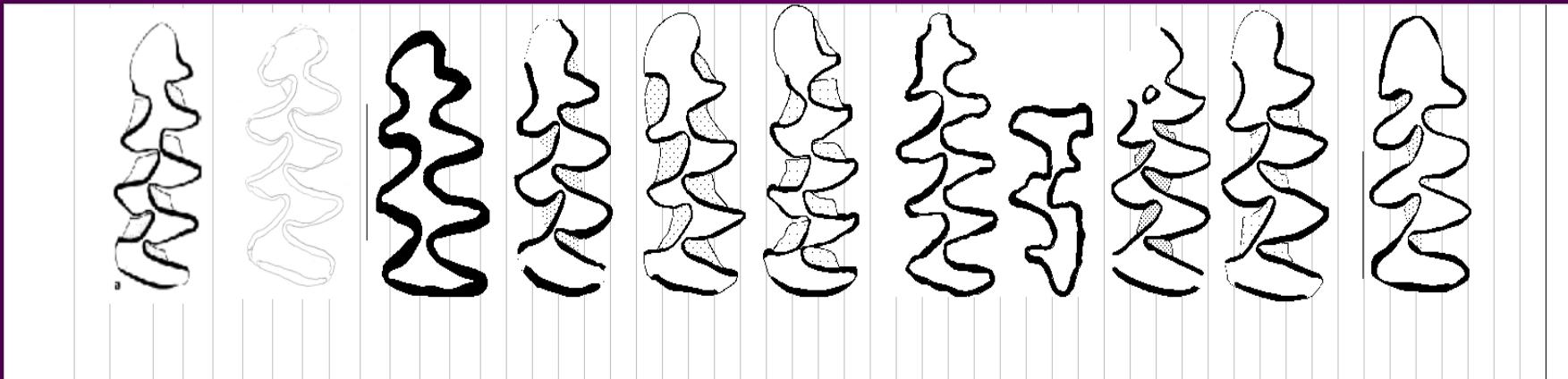


# Large Mammals of Atapuerca

Atapuerca levels		Pleistocene Age										Ungulates and Proboscidea									
		Primates	Carnivora																		
				Ma																	
TE URU 19																					
TG III TZ				0.25																	
TD 10-11				0.3-0.4																	
SH				0.35-0.4																	
TG II																					
TD 8b																					
TD 8a	Middle			0.5-0.65																	
TD 7				0.78																	
TD 6b				0.85																	
TD 6a																					
TD 5																					
TD 3-4	Early			~0.9																	
TE LRU				~1.4																	



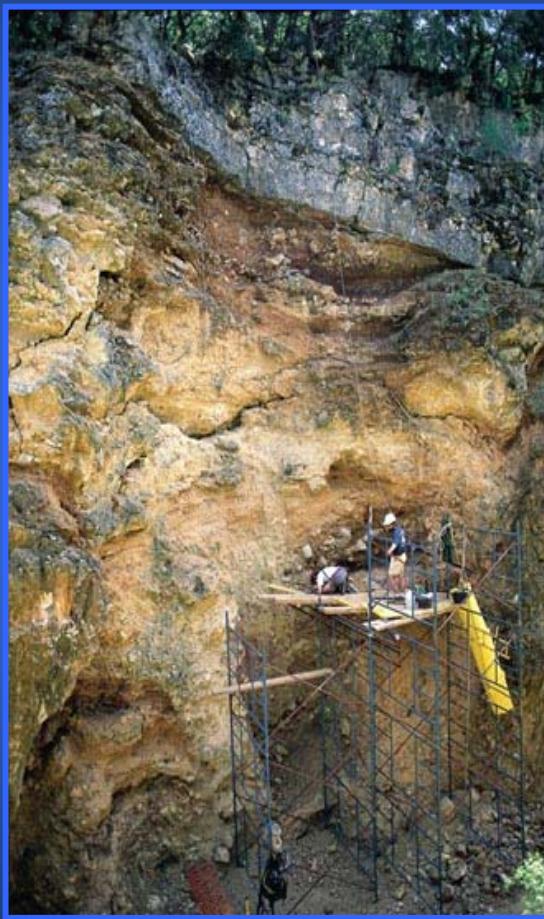
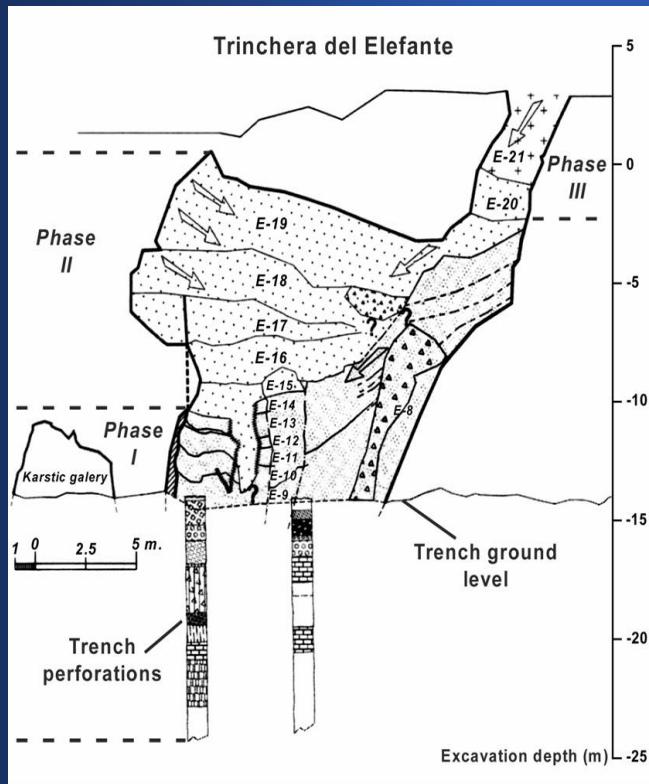
# Small Mammals of Atapuerca

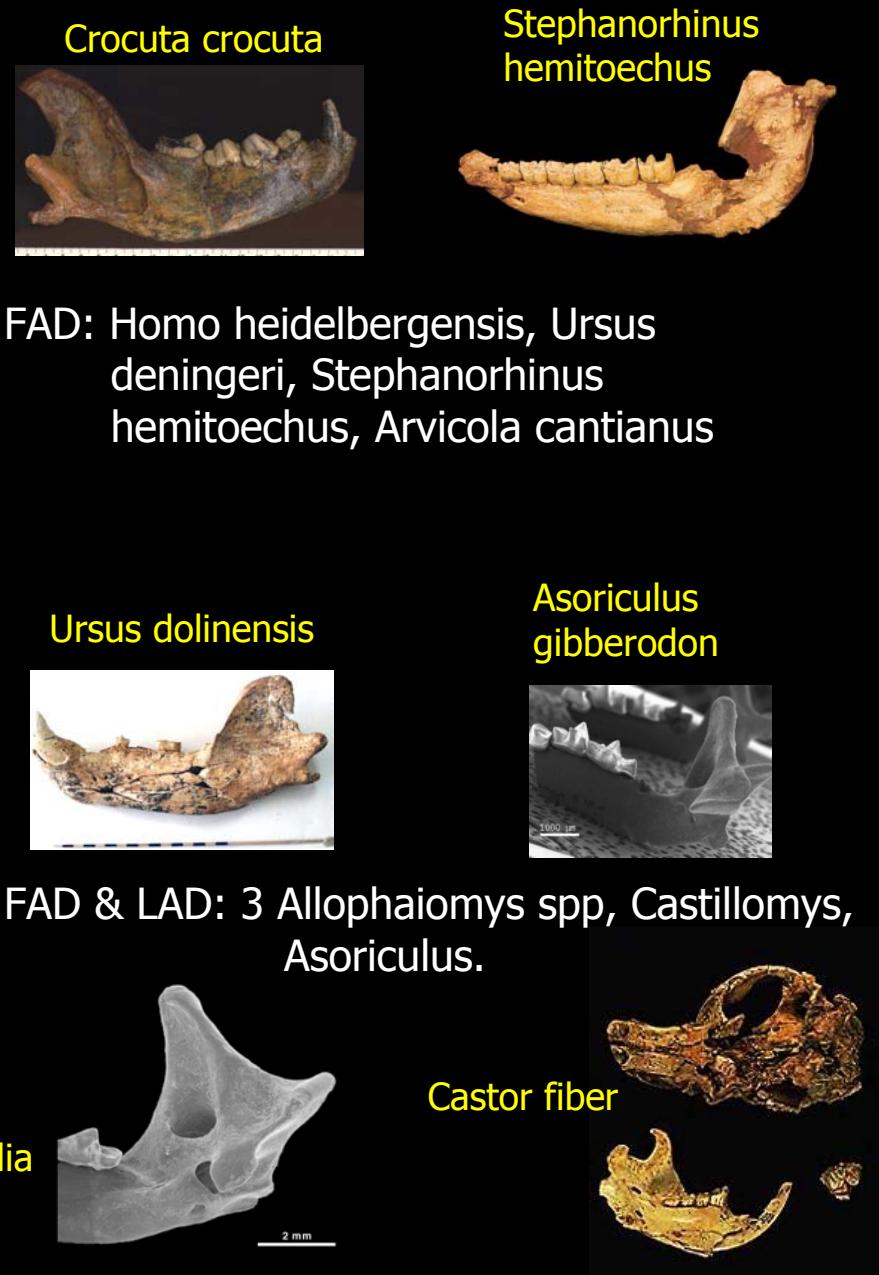
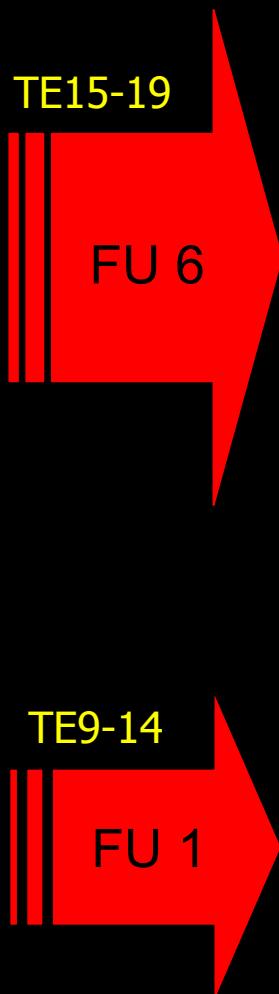
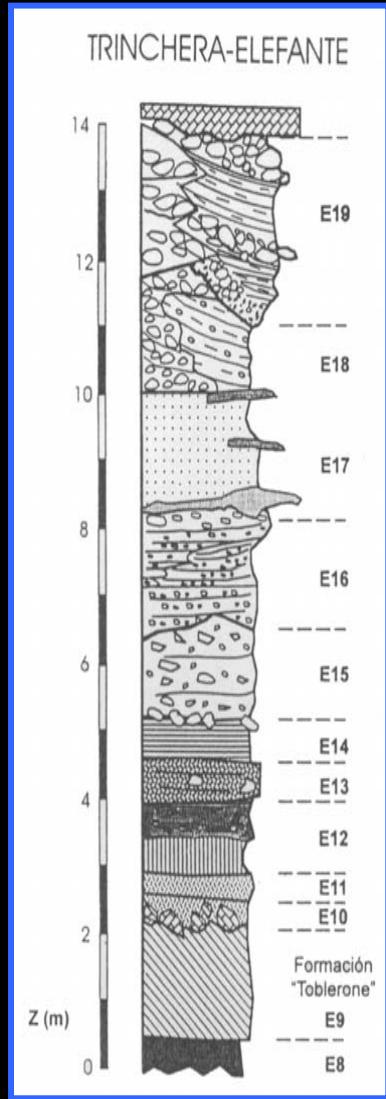


Arvicolidae drawings from left to right: *Allophaiomys lavocati*, *Pliomys cf. P. Simplicior*, *Ungaromys sp.*, *Arvicolidae nov. Sp.*, *Allophaiomys chalinei*, *Stenocranius gregaloides*, *Pliomys*, *Mimomys savini*, *Arvicola aff. A. sapidus*, *Clethrionomys sp.*

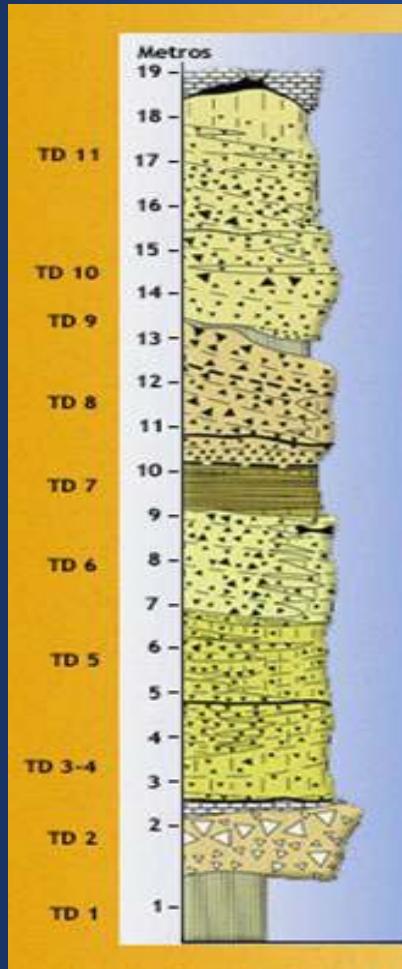
Atapuerca levels		Pleistocene Age		Insectivora	Rodentia	Quiroptera	Lagomorpha
	Ma						
TEURU				<i>Beremenda fissidens</i>			
TD 10-11	0.3-0.4			<i>Asonicus gibberodon</i>			
TG III TZ	0.25			<i>Crocidura aff. C. komfeldii</i>			
SH	0.4			<i>Ethaceus cf. E. europeus</i>			
TG II				<i>Talpa cf. T. europaea</i>			
TD 8b				Desmaninae indet.			
TD 8a	0.6			<i>Sorex</i> sp.			
TD 7	0.78			<i>Crocidura cf. C. russula</i>			
TD 6b	0.85			<i>aff. Beremenda</i>			
TD 6a				<i>Sorex minutus</i>			
TD 5				<i>Neomys</i> sp.			
TD 3-4				<i>Allophaiomys lavocati</i>			
TELRU	1.4			<i>Allophaiomys nuttensis</i>			
				<i>Allophaiomys burgondiae</i>			
				<i>Pliomys cf. P. Simplicior</i>			
				<i>Ungaromys</i> sp.			
				Arvicolidae nov. gen. nov. sp.			
				<i>Castillomys rivas</i>			
				<i>Sciurus</i> sp.			
				<i>Elionomys querinus</i>			
				<i>Castor fiber</i>			
				<i>Allophaiomys chalinei</i>			
				<i>Stenocranius gregaloides</i>			
				<i>Termitola avallidens</i>			
				<i>Microtus seseae</i>			
				<i>Pliomys episcopalis</i>			
				<i>Mimomys savini</i>			
				<i>Iberomys huascarensis</i>			
				<i>Apodemus</i> sp.			
				<i>Marmota</i> sp.			
				<i>Allocreetus bursae</i>			
				<i>Hystrix refossa</i>			
				<i>Microtus minutus</i>			
				<i>Microtus sp.</i>			
				<i>Microtus laticaudipes</i>			
				<i>Termitola atapuerquensis</i>			
				<i>Iberomys brevicaudis</i>			
				<i>Allocreetus coronezensis</i>			
				<i>Acanthion viningiagadovi</i>			
				<i>Clethrionomys</i> sp.			
				<i>Microtus agrestis</i>			
				<i>Myotis</i> sp.			
				<i>Rhinolophus</i> sp.			
				<i>Miniopterus schreibersii</i>			
				<i>Oryctolagus</i> cf. <i>O. lacosti</i>			
				<i>Lepus</i> cf. <i>L. ferreaubiae</i>			
				<i>Oryctolagus lunensis</i>			
				Lagomorpha indet.			
							13
							22
							17
							9
							18
							8
							14
							15
							20
							23
							19
							23
							14
						taxa n° (52 taxa in total)	

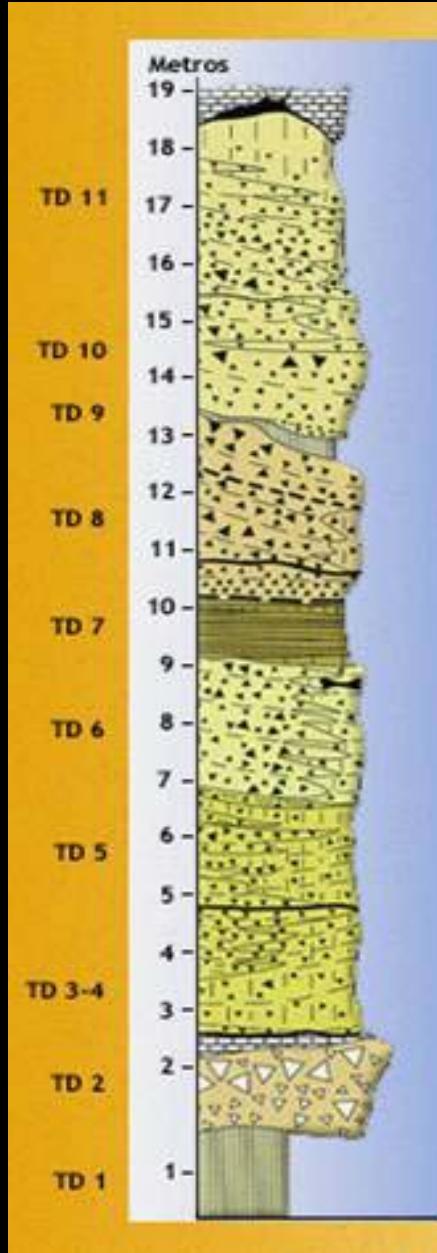
# SIMA DEL ELEFANTE





# GRAN DOLINA





FAD: *Homo heidelbergensis*, *Ursus deningeri*,  
*Stephanorhinus hemitoechus*, *Arvicola cantianus*

FAD: *Microtus rattlecepoides*  
LAD: *Beremendia*, *Mimomys savini*

FAD & LAD: *Homo antecessor*.

FAD: *Sus scrofa*, *Homotherium*

FAD: *Iberomys huescarenensis*, *Allocricetus*,  
*Crocuta*.

*Crocuta crocuta*  
TD-3, FU 2



*Panthera gombaszoegensis*  
TD-4, FU2



*Mammuthus* sp.  
TD-6, FU 3



*Mimomys savini*  
TD-6, FU 4



*Soricine* indet.  
TD-6, FU 4



*Homo antecessor*  
TD-6, FU 4



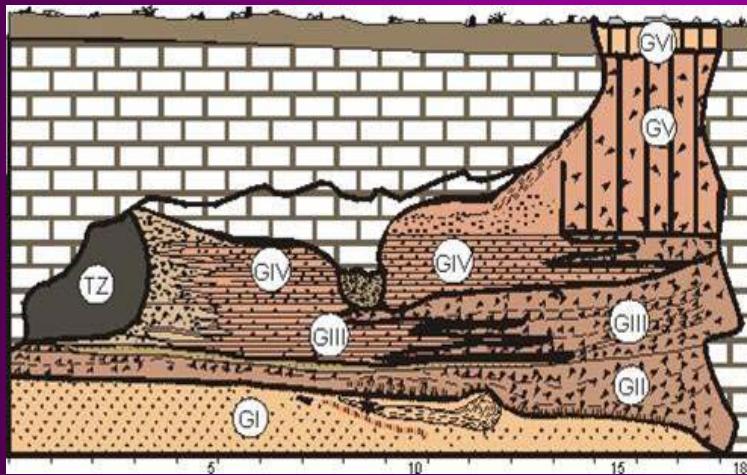
*Equus altidens*  
TD-8, FU 5

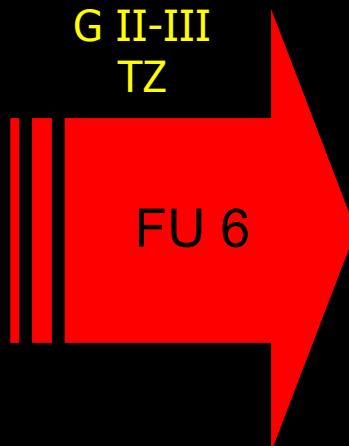
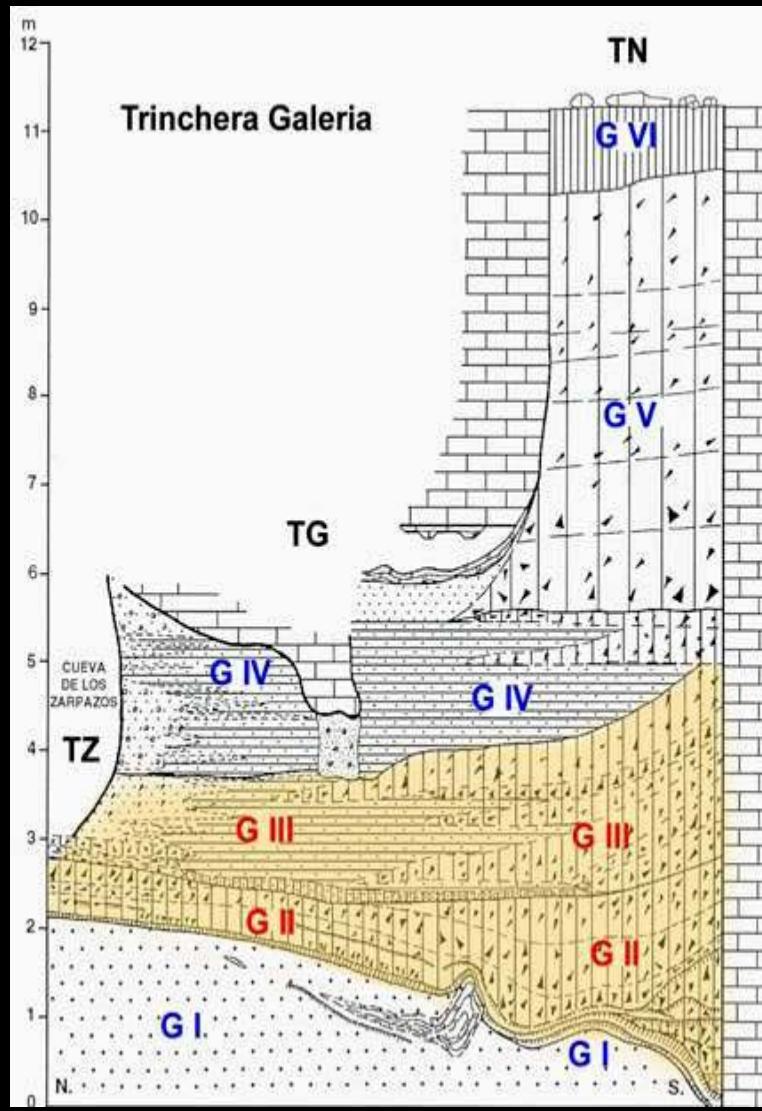


*Cervus elaphus*  
TD-10, FU 6



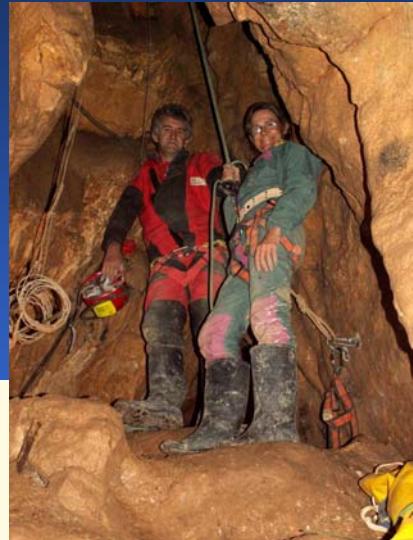
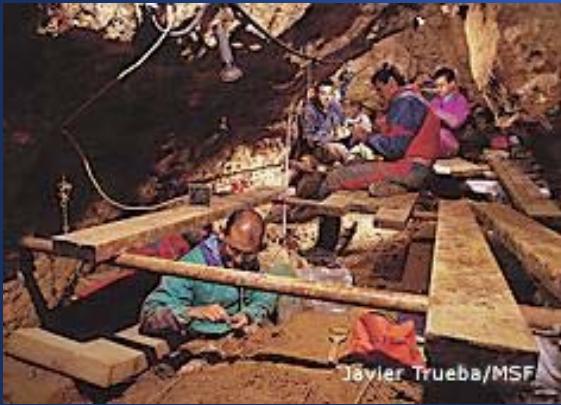
# GALERIA

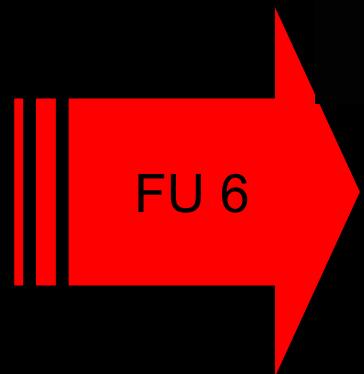




FAD: *Homo heidelbergensis*,  
*Ursus deningeri*,  
*Stephanorhinus hemitoechus*, *Arvicola cantianus*

# SIMA DE LOS HUESOS





Homo heidelbergensis



FAD: *Homo heidelbergensis*, *Ursus deningeri*, *Stephanorhinus hemitoechus*, *Arvicola cantianus*



Tiny Ear bones





Panthera leo



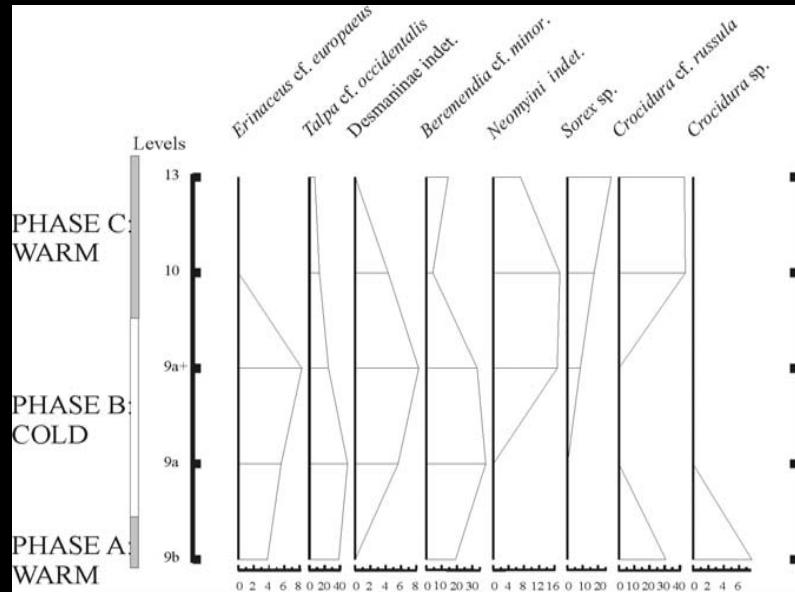
Ursus deningeri



Lynx pardina



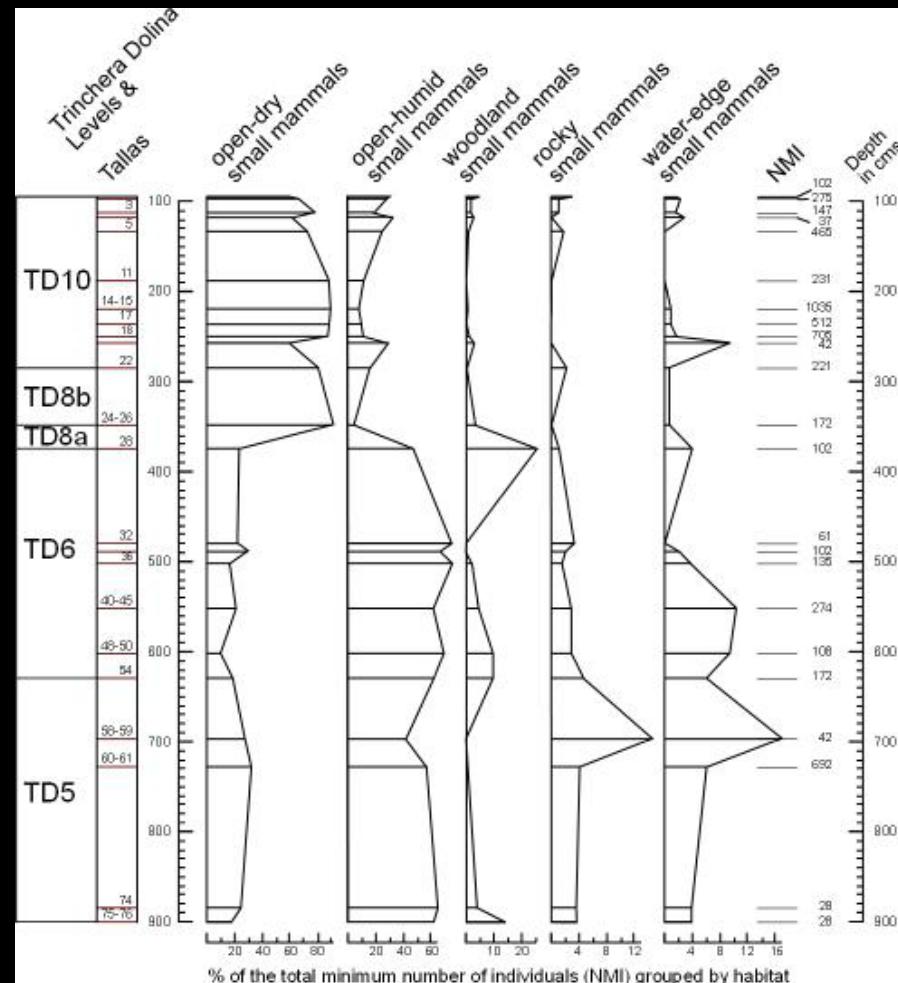
## Palaeoclimatic reconstruction of the Early Pleistocene of Atapuerca (before 1 Ma)



Based on the Insectivora assemblage of the lower levels of Sima del Elefante

## Palaeoenvironmental Reconstructions

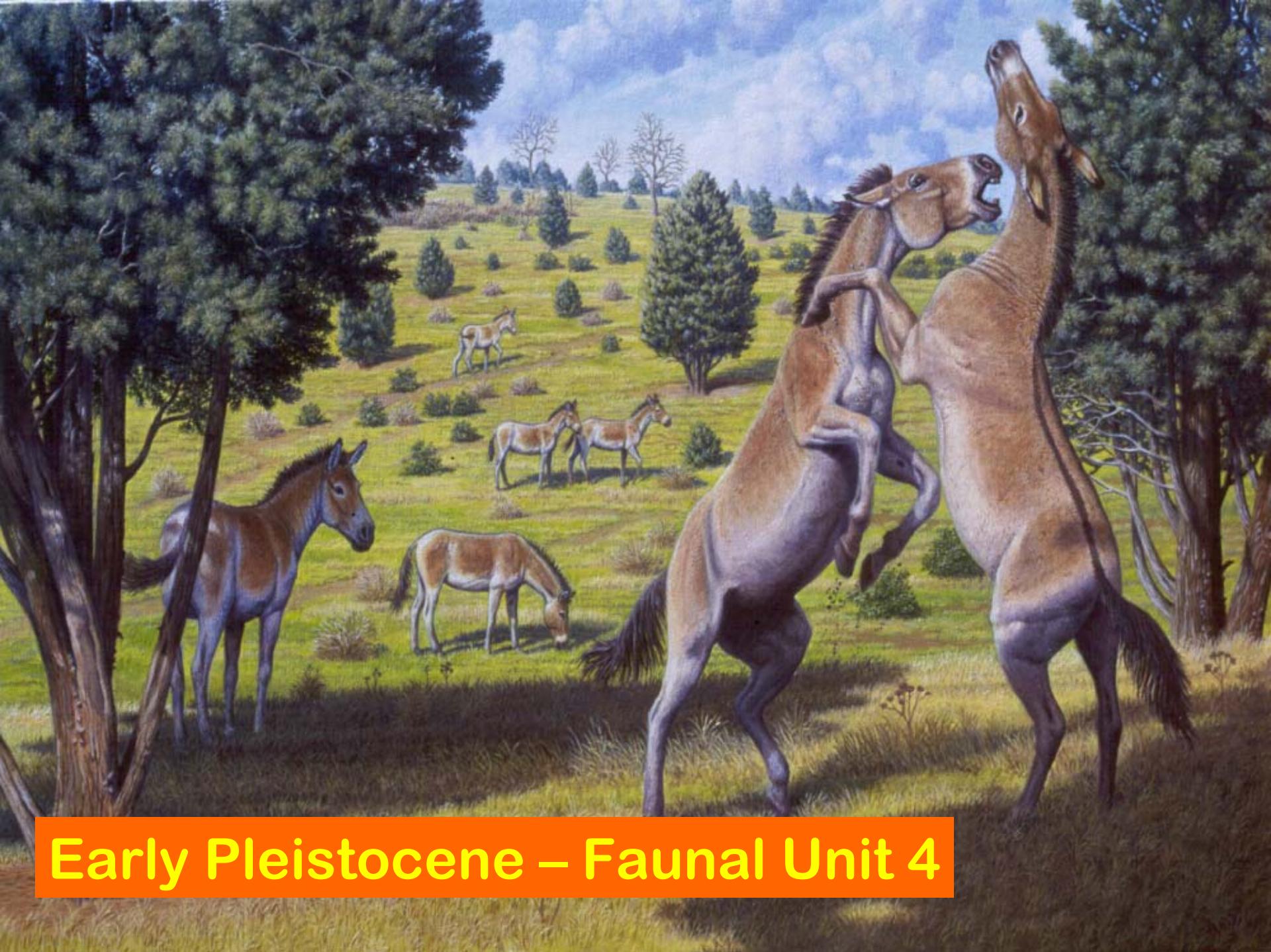
## Palaeoenvironmental reconstruction of the Early to Middle Pleistocene of Atapuerca (after 1 Ma)



Based on the Mammalian assemblage of the stratigraphic sequence of Gran Dolina

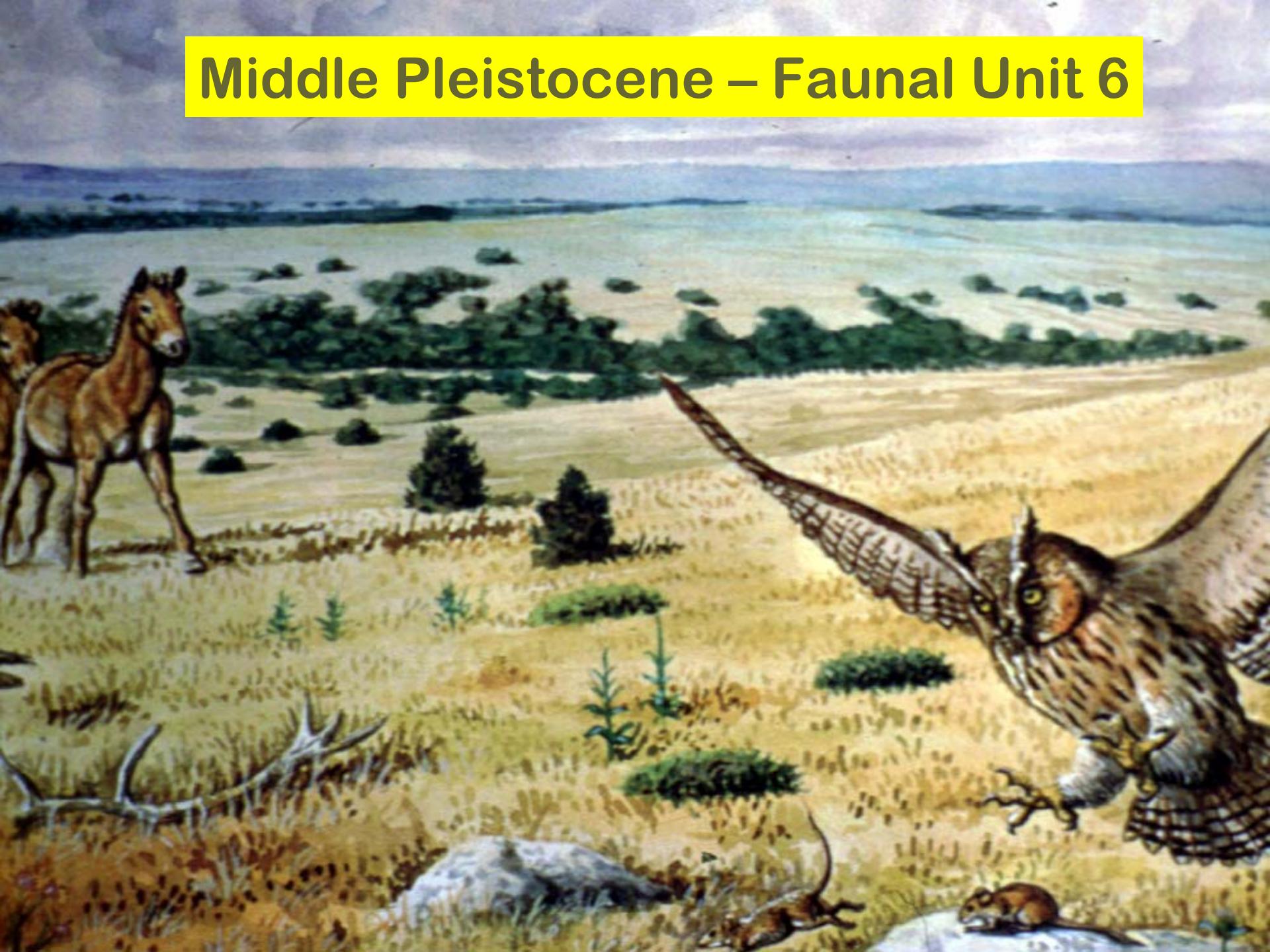
# Early Pleistocene – Faunal Unit 4





## Early Pleistocene – Faunal Unit 4

# Middle Pleistocene – Faunal Unit 6



# LITHIC TOOLS



*Chopper TD-6*



*Flake TD-6*

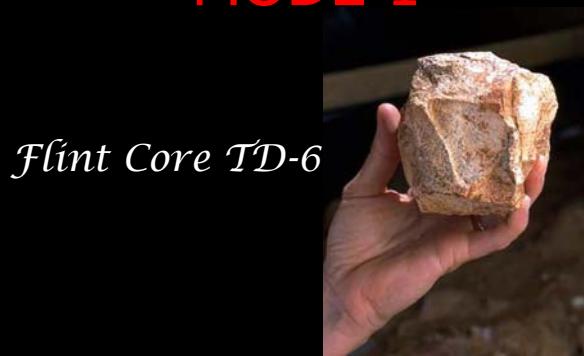


*Handaxe TG*



*Quarzite Splitter  
TG*

**MODE 1**



*Flint Core TD-6*



*Large Flint  
Flake TG*



*Quarzite Point  
TG*

*Quarzite  
Point  
TD-10*

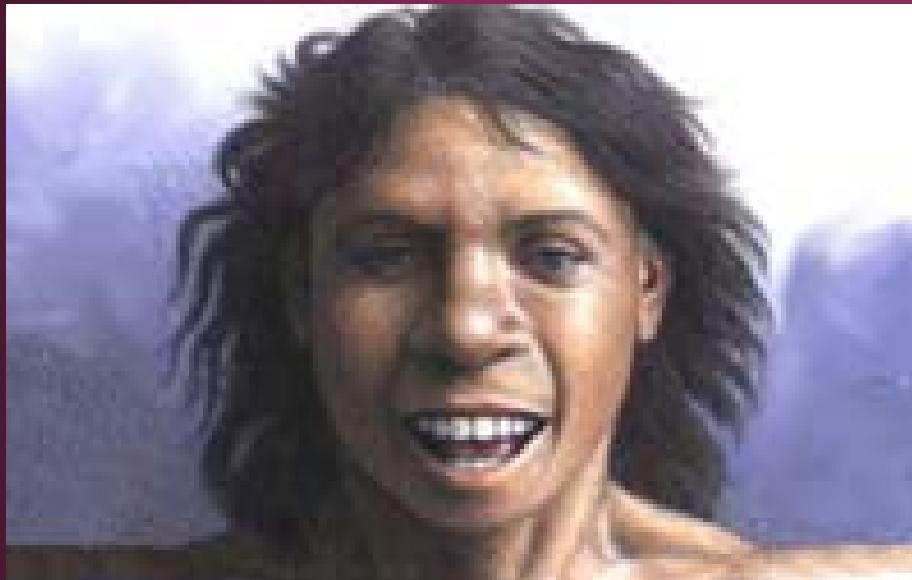


**MODE 3**



*Cutting  
Tool TD-10*

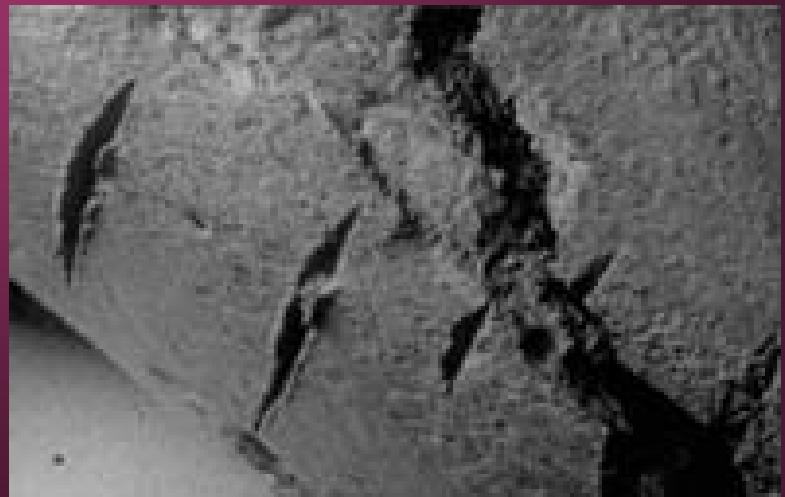
# *Homo antecessor*

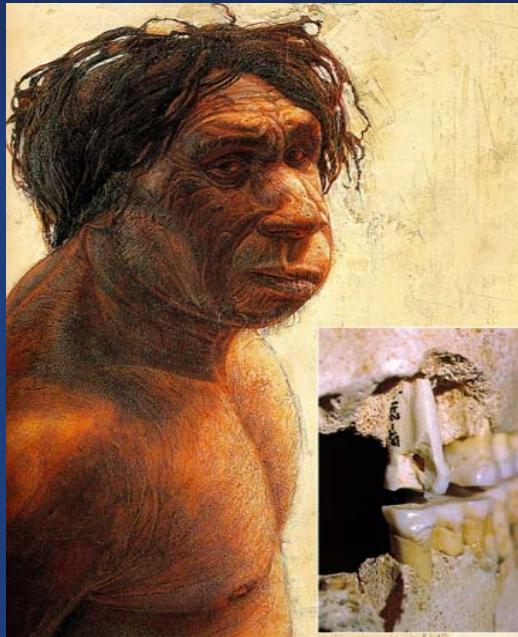


Gran Dolina Boy

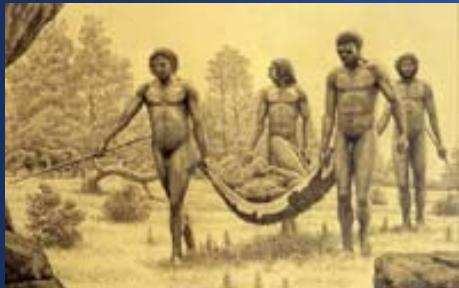


Canibalism





## *Homo heidelbergensis*



Hunting and scavenging



Burial





**THANK YOU  
VERY MUCH!!**