

New evidences of the presence of reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*) on the Iberian Peninsula in the Pleistocene. An archaeopaleontological and chronological reassessment.

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Keywords:	Pleistocene, Palaeobiogeography, Parietal art, Portable art, Taphonomy, Cantabrian region

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4 New evidence for the presence of reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*) on the Iberian Peninsula in the
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6 Pleistocene: an archaeopalaeontological and chronological reassessment
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34 (*Rangifer tarandus*) on the Iberian Peninsula in the Pleistocene: an archaeopalaeontological and
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36 chronological reassessment
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41 Reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*) populations reached the Iberian Peninsula during the end of the
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43 Middle Pleistocene and there are numerous examples of this species from Late Pleistocene
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45 Mousterian and Upper Paleolithic sites. In this paper, new evidence of reindeer in the east
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47 Cantabrian region is presented which further supports the timing of this species' first appearance,
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49 and previous assessments are updated. To date, the presence of this species has been identified at 55
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51 sites in the Iberian Peninsula, nearly as many as those of mammoth (*Mammuthus primigenius*) and
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53 woolly rhinoceros (*Coelodonta antiquitatis*) combined. Most of the sites with presence of reindeer
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(50) are located in the Cantabrian region with a clear increase in the density of sites and remains towards the Pyrenees. The remaining five sites with evidence of reindeer are located on the other side of the Pyrenees in the north-west corner of Catalonia. In contrast, archaeological evidence of reindeer in the form of art (both parietal and portable) is more scarce and scattered. Evidence for the representation of these animals has been found outside the northern fringe of the Iberian Peninsula, which could reflect either long-distance cultural communication or the movement of human groups.

Key-words: Pleistocene; Palaeobiogeography; Parietal art; Portable art; Taphonomy; Cantabrian region

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4 The Iberian Peninsula is the largest peninsula in southern Europe. During the coldest
5 episodes of the Late Pleistocene, populations of cold-adapted large mammals moved southwards in
6 Europe, Asia and North America, paralleling the distribution of suitable tundra-steppe-like
7 environments, reaching even the southern European peninsulas. The presence of reindeer, woolly
8 mammoth and woolly rhinoceros in a number of archaeo-palaeontological sites from the Iberian
9 Peninsula has been linked with extreme cold and dry events. This subject has been a matter of great
10 interest among Quaternary palaeontologists (e.g. Harlé 1908, 1912; Altuna 1971) and has been
11 thoroughly discussed from different points of view in the recent scientific literature (García &
12 Arsuaga 2003; Álvarez-Lao & García 2010, 2011a, 2011b, 2012; Álvarez-Lao *et al.* 2009).
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26 The reindeer is known in the Iberian Peninsula from 55 sites (see below), nearly double the
27 number of sites that have yielded remains of other cold-adapted taxa (Álvarez-Lao & García
28 2011a). The current distribution area of fossil reindeer is restricted to the northern Cantabrian fringe
29 and to northeast Catalonia, close to the Pyrenees. In contrast the woolly rhinoceros (*Coelodonta*
30 *antiquitatis*) has been found in central Spain at around 100 ka BP (Arsuaga & Aguirre 1979; Sesé &
31 Soto 2002; Álvarez-Lao & García 2011b) while the southernmost presence of the woolly mammoth
32 is documented in Padul (Granada) (see Álvarez-Lao *et al.* 2009 and references therein).
33 Additionally, the chronological occurrence of the reindeer in the Iberian peninsula is more extended
34 than that of other cold-adapted faunas, being the only cold adapted taxon present between the
35 Heinrich 1 (H1) and the Younger Dryas (Álvarez-Lao & García 2011a).
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50 In this study, new examples of the presence of reindeer in the Cantabrian fringe of the
51 Iberian peninsula are presented, all from the province of Biscay. The aim of this paper is to describe
52 these new fossils, provide direct dates, and update current information on the presence and
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4 chronology of the reindeer in the Iberian Peninsula. An updated record of the presence of reindeer
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6 in the parietal and portable art in the Iberian Peninsula is also provided. The palaeobiogeography
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8 and chronology of this species will be discussed in light of the new information.
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10 11 12 13 14 15 **Material and methods**

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20 The Iberian record of *R. tarandus* derives from 55 archaeological or palaeontological sites
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22 that are located in two well differentiated areas: the Cantabrian fringe, west of the Pyrenees; and the
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24 north-east part of Catalonia, close to the eastern end of the Pyrenees (see below). All the *R. tarandus*
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26 remains have been found in karstic systems, since the preservation of skeletal remains outside cave
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28 contexts is very rare this region.
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33 The dates of Iberian reindeer sites were compiled from the literature and have been
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35 calibrated using Oxcal program (Bronk Ramsey 2001) using the INTCAL09 curve (Reimer *et al.*
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37 2009) to 2 σ (95% of the range), in order to obtain dates that can be correlated with the
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39 palaeoclimatic record from the Greenland Ice Core Project (GRIP). Two new direct dates of
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41 reindeer remains are also provided, adding to the only known direct date on Iberian reindeer from
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43 the site of Santa Catalina (Berganza *et al.* 2012).
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50 The new fossil material was measured using standard osteometric techniques. Measurements
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52 follow von den Driesch (1976), except for those of the teeth which follow van der Made (1989,
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54 1996) (see Supplementary Information: part 2). These measurements are compared to other remains
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4 from the Cantabrian fringe for descriptive purposes only. A more complete characterization of the
5 Iberian reindeer compared to that of the rest of Europe will be the subject of a separate study
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8 (Álvarez-Lao, unpublished data).
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13 Age-at-death based on dental attrition of the most complete mandibular remains was
14 calculated using Bouchud (1966). A taphonomic analysis of all the new remains was performed
15 using visual osteoscopic observations of the non-dental remains with a binocular lens (TVM) in
16 order to look for anthropogenic modification, following Cáceres (2002) and San Pedro & Cáceres
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28 **The Iberian reindeer record**

29 *New and revised fossil remains*

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37 We provide new evidence of reindeer from five sites in the province of Biscay (Basque
38 Country, northern Spain) (Table 1 and Supplementary Information: Table S1). These new fossils
39 come from both the excavation of new sites (e.g. Arlanpe) as well as from the revision of faunal
40 material from sites in which the presence of the reindeer was previously both unknown (e.g.
41 Bolinkoba) or known (Axlor, Lumentxa, Atxuri) (Figure 1). We also discuss some sites listed in
42 Table 1 for which vague references to reindeer remains can be found in the literature. The
43 description of material proceeds geographically based on the distance from the Pyrenees. From the
44 taphonomic analysis of the remains found at these sites (see below) we can certify that there was
45 human processing of reindeer carcasses at Lumentxa, Atxuri, Axlor and likely also at Arlanpe. From
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4 an osteometric point of view, the new remains fit well within the variation among reindeer from the
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6 northern fringe of the Iberian Peninsula (Supplementary Information: part 2; Álvarez-Lao, 2007).
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10 *Lumentxa*. According to the first faunal studies performed by Castaños (1986 and personal
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12 communication) the reindeer assemblage from Lumentxa consisted of 23 bones: seven from level
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14 IV (four antler fragments, a metatarsal and a phalanx), seven from level V (a metacarpal, a
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16 metatarsal and five phalanges), and 10 from level VII (three metacarpals, three metatarsals and four
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18 phalanges). The MNI of individuals represented was four (one for level IV, one for level V and two
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20 for level VII).
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24 At the beginning of this study, we revised the reindeer remains from this site curated at the
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26 Arkeologi Museoa (Bilbao) and were only able to find one complete metacarpal, two distal
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28 metacarpals and five antler fragments, two of which could be refitted together (in fact they had the
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30 same label). The revision of faunal remains from the J.M. Barandiarán collection has yielded 19
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32 new fossils: mostly dental remains and phalanges. It is possible that some of these new remains are
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34 those studied by Castaños (Castaños 1986) but the fact that many of them belong to different
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36 archaeological levels and that they do not overlap anatomically makes this highly unlikely. In
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38 summary, from 42 potential reindeer remains, the current collection of Lumentxa preserves 26
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40 remains (Table 1, Figs 2-5). Some of the reindeer remains from Lumentxa display traces of human
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42 processing as fresh fractures, cut marks or scraping (Supplementary Information: part 3.1).
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48 *Bolinkoba*. The reindeer material from Bolinkoba was identified by P. Castaños during the course of
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50 a complete re-evaluation of the palaeontological remains from this site. It was the first time that
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52 reindeer remains were identified at this site and they comprise four fossils (three teeth and a distal
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54 phalanx) from three different levels attributed to the Upper Paleolithic (Fig. 6). No evidence of
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4 human processing was found on the distal phalanx but given the small number of remains their
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6 taphonomic origin is still elusive.
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10 *Atxuri*. Castaños (1986) noted the presence of a reindeer among the faunal remains from Atxuri.

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12 Álvarez-Lao (2007) noted the presence of two lower right premolars and a second phalanx. In this
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14 study we have identified 11 additional elements, most of which are dental remains, giving a total of
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16 14 reindeer remains from Atxuri, most of which are teeth (Fig. 7). All the craniodental remains
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18 except for Atxi.23B.110 likely belong to the same individual based on the compatible wear of the
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20 teeth and the lack of repetition of the anatomical elements. One element attributed to this individual
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22 has been directly dated (see below). Atxi.23B.110 would represent a second, older individual. We
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24 have not attributed the only postcranial element, a second phalanx, to either of these individuals.
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26 There is clear evidence of anthropic processing on two bones (Supplementary Information: part
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28 3.2).
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35 *Axlor*. Altuna (1980) quotes the presence of ten reindeer remains found at this site from levels III
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37 and IV of the excavations performed by J.M. Barandiarán. P. Castaños performed a complete re-
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39 evaluation of the faunal remains from this site and found three additional fossil remains. Álvarez-
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41 Lao (2007) studied these 13 elements, half of which were dental remains. These remains were used
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43 in Álvarez-Lao's (2007) dissertation but have not been fully published. We have identified those
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45 elements studied by Álvarez-Lao and expanded the collection to include eight new elements. All
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47 these bones come from the excavations performed by J.M. Barandiarán between 1967 and 1974
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49 (Barandiarán, 1980). New excavations have been performed at this site between 2001 and 2008
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51 (González-Urquijo *et al.* 2006) but only a fraction of the palaeontological material from the new
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53 excavations has been published by Castaños (2005), who does not quote the presence of additional
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4 reindeer remains.
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8 The reindeer remains found at the site of Axlor include both cranial and postcranial elements
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10 from archaeological levels attributed to either the Mousterian (levels III-V) or the Early Upper
11 Paleolithic (levels I-II) (Figs 8-10). Some of the reindeer remains found in this site display traces of
12 human processing (Supplementary Information: part 3.3).
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19 *Arlanpe*. The excavations carried out at this site between 2006 and 2011 (Rios *et al.* 2008, 2011; in
20 press; Gómez-Olivencia *et al.* in press) have yielded 12 reindeer remains derived from all the three
21 excavation sectors, and dating to both the Upper Paleolithic and Early Middle Paleolithic. This site
22 could therefore be one of only two sites with a reindeer presence in the Middle Pleistocene (see
23 below). We also provide a direct date from a nearly complete hemi-mandible found in mixed
24 sediments (see below). Apart from the mandible, four teeth, a 2nd lateral phalanx, five lateral
25 phalanges and an antler fragment have been found (Fig. 11). Only the mandible displays evidence
26 of potential anthropic processing (Supplementary Information: part 3.4).
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39 *Additional sites not included in the most recent reviews*. Ten new sites with the presence of reindeer
40 that were not included in the most recent reviews by Álvarez-Lao & García (2010) or
41 Mariezkurrena (2011) are also included in this work. Three of these sites are located close to Deba
42 in the province of Gipuzkoa: Praileaitz I (Castaños 2010; Mujika Alustiza & Peñalver 2012),
43 Ermittia V (Altuna *et al.* 1995) and Aitz-Gaizto II (Antxieta Arkeologi Taldea & Iriarte-Chiapusso
44 2012). Antoliñako Koba in Bizkaia has yielded a reindeer specimen in the Upper Solutrean levels
45 (P. Castaños, unpublished data). The Magdalenian levels of Arrillor have yielded an additional
46 reindeer fossil (P. Castaños, unpublished data), which makes this the third site south of the
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4 watershed with reindeer remains (see below). Two sites have yielded reindeer remains in the area of
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6 Alfoz de Lloredo: Las Aguas and El Linar (Castaños, unpublished data). P. Arias mentioned the
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8 presence of reindeer in the site of La Garma A (Omoño, Cantabria) at the 2011 “Gravetiense
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10 Cantábrico” congress held in Altamira. Three additional sites with reindeer remains (El Otero,
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12 Santián and El Ruso I) have been recently reported (Yravedra & Gómez Castanedo 2010; Yravedra
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14 *et al.* 2010).
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20 Finally, there is an additional reference to the presence of reindeer in Bizkaia, close to the
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22 site of Arlanpe: in the lost site of Atxubita (formerly known as Aitzobieta) in Lemoa (Nolte 1971).
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24 This cave was explored by Juan Uriarte y Eizaga during the summer of 1900 who found human and
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26 faunal remains together with some archaeological artefacts. The faunal remains include several
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28 teeth of *Bos* (probably *Bos primigenius*), teeth of a cervid (likely a reindeer), and some teeth similar
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30 to the cave hyena (see Puig & Larraz 1900). Unfortunately, these remains that were once curated at
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32 the Escuela de Ingenieros de Caminos have been lost, as that building was used during the Spanish
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34 civil war as a garrison (Nolte 1971).
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42 *Sites not included in this study.* A few sites that were included in the two most recent reviews have
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44 been excluded from our study. These include Armiña (Obermaier 1925), La Parte (Álvarez-Lao &
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46 García 2006), Puebla de Lillo (J. Truyols, pers. comm. in Altuna 1972) and El Bufón (Menéndez
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48 1923). In the case of Armiña, we believe that Obermaier quoted Harlé’s works on the reindeer
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50 remains of the Iberian Peninsula but mistakenly included Armiña in the list attributed to this author
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52 (Supplementary Information: part 4).
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4 Álvarez-Lao (unpublished) has performed a reanalysis of the reindeer remains found at La
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6 Parte and there is no current evidence to support the presence of reindeer in this site. Álvarez-Lao
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8 (2007) also revised the cranial remains found in Puebla de Lillo (León) attributed to *R. tarandus* by
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10 J. Truyols (Altuna 1972). These remains are more consistent with the morphology and size of
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12 *Cervus elaphus* rather than *R. tarandus*. Menéndez (1923) cites the presence of reindeer in the cave
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14 of El Bufón (Llanes, Asturias). This site has yielded evidence of Eneolithic occupations but the
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16 reindeer specimen, an antler fragment, was found outside the main stratigraphic context of the site
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18 preserved inside a stalagmitic crust. This specimen was not depicted nor properly described in the
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20 publication and is currently lost. In fact, Martínez Santa-Olalla (1930) cites red deer as the only
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22 ungulate present at this site. Thus, we consider the presence of reindeer in this site to be very
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24 unlikely.
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31 Estévez (1979) proposed the probable presence of reindeer remains in the cave of Muricecs
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33 (Lleida). De la Vega (1981) on the contrary, based on Castellví (1979) provides a different faunal
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35 list for this site in which reindeer are not present. Thus we have excluded this site until these
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37 remains can be confirmed as reindeer. If confirmed (which should be done in the near future), this
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39 would extend the presence of reindeer into the north-west part of Catalonia.
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44 Altuna (1981) did not report the presence of reindeer in Rascaño. Yravedra (2002) suggested
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46 the possibility of its presence in the Magdalenian levels, but this is actually a typographical error (J.
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48 Yravedra, pers. comm. 2013).
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New and revised chronology

Information is provided on the chronology of the archaeological levels from which reindeer remains described above are derived. Two direct dates of bones from the sites of Arlanpe and Atxuri are provided that add to the direct date from a tooth from Level I of Santa Catalina (Table 2). Finally, the stratigraphy of Santimamiñe is discussed based on the new studies by López Quintana & Guenaga Lizasu (2011), correcting previous works.

In the case of Lumentxa, reindeer remains have been found in all cultural levels (Supplementary information: Table S2). This site, excavated by J.M. Barandiarán in two different phases (1926-29 and 1963-64), has a complex stratigraphy that was poorly described and interpreted (e.g., in the first excavation depth was measured from surface and in the later ones a datum was used). The core of Paleolithic levels can be attributed to the Magdalenian and Azilian age, but level VII (F) was attributed to the Aurignacian (Barandiarán 1967) due to the presence of characteristic lithic tools (nosed end-scrapers). This possibility was discussed by Utrilla (1976) who found that the stratigraphic position of level VII (F) was unclear and that the archaeological assemblage is more consistent with a Lower Magdalenian attribution. Therefore the presence of reindeer remains of Aurignacian date at this site (P. Castaños, pers. comm. in Álvarez-Lao 2007 and in Álvarez-Lao & García 2010) must be rejected.

Bolinkoba has yielded four reindeer specimens from the excavations performed by J.M. Barandiarán in 1932 and 1941: one in level III (C) attributed to the Magdalenian, two in level IV (D) attributed to the Solutrean and one in level V (E) possibly attributed to the Gravettian. Thus we

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4 can only be certain of the presence of reindeer in this cave during the Upper Paleolithic.
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8 The site of Atxuri, now lost due to quarrying activity, has serious stratigraphic problems.
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10 J.M. Barandiarán himself recognized that part of the site was mixed. The recent re-organization of
11 the archaeological material found in this cave suggests that the entire sequence is mixed as there are
12 elements attributed to Gravettian, Solutrean, Magdalenian and Bronze Age levels. That was
13 probably because Barandiaran failed to recognize Bronze Age funerary pits during his excavations.
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15 There was a previous direct date from a decorated bone tool (Euskal Arkeologia Etnografia eta
16 Kondaira Museoa 1995; Supplementary Information: Table S2) but we do not know how this
17 artefact relates to the reindeer remains. One of the reindeer specimens has been directly dated to
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19 13030±60 uncal. BP (Beta-28266) (Table 2).
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30 The reindeer remains from Axlor come mainly from level IV (Quina Mousterian) although
31 there is also evidence for the presence of reindeer in other Quina Mousterian levels (III and V) and
32 in the Upper Paleolithic level I-II. The Upper Paleolithic level is not well characterized and its
33 precise chronology is unknown due to the very small quantity of archaeological material that it has
34 yielded. Most of the reindeer remains from the Quina Mousterian level have a minimum age of 43
35 ka (Supplementary Information: Table S2).
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46 Arlanpe has yielded 12 reindeer specimens that come from all three excavation sectors and
47 belong to different archaeological levels. Reindeer were present in both the Early Middle Paleolithic
48 and Upper Paleolithic levels, the latter belonging to both the Gravettian and Middle Magdalenian.
49 Thus, this site is potentially one of the oldest yielding reindeer remains, together with El Castillo.
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51 The mixed levels of Arlanpe have also yielded reindeer remains, one of which has been dated
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4 directly to 30 250±180 uncal. BP (Beta-272220) (see Table 2).
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8 Santimamiñe was first thought to have an Upper Paleolithic sequence starting in the
9 Aurignacian, and continuing through the Solutrean to the Magdalenian (Barandiaran 1976). The
10 new excavations from 2004-2006 show that the Paleolithic human occupations were restricted to
11 the Magdalenian, during which reindeer has been found. Additional reindeer evidence from this
12 cave comes from the Arg-o palaeontological level dated to 20 530 uncal. BP (Castaños & Castaños
13 2011; López Quintana & Guenaga Lizasu 2011).
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24 A review of all the currently available stratigraphic and chronological information for the
25 presence reindeer in the Iberian Peninsula can be found in the Supplementary Information (Table
26 S2).
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35 *Summary of current evidence for the presence of reindeer in the Iberian Peninsula*

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39 The archaeological and palaeontological evidence for the presence of reindeer in the Iberian
40 Peninsula has been critically analyzed as part of the present study. The integrity of sites, the
41 stratigraphies, cultural attribution of the levels and chronology have been submitted to a detailed
42 bibliographic review which is summarized in Table S1. We have classified the fossil evidence of
43 reindeer into four main categories (Table 3) according to the quality of the archaeological record. A
44 total of 52 dated and non-problematic levels yielded reindeer remains, with chronologies ranging
45 from the Early Middle Paleolithic (Arlanpe D), to the Middle Paleolithic (Abauntz h, Axlor B, D, F;
46 Lezetxiki IIIb, Covalejos J), Initial Upper Paleolithic (Aitzbitarte III, IV, Va; Amalda VI, Labeko
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4 Koba IX inf, Lezetxiki IIIa, Arlanpe 2, La Garma E-F, Castillo 14, Cueto de la Mina VII) and Late
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6 Upper Paleolithic (Abauntz 2r, e; Aitzbitarte IV IV, Erralla III, V, Amalda IV, Urtiaga D, Finf, Fsup,
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8 Praileaitz nivel de cantos (Pebble level), Ermitia III, V, Kiputz D, F; Santa Catalina I, II, III;
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10 Arlanpe I; El Ruso I IV a, IV b; El Castillo 8, 6; Altamira 7, 6, 3; Cueto de la Mina V; La Riera 24;
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12 Tito Bustillo 1b and Las Caldas III-IV, IX).

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17 *Geographical framework of the presence of reindeer in the Iberian Peninsula.* The present study
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19 increases the number of known localities with reindeer remains by more than 25% from 41
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21 (Álvarez-Lao & García 2011a) to 55. There are two distinct areas within the distribution of reindeer
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23 in the Iberian Peninsula: the northeast part of Catalonia and the northern Cantabrian fringe of the
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25 Iberian Peninsula. These two areas are located at either end of the Pyrenees (Fig. 12). The evidence
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27 from the northern Cantabrian region will be discussed in detail as the record here is more extensive.
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29 In the northern Iberian Peninsula there is a clear W-E gradient in both the number of sites and the
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31 number of reindeer remains. The number of sites with the presence of reindeer increases towards
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33 the east, as one gets closer to the Pyrenees (Álvarez-Lao & García 2011a). The two sites that
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35 yielded the largest quantity of reindeer remains, Santa Catalina and Kiputz IX, are located close to
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37 the present coastline.
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44 Except for the two sites located in the province of Navarre and the site located in the
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46 province of Araba, the remaining sites are located in the Cantabrian watershed. The site of Abauntz
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48 is close (less than 10 km) to the Cantabrian watershed which is accessed from the site by a
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50 mountain pass that reaches an altitude of 847 metres above seal level (m a.s.l.) (Belate), although
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52 the lowest mountain pass that crosses the watershed is Azpiroz (618 m a.s.l.), situated ~ 25 km to
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54 the west. The site of Zatoya is located at a higher altitude (900 m a.s.l.) in a steeper landscape with
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4 far more complex passages towards the other side of the Pyrenees or Cantabrian valleys (mountain
5 passes > 1000 m.). The northern Ebro Valley is easily accessible by several mountain passes
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8 situated ca. 600 m a.s.l. (Arlaban, Dima, Barazar, Altube). The site of Arrillor is at 710 m a.s.l., and
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10 is also close to the watershed and to mountain passes that connect its two sides. The absence of
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12 reindeer south of the Cantabrian range could be partly explained by the scarcity of Pleistocene sites
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14 with preserved faunal remains, although there are well known sites in the area like Koskobilo (Ruiz
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16 de Gaona 1958). The small number of reindeer remains south of the watershed, the fact that some of
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18 these remains are shed antlers with traces of human modification, and the closeness of these sites to
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20 mountain passes that connect to the northern part of the watershed do not rule out the possibility
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22 that reindeer did not cross the watershed and that these remains could have been transported and
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24 accumulated by human action.
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31 *Chronological framework of the presence of reindeer in the Iberian Peninsula.* The absolute dates
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33 and relative chronology of each of the levels in which reindeer remains have been found are given
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35 in the Supplementary Information (Table S2) and synthesized in Fig. 13. Based on current data, the
36
37 oldest appearance of reindeer in the Iberian Peninsula dates to the end of the Middle Pleistocene
38
39 (Arlanpe levels D and 4; Castillo level 26). Previous references of Middle Pleistocene reindeer
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41 remains from La Parte and Mollet I (Álvarez-Lao & García 2010) must be discarded. In the first
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43 case, the taxonomic attribution remains unclear (Álvarez-Lao, unpublished data). The case of
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45 Mollet I is more complex. During the 1947-48 excavation a reindeer molar was recovered by J. M.
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47 Cornominas (Mir & Salas 1976). However, a review of the site published in 1987 (Maroto *et al.*
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49 1987) suggested that the main part of the faunal assemblage recovered in the 1940's corresponded
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51 to levels 3, 4 and 5 (following the stratigraphic interpretation of Ripoll & de Lumley 1964-65), all
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53 of which date to the same period (levels 3 and 4 were the result of disturbance to level 5). This
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4 supported the attribution of this reindeer specimen to levels 3-5, associated with a date of around
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6 200 ka BP (J. Maroto, pers.com. in Álvarez-Lao 2007 and in Álvarez-Lao & García 2010). Recently
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8 the site has been re-excavated and the stratigraphic interpretation has been reassessed (Maroto *et al.*
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10 2012). Level 3 is now considered Upper Pleistocene Mousterian and no reindeer remains have been
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12 attributed to Middle Pleistocene level 5. The director of this most recent archaeological excavation
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14 has confirmed that the reindeer molar found in Mollet I probably corresponds to level 3 (J. Maroto,
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16 pers. comm. 2013).
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22 The presence of reindeer in Middle Paleolithic (MIS 4-3) sites has been demonstrated in
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24 three Cantabrian sites: Abauntz, Covalejos and Axlør. In the latter, relatively numerous reindeer
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26 remains have been found in Quina Mousterian levels dated to c. 50-40 cal. ka BP (levels 4-5; see
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28 above). Reindeer is also present in the Chatelperronian, late Aurignacian and early Gravettian
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30 (between c. 40-30 cal. ka BP). The distribution of dates show that the presence of reindeer was
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32 limited to between the H3 and H2 events (corresponding to the Gravettian) (see Álvarez-Lao &
33
34 García 2010), although Aitzbitarte III levels III and IV, Arlanpe level 2 or Cueto de la Mina V have
35
36 yielded specimens of this species. This is probably influenced by the small number of excavated
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38 and studied Middle and Recent Gravettian sites. It is noteworthy that in many levels with Gravettian
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40 chronology (Aitzbitarte III- III, IV, Va- Amalda VI; Bolinkoba V, Arlanpe 2, probably Axlør I-II,
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42 Santimamiñe Arg-o, Cueto de la Mina VII) reindeer remains have been recognized. In this context
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44 the study of other important Gravettian assemblages such as Aldatxarren, Altamira or La Viña will
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46 clarify this question.
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53 Reindeer are also present in some Solutrean levels but the greatest presence occurs during
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55 Magdalenian. Reindeer appear in many Lower, Middle, Upper and Late Magdalenian sites (ca. 18-
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4 12.5 cal. ka BP). Finally, the presence of reindeer close to the very beginning of the Holocene has
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6 been demonstrated in some sites as Santa Catalina level I, where a directly dated reindeer remain
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8 yielded a 2 sigma calibrated date of 11314-10824 cal. BP (Ua-24651) (Berganza *et al.* 2012).
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15 *Presence of reindeer in the prehistoric art of the Iberian Peninsula.* The presence of reindeer is also
16
17 observable in some artistic representations found on cave walls and in portable art. The complete
18
19 list of sites on the Iberian Peninsula with reindeer depicted in prehistoric art can be found in Table 4
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21 (see also Supplementary Information: Table S3) and is shown in Fig. 14. Only a few scholars have
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23 considered this question (Barandiarán 1969; García Morales 1984/85; see also reviews by Altuna
24
25 1971 and García & Arsuaga 2003) but in recent years new examples have been found (see below).
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31 Although the reindeer is not a common animal in Iberian Palaeolithic art, it is more
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33 abundant in cave art than in portable art. In the Cantabrian region, depictions are concentrated in
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35 caves such as Altxerri, Las Monedas and Tito Bustillo, where representations can be identified in
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37 the main cave panels. In the remaining locations, the presence of reindeer is limited to only one
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39 representation per site (see Supplementary Information: Table S3). This group includes an
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41 engraving of a reindeer antler in Pindal cave (G. Tosello, pers. comm. in González-Pumariega
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43 2011).
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49 Out of the Cantabrian region, there is an engraved reindeer in the pre-Pyrenean mountains at
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51 Fuente del Trucho. This cave is near the transition between the south and north slopes, and we can
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53 show a close iconographic relationship between Fuente del Trucho on one side and Gargas/Tibiran
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55 (Barrière 1976) on the other. For the rest of the Peninsula there are only two examples, located in
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4 the caves of El Reno and La Hoz in the central Meseta. Apart from the sites that we have included
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6 in this study, other scholars have proposed the presence of reindeer in the parietal art of other sites,
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8 particularly two examples at Siega Verde (Balbín & Alcolea 1994). In our view, these
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10 representations are not diagnostic and it is not possible to identify them as *R. tarandus*. In the caves
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12 of Covalanas and La Haza, two figures have been proposed to be representations of reindeer (Moure
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14 *et al.* 1991) contradicting the original interpretation (Alcalde del Río *et al.* 1911), but there is no
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16 reason to consider these animals to be reindeer.
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22 Pieces of portable art with clear reindeer representations have been found in stratified
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24 contexts from the Upper Magdalenian at Urtiaga D (González Sainz 1984) and in the Middle
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26 Magdalenian of La Viña IV (Fortea 1990) and Las Caldas IX (Corchón 1990). Based on the
27
28 anatomy represented, it is likely that the deer from Abauntz cave (Utrilla *et al.* 2008) is actually a
29
30 reindeer (A. Ruiz-Redondo, pers. comm. 2012). Another portable piece representing a reindeer
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32 from Aitzbitarte IV has been mentioned (Breuil 1924), but this attribution is controversial.
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37 It should also be noted that reindeer bones, antlers and teeth have been used as raw material
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39 for different archaeological artefacts (e.g., pendants). A possible set of serrated reindeer teeth that
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41 were used as ornaments was also recovered during the last field season at Las Caldas IX (Corchón
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43 *et al.* 2012), and there are also examples from levels II and III of Santa Catalina cave (Berganza &
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45 Arribas 2010).
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51 The geographic distribution of sites with artistic depictions of reindeer differs from that of
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53 sites with palaeontological evidence of reindeer. First, it is not possible to ascertain a W-E gradient
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55 of increased abundance in artistic depictions and second, these kinds of sites are not limited to the
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4 Cantabrian region or to the northwest part of Catalonia. In fact, it seems that the reindeer has a very
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6 low but continuous presence in art throughout the Cantabrian region. The role of this animal
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8 changes drastically on the continental side of the Pyrenees: in the French Pyrenees and in the
9
10 Dordogne, reindeer have a more prominent place in cave art panels and also in portable pieces,
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12 especially in Magdalenian period. For example, at Isturitz (Pyrenées-Atlantiques, France) located at
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14 the edge of the Cantabrian coast, the reindeer is the main engraved figure and is also one of the
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16 most important animals in the rich portable art record of the cave.
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22 From a chronological point of view, most of the depictions belong to the late Upper
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24 Palaeolithic. Cave art from Altxerri, Tito Bustillo and Las Monedas relates to the recent
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26 Magdalenian, as does portable art from Las Caldas and La Viña. Only a small part of the collection
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28 seems to be older, such as the red reindeer painted in La Pasiega cave which date to the
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30 Gravettian/Solutrean.
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35 Discussion

36 37 38 39 *Distribution patterns of reindeer on the northern fringe of the Iberian Peninsula*

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44 From an archaeological point of view, the presence of reindeer remains in the Iberian
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46 Peninsula sites can be interpreted in various ways. The existence of sites with abundant reindeer
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48 remains that derive from multiple individuals and represent different anatomical parts, indicates the
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50 “natural” presence of reindeer in the ecosystem and explains their introduction to these sites as
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52 hunted prey. Also, the existence of purely palaeontological sites such as Kiputz IX, with naturally
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54 deceased (fallen in a natural trap) reindeer remains, strengthens this idea. Despite this, we cannot
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4 completely rule out the possibility that some of these remains, specially antler fragments and
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6 modified bones or teeth but also meat/bones, were transported from distant localities. Such long
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8 distance transport has been demonstrated between the northern Pyrenees and the Cantabrian region.
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10 For example, flint from the Aquitaine region (Tercis, Chalosse, Salies de Bearn) is present in eastern
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12 Cantabrian sites over 100 km away, at least in Mousterian times (Tarrío 2003). Flint from the
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14 Upper Ebro Valley (Treviño) has been found in the Aurignacian of Brassempouy (Bon 2002) and in
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16 the Magdalenian of Asturias (Corchón *et al.* 2012). Steatite from the Northern Pyrenees has been
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18 documented in Perigord sites during the Aurignacian (White 2007) and flint from Bergerac region
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20 was transported more than 250 km, reaching sites such as Isturitz (Fernandes *et al.* 2012).
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26 Assuming that the pattern of presence of palaeontological reindeer remains is generally a
27
28 good proxy for the density of its presence in the ecosystem, one can hypothesize the existence of a
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30 double gradient in the distribution of reindeer in the Cantabrian region of the Iberian Peninsula.
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32 First, the number of reindeer would have decreased towards the west, as the animals moved further
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34 from the most important entrance into the Iberian Peninsula, at the end of the Bidasoa River on the
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36 western limit of the Pyrenees. A second gradient followed an approximate north-south axis
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38 following the rivers: numbers would have decreased as they moved south and up into the valleys.
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40 The latter gradient would be supported by the location of the two sites with the larger amount of
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42 reindeer remains on the current coast. They are both chronologically located in the final part of the
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44 Late Pleistocene with the earliest presence of reindeer at Santa Catalina dating to around 15 cal. ka
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46 BP and the most recent estimate for the Kiputz IX assemblage dating to around 17 cal. ka BP
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48 (although level C has yielded also reindeer remains and could potentially smaller the gap between
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50 these two sites). Santa Catalina is an important Upper Paleolithic site, in which the reindeer remains
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52 are the result of hunting by human groups (Berganza *et al.* 2012). Kiputz IX is a palaeontological
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4 site and no evidence of human intervention has been found (Castaños *et al* 2006, 2012, in press).
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6 This distribution could actually reflect the ecological preferences (or limitations) of this species. It
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8 can be hypothesized that the reindeer could either have preferred open habitats and/or could have
9
10 avoided sloped terrain. This could prevent this species from crossing the Pyrenees and the
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12 Cantabrian mountain range. This would also explain the distribution pattern of reindeer in the
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14 Cantabrian fringe, with more sites and remains near the modern coastal plains, and some sites in the
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16 upper part of major valleys. These valleys would be the marginal area of the reindeer distribution,
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18 and crossing the mountain passes (which are quite low at ~ 600 m a.s.l.) did not happen often, but
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20 was possible. Thus the probability of finding reindeer remains in Upper Ebro Valley sites is quite
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22 low, due to both the potential ecological preferences and the lack of sites. Note however that the
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24 presence of this species has not been noted in sites like Peña Miel or Koskobilo. The only three
25
26 exceptions are the cases of Abautz, Zatoya and Arrillor, located at south of the watershed. In these
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28 three sites the number of remains is low, suggesting the occasional presence of isolated individuals
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30 or human transport of partial carcasses from the northern part of the watershed, especially since
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32 some of these remains are shed antler specimens with traces of human modification. From these
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34 three sites it is easy to cross to the north side of the Cantabrian/Pyrenees mountain range.
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42 Another important factor that could have affected the numbers of reindeer entering the
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44 Iberian Peninsula through the western Pyrenees is the palaeogeography of south-west France. The
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46 south-western corner of France has traditionally been regarded as a glacial refugium. A more recent
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48 reanalysis of the archaeological and geological evidence proposes that the area of Landes would
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50 actually have been a periglacial desert, at least during MIS 3 and MIS 2, with a low biomass
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52 availability that would have made it unattractive to Upper Palaeolithic hunter-gatherers and likely
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54 acted as a cultural barrier (Bertran *et al.* in press). So if one focuses on the most immediate area of
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4 southwestern France to the Iberian Peninsula, the potential area of distribution of animals and
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6 hunter-gatherer groups would be similar to a corridor. The Adour river basin would constitute the
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8 main part of this corridor. It should also be noted that, based on random finds in Landes from the
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10 and Holocene, suitable habitats were concentrated close to riverine areas (Merlet & Bost 2011).
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12 Bertran *et al.*'s (in press) work is based on a corpus where the access to the immediate vicinity of
13
14 streams was limited due to environment protection compared to other habitats (M. Dachary, pers.
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16 Comm. 2013). It would be interesting to know whether Landes was inhospitable to hunter-gatherers
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18 all-year round, or may have attracted herds (and humans) seasonally. Finally, reindeer from sites in
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20 south-west France and the Dordogne were similar in size (Kuntz 2011) which may reflect the fact
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22 that these populations were in contact with one another, and which would weaken the hypothesis
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24 that Landes was a barrier.
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29 Letourneux (2007) groups those sites in the French Basque Country (i.e., at the end of the
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31 corridor, south of Landes) with those from the Cantabrian region (Letourneux 2007). In this case,
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33 the view of the Pyrenees as a barrier by authors like Costamagno & Mateos Cachorro (2007) should
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35 be completed and clarified. It can be hypothesized that in the case of the reindeer (among other
36
37 species), the Cantabrian mountain range could have acted as an ecological barrier, that would have
38
39 been a continuation of the Pyrenees (see also Álvarez-Lao & García 2011a). In summary, Bertran *et*
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41 *al.*'s (in press) proposal opens up new questions concerning the palaeobiogeography of the reindeer
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43 and further comparative studies of the presence of the reindeer in this region (e.g., Gatzarria,
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45 Duruthy, Isturitz, Brassempouy) controlling for geography (i.e., location within the Adour corridor),
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47 orography (i.e., altitude and steepness of the terrain), climate and chronology are warranted in order
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49 to better understand the dynamics of this species in the adjacent Cantabrian region.
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56 It also should be noted that there are differences in the distribution of the reindeer remains in
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4 the Iberian Peninsula compared with other cold-adapted taxa such as the woolly rhinoceros
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6 (*Coelodonta antiquitatis*) or the woolly mammoth (*Mammuthus primigenius*). The presence of
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8 reindeer is limited to the northern Cantabrian fringe and to the northeast of Catalonia, close to the
9
10 eastern end of the Pyrenees. In contrast, the woolly rhino has also been found in the centre of the
11
12 Iberian Peninsula and the woolly mammoth has been found on the Portuguese coast and in
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14 Andalusia (Álvarez-Lao & García 2011a). There are differences in the potential for preservation of
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16 fossil remains between different parts of the Iberian Peninsula due to the presence/absence of
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18 karstic environments or the acidity of the soil. For example, most of the Duero basin has not
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20 preserved any fossil remain of these species. However, it seems that while the Pyrenees-Cantabrian
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22 mountain range marked the limit of the reindeer distribution, this was not the case for other species
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24 that were able to cross it.
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31 Finally, the reindeer has only a minor presence in sites of the Iberian Peninsula, where the
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33 most abundant species are mountain goat and chamois in sites near mountainous areas (e.g.,
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35 Arlanpe, Bolinkoba); red deer in lower areas (e.g., Santimamiñe) or variable if the site is close to
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37 different environments. The presence of horses and large bovids is generally low, but in some cases
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39 reaches significant percentages. In short, the typical species that are found with reindeer in the
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41 Iberian Peninsula are different from those found in central France for the same time periods, which
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43 point towards different ecological conditions (see Álvarez-Lao 2012 for a complete discussion).
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48 *Chronology of the presence of reindeer in the Iberian Peninsula and comparison with south-west*
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50 *France*
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55 The present work completes and amends previous assessments of the presence of reindeer in
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4 the Iberian Peninsula but does not substantially alter the existing general picture (see Álvarez-Lao
5 and García, 2010). Reindeer were present in the Iberian Peninsula from the end of the Middle
6 Pleistocene, through the Mousterian to Upper Paleolithic. In the latter period, the larger number of
7 sites has provided a clearer picture of variation in population densities. On a broader scale it is
8 possible that there were multiple entrances of reindeer into the Iberian Peninsula, which probably
9 acted as a population drain. Due to the potentially large migration routes, the continued presence of
10 reindeer during a certain periods of the Upper Paleolithic based on ^{14}C could actually represent the
11 superposition of repeated annual migrations into the region. What still remains unclear is the extent
12 to which reindeer occupied the territory all year round or whether they entered the Iberian Peninsula
13 temporarily as part of annual migration routes. Additional studies of the age-at-death of the reindeer
14 remains from sites with a large number of specimens (i.e., Santa Catalina and Kiputx IX) will
15 provide additional information on this subject. If all the ages-at-death are represented, a continuous
16 yearlong presence would be reinforced.
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35 Langlais *et al.* (2012) have compiled a set of direct dates of reindeer remains from sites in
36 south-west France, and based on these results they consider it unlikely that reindeer populations
37 persisted beyond the Bølling interstadial in the Aquitaine region. For example, in places such as
38 Borrouilla (Arancou; Dachary *et al.* 2008) the faunal remains from the upper Magdalenian levels
39 are mainly composed of red deer, and reindeer is very scarce. However, previous studies have
40 showed the presence of reindeer in Azilian levels in south-west France (Costamagno 2006) and
41 there is a a reindeer from Moulin du Roc was dated to the Alleröd (Drucker *et al.* 2011).
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50 New research is being performed to study the taphonomy of reindeer belonging to more
51 recent levels, and new direct dates are in the course of being obtained for this region (Dachary
52 2006; M. Dachary, pers. comm. 2013) in order to confirm or reject this assertion. In the Cantabrian
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4 region there is evidence for the survival of this species after the Bølling interstadial, with remains
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6 found in Azilian levels. In fact, a reindeer tooth from Santa Catalina (see above) has yielded a direct
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8 date which is more recent than those provided by Langlais *et al.* (2012). This apparent lack of
9
10 simultaneous extinction of the reindeer, if confirmed, would mean that the reindeer survived longer
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12 in the Cantabrian region than in south-west France. Future studies will confirm or reject this
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14 suggestion.
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17 18 19 20 21 22 *The artistic representation of reindeer in the European context* 23

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26 There are major differences in animals represented in the Palaeolithic art of different regions
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28 (Sauvet & Włodarczyk 2000/01). Alternative patterns of representation are common in more
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30 restricted areas like the Iberian Peninsula (Altuna 2002) and may have both an environmental and
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32 cultural basis.
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37 Chronologically, there are fossil remains of reindeer throughout the Upper Palaeolithic of
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39 the Iberian Peninsula, although the density of remains varies temporally. In the case of art, the
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41 situation is different. The reindeer initially does not form part of the iconography of artists in this
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43 region. Even in the rest of Europe, at the start of the Upper Palaeolithic there is a tendency to
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45 represent dangerous animals like felines, bears or rhinos, and reindeer are only represented in a few
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47 cases like Chauvet (Clottes 1996). It is during the Magdalenian that the reindeer takes a very
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49 important role in depictions on the walls of caves like Trois-Frères or in the portable pieces from
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51 others like Limeuil, both in France, within an iconography dominated by the bison and the horse.
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55 Bison and horse take over from deer in the Cantabrian region and begin to dominate the decorated
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4 panels. After bison and horse, the goat occupies a secondary place in depictions of animals that is
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6 occasionally replaced and/or complemented by the reindeer, although the deer does not completely
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8 disappear. In sum, although an interregional art with a series of shared thematic and cultural
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10 conventions occurs in the Cantabrian, Pyrenean and Dordogne regions from the Middle
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12 Magdalenian, it is also evident that the artistic repertoire is adapted locally to the animals present in
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14 the environment of each of these regions.
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24 **Conclusions**

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28 In this paper new evidence for reindeer from five sites in the province of Biscay are
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30 presented. This new evidence was described, illustrated, characterised metrically and analyzed
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32 taphonomically. There is clear evidence of anthropogenic accumulations, butchering and fresh
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34 bone fracturing of reindeer remains from the sites of Atxuri and Axlor and probably Arlanpe. The
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36 stratigraphic position of one of the specimens from Arlanpe make this, together with the evidence
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38 from the lower levels of El Castillo, one of the oldest pieces of evidence for the presence of the
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40 reindeer in the Iberian Peninsula. There is a clear presence of reindeer in the Mousterian and
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42 throughout the Upper Paleolithic, the most recent remains being those from the site of Santa
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44 Catalina.
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51 In the Iberian Peninsula, there is evidence of reindeer remains from 55 sites, most of which
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53 (50) are located in the Cantabrian region, with a clear increase in the density of sites and remains
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55 towards the Pyrenees. The remaining five sites with evidence of reindeer are located at the other
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4 side of the Pyrenees in the north-west corner of Catalonia. Thus, the presence of reindeer is limited
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6 to the northern fringe of the Iberian Peninsula but is more abundant in terms of both number of sites
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8 and number of fossils than other cold-adapted faunal species. On the other hand, the presence of
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10 woolly rhinoceros and mammoth has been documented in the central and southern Iberian
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12 Peninsula respectively, which suggests differences in ecological preferences/constraints between
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14 these animals and reindeer.
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20 In contrast with the pattern of reindeer fossil remains, the archaeological evidence of artistic
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22 depictions of reindeer (both parietal and portable) is more scarce and scattered. Representations of
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24 these animals have been found in places that lack palaeontological evidence for the presence of
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26 reindeer, such as the center of the Iberian Peninsula, which could reflect either long-distance
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28 cultural communication or the movement of human groups.
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33 While both the presence of fossil remains and of representations of reindeer in art are
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35 drastically different in south-west of France, recent studies proposing that Landes acted as a
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37 periglacial desert present new questions that require further research to fully understand the pattern
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39 of the presence of reindeer in the Adour basin, as this would certainly have implications for
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41 understanding the presence of the reindeer in the Cantabrian region.
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FIGURE LEGENDS

Figure 1. Map of the eastern Cantabrian region showing the sites in the provinces of Biscay, Gipuzkoa and Nafarroa, and other sites discussed in the text. Note that Urtiaga also represents Urtiagako Leizea and that Ermitia also represents Ermitia V.

Figure 2. Reindeer tooth and maxillary remains from Lumentxa. A-E) Upper dentition. Labial (A1)

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4 and occlusal (A2) views of the right P⁴ L.6C.205. Labial (B1) and occlusal (B2) views of the left P³
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6 L.7F.155. Labial (C1) and occlusal (C2) views of the right M² L.6C.205. Labial (D1) and occlusal
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8 (D2) views of the left M³ L.6C.205. Labial (E1) and occlusal (E2) views of the right M³ L.9I.125.
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10 F-I) Lower dentition. Occlusal (F1) and labial (F2) views of the left P₄ L.5D.150. Occlusal (G1) and
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12 labial (G2) views of the left M₁ L. Occlusal (H1) and labial (H2) views of the right M₂ L.13E.80.
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14 Occlusal (I1) and labial (I2) views of the left M₃ L.5E.200. Left maxilla with D²-M¹ (not labelled)
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16 in labial (J1) and occlusal (J2) views.
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22 Figure 3. Antler remains from Lumentxa: L.6E.195 (A); L.6E.195 (B); L.13E.80 (C); L.10F.105
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24 (D).
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29 Figure 4. Metacarpus remains from Lumentxa. Complete metacarpus from the right side L.6D.216
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31 in ventral (A1) and dorsal (A2) views. Distal fragment from the right side L.9F.230 in ventral (B1)
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33 and dorsal (B2) views. Distal fragment from the left side L.1C.365 in ventral (C1) and dorsal (C2)
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35 views.
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40 Figure 5. Additional postcranial remains from Lumentxa. Proximal fragment of the right radius
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42 L.25C.400 in cranial (A1) and ventral (A2) views. Dorsal views of phalanges: 1st foreleg phalanx
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44 L.6Y.320 (B), 1st foreleg phalanx with no physical label L.25C.410 (C), 2nd foreleg phalanx
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46 L.10D.15 (D), 2nd foreleg phalanx L.9C.10 (E), 1st foreleg phalanx L.12G.25 (F), 1st foreleg
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48 phalanx L.9D.10 (G), 3rd phalanx L.6D.216 (H), 3rd lateral phalanx L.9G.365 (I).
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53 Figure 6. Reindeer remains from Bolinkoba. Third phalanx B.IV.490 in dorsal (A) view. P³ B.V.21
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55 in labial (B1) and occlusal (B2) views. I₁ L.III.91 in lingual (C1) and in buccal (C2) views. I₂
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4 B.IV.184 in lingual (D1) and in buccal (D2) views.
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9 Figure 7. Reindeer remains from Atxuri. Fragment of left maxilla Atxi.27C.60 in labial (A1) and
10 occlusal (A2) views. Left M² Atxi.23B.110 in labial (B1) and occlusal (B2) views. Upper molar
11 Atxi.1C.50-80 in labial (C1) and occlusal (C2) views. Fragment of right hemi-mandible with M₃
12 Atxi.25B.10 in occlusal (D1) and labial (D2) views. Right M₂ Atxi.25C.10 in occlusal (E1) and
13 labial (E2) views. Right M₁ Atxi.29B.50 in occlusal (F1) and labial (F2) views. Right P₄
14 Atxi.25C.10 in occlusal (G1) and labial (G2) views. Right P₃ Atxi.25C.50 in occlusal (H1) and
15 labial (H2) views. Right P₂ Atxi.21B.I.5 in occlusal (I1) and labial (I2) views. Right M_{1?} Atxi.5C.40
16 in occlusal (J1) and labial (J2) views. Left P₃ Atxuri 1957 in occlusal (K1) and labial (K2) views.
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Figure 8. Isolated dental remains from Axlor. Lower M1 Ax.9C.250.19 in occlusal (A1) and buccal
(A2) views. Lower molar Ax7F.265.62bis in occlusal (B1) and buccal (B2) views. Lower molar
Ax.7F.265.57bis in occlusal (C1) and buccal (C2) views. Right P² Ax.3F.265.72 in buccal (D1) and
occlusal (D2) views. Left P₂ Ax.5F.266.85 in occlusal (E1) and buccal (E2) views. Left P₃
Ax.5F.266.104 in occlusal (F1) and buccal (F2) views. Left M₁₋₂ Ax.9C.265.28 in occlusal (G1) and
buccal (G2) views. Left M₂ 1973.32 in occlusal (H1) and buccal (H2) views. Left M¹⁻²
Ax.13D._.34 in buccal (I1) and occlusal (I2) views. Left M³ Ax.7F.255.87 in buccal (J1) and
occlusal (J2) views. Left M³ Ax.11G.325.126 in buccal (K1) and occlusal (K2) views. Left M¹
Ax.7C.1 in buccal (L1) and occlusal (L2) views. Note that Ax.5F.266.85 (E)(left P₂) and
Ax.5F.266.104 (F)(left P₃) could have belonged to the same individual.

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6 Figure 9. Reindeer mandibular remains from Axlør. Left mandibular fragment preserving P₄-M₂
7 AX.7E.265.191 in occlusal (A1) and labial (A2) views. Left mandibular fragment preserving the M₃
8 AX.7E.245 in occlusal (B1) and labial (B2) views. These two fragments likely belong to the same
9 individual.
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17 Figure 10. Reindeer postcranial remains from Axlør. Distal fragment of humerus Ax.11G.325.113 in
18 ventral (A1) and dorsal (A2) views. Left talus Ax.1973.34 Ax.1973.34 in tibial (B1) and calcaneal
19 (B2) views. Right talus Ax.7D.60-130.140 in tibial (C1) and calcaneal (C2) views. Right talus
20 Ax.7B.260.9bis in tibial (D1) and calcaneal (D2) views. 2nd phalanx Ax.11E.255.135 in side view
21 (E). 2nd foreleg phalanx Ax.11F.290.455 in side view (F). 1st foreleg phalanx Ax.5D.276.61 in side
22 view (G).
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33 Figure 11. Reindeer remains from Arlanpe. A. Second lateral phalanx (ARL.J21.4.17.50). B-F.
34 Third lateral phalanges (B: ARL.H29.3.9.6; C: ARL.J24.1.9.6; D: ARL.J25.2.2.38; E:
35 ARL.J25.2.5.37; F: ARL.J20.2.2.21). G-J. Dental remains. Occlusal (G1) and labial (G2) views of
36 the lower left P₄ ARL.H32.2.5.8. Labial (H1) and occlusal (H2) views of the upper premolar
37 ARL.H32.3.2.8. Labial (I1) and occlusal (I2) views of the M³ from the left side ARL.J20.2.23.35.
38 Labial (J1) and occlusal (J2) views of the M³ from the left side ARL.I29.3.10.2. Antler fragment
39 ARL.H32.2.1.7 (K). Labial view (L) of the nearly complete right hemi-mandible ARL.I30.3.2.1
40 with a close-up of the occlusal surface of its teeth.
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53 Figure 12. Map of the Iberian peninsula showing sites at which reindeer remains have been found.
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4 Figure 13. Chronological distribution of the two-sigma dates for the reindeer from the Cantabrian
5 region compared to the GRIP palaeoclimatic oxygen curve. Blue bars represent data from actual
6 dates while green bars are approximate chronologies based on cultural attributions. The asterisks
7 represent the direct dates on reindeer bones from Santa Catalina, Atxuri and Arlanpe presented in
8 Table 2. See Table S2 of Supplementary Information for a complete account of the dates.
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17 Figure 14. Map of the Iberian Peninsula showing sites where representations of reindeer in art
18 (parietal and/or portable) have been found.
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24 **TABLE LEGENDS**

25
26 Table 1. Summary table of the reindeer remains presented in this paper. For a full description of
27 each of the specimens, see figures and Supplementary Information: Table S1.
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29
30 Table 2. Direct dates on reindeer remains from the Iberian Peninsula.
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33 Table 3. Summary table of reindeer fossils from the Iberian Peninsula. For full details, see
34 Supplementary Information: Table S2.
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37 Table 4-Summary table of representations of reindeer in Paleolithic art from the Iberian Peninsula.
38 For full details, see Supplementary Information: Table S3.
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44 **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: FIGURE LEGENDS**

45
46 Figure S1. Metacarpi from Lumentxa with evidences of fresh bone breakage. L.1C.365 in dorsal
47 (a1) and ventral (a2) views of this distal metacarpal fragment. There is evidence of scraping
48 on the ventral surface of the bone (a2, a3). L.9F.230 in dorsal (b1) and ventral (b2) views of
49 this distal metacarpal fragment. The evidence of an impact point is indicated with an arrow.
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55 Evidences of scraping on the dorsal surface of the bone (b1, b3).
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4 Figure S2. Lingual view of the Atxi.25B.10 right mandible fragment that preserves the M₃ (a1) and
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6 detail of this fossil (a2) showing evidence of incision, scraping and anthropogenic fracturing
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8 with percussion, impact points, and a parasitic flake. Lingual view of the left maxilla
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10 Atxi.27C.60 (b1) and detail of this fossil (b2) in which it is possible to see multiple cut marks,
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12 mainly incisions, but also evidence of scraping. All scale bars = 1 cm.
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15 Figure S3. Posterior view of the distal epiphysis of the humerus Ax.11G.325.113 (a) in which it is
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17 possible to see the impact point. Medial view (b) of the humerus in which it is possible to see
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19 cut marks related to cutting ligaments during the disarticulation of the foreleg from the radius-
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21 ulna.
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24 Figure S4. Cut-marks on the complete talus Ax.7D.60.130.140. These are short, deep and with a
25
26 clear “V”-shaped cross-section. These marks are probably related to the disarticulation of the
27
28 talar bones.
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30 Figure S5. Lingual view of the mandible ARL.I30.3.2.1 in which it is possible to see some possible
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32 anthropogenic modifications.
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37 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: TABLE LEGENDS

38
39 Table S1. Reindeer remains from the province of Biscay presented in this paper.

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41 Table S2. Information on the sites that have yielded palaeontological remains of reindeer.

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43 Table S3. Information on the sites that have yielded representations of reindeer in Paleolithic art
44
45 from the Iberian Peninsula.
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48 Table S4. Measurements (in mm) of the mandible of *Rangifer tarandus*.

49 Table S5. Measurements (in mm) of the incisor of *Rangifer tarandus*.

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51 Table S6. Measurements (in mm) of the lower cheek teeth of *Rangifer tarandus*.

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53 Table S7. Measurements (in mm) of the upper cheek teeth of *Rangifer tarandus*.
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4 Table S8. Measurements of the humerus of *Rangifer tarandus*.
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6 Table S9. Measurements of the radius of *Rangifer tarandus*.
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8 Table S10. Measurements of the metacarpus of *Rangifer tarandus*.
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10 Table S11. Measurements of the astragalus of *Rangifer tarandus*.
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12 Table S12. Measurements of the first phalanx of *Rangifer tarandus*.
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14 Table S13. Measurements of the second phalanx of *Rangifer tarandus*.
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16 Table S14. Measurements of the third phalanx of *Rangifer tarandus*.
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18 Table S15. Measurements of the second lateral phalanx of *Rangifer tarandus*.
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20 Table S16. Measurements of the third lateral phalanx of *Rangifer tarandus*.
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Review Only

Table 1. Summary table of the reindeer remains presented in this paper. For a full description of each of the specimens, see figures and Supplementary Information: Table S1.

Site	Number of remains	Short description	Figure(s)
Lumentxa	26	Four antler fragments, nine dental remains, an incomplete maxilla, a complete metacarpus, two distal metacarpi, four 1st phalanges, two 2nd phalanges, one third phalanx, one third phalanx of the lateral toe, a fragment of a proximal radius	2-5
Bolinkoba	4	Three dental remains and a 3rd phalanx	6
Atxuri	14	A mandible fragment, a fragmentary maxilla, 11 dental remains, a 2nd phalanx	7
Axlor	21	Two mandibular fragments, 12 dental remains, a fragment of distal humerus, three tali, a 1st phalanx, two 2nd phalanges	8-10
Arlanpe	12	An antler fragment, a nearly-complete hemi-mandible, four dental remains, a 2nd lateral phalanx, five 3rd lateral phalanges	11

Table 2. Direct dates on reindeer remains from the Iberian Peninsula.

Site	Sample	Conventional radiocarbon age (BP)	Reference	95% calibrated age (BP)	References
Santa Catalina		9760±65	Ua-24651	11 314-10 824	Berganza & Ruíz (2004), Berganza <i>et al.</i> (2012)
Arlanpe	ARL.I30.3.2.1	30 250±180	Beta - 272220	35073-34546	This work
Atxuri	Atxi.27C.60	13 030±60	Beta - 289266	16363-15165	This work

For Review Only

Table 3. Summary table of reindeer fossils from the Iberian Peninsula. For full details, see Supplementary Information: Table S2.

Levels with confirmed presence of reindeer, precise stratigraphy and absolute chronology	Directly dated reindeer remains	Levels with confirmed presence of reindeer, and correct stratigraphy and cultural attribution	Sites and levels with confirmed presence of reindeer but unclear stratigraphy and cultural attribution	Sites and levels with doubtful reindeer presence
Abauntz (2r, e, h)	Arlanpe (A-B)	Ekain (VIa)	Abauntz (F)	Aitz Gaizto II
Zatoya IIb	Atxuri (I-VII)	Urtiaga (E)	Torre	Atxubita
Aitzbitarte III (III, IV, Va)	Santa Catalina (I)	Kiputz (C, H)	Aitzbitarte III (II)	Palomas
Aitzbitarte IV (IV)		Labeko Koba (IV, VI, IXsup)	Aitzbitarte IV (II)	
Erralla (III, V)		Lezetxiki (IVe)	Baio	
Amalda (VI, IV)		Atxurra (II)	Astigarraga	
Urtiaga (D, Finf, F sup)		Lumentxa (III, IV, V)	Praileaitz (exterior)	
Praileaitz I (Pebble level)		Bolinkoba (III, IV, V)	Urtiagako Leizea	
Ermittia (III, V)		Arlanpe (IV, 4)	Ermittia V	
Kiputz (D, F)		Castillo (7, 26)	Labeko Koba (DRS)	

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60	Labeko Koba (IXinf)		Morín (2)	Lumentxa (I-II, VI, VII)	
	Lezetxiki (IIIa, IIIb)		Cueto de la Mina (B)	Lezikako Koba	
	Santa Catalina (I, II, III)		La Riera (22)	Arnotxe	
	Santimamiñe (VI, Almp, Csn-Camr, Arg-o)		Las Palomas (8)	Santimamiñe (IV, VII, VIII)	
	Axlor (B, D, F)		Reclau Viver (Alfa Sector: B, F)	Atxuri	
	Arlanpe (I, 2, D)		Reclau Viver (Alfa Sector: B, F)	Axlor (I-II)	
	La Garma A (E-F)		Arrillor	Arlanpe (A-B, C)	
	El Ruso I (IV a, IV b)		Antoliñako koba-Lmbc	Ojebar	
	El Castillo (14, 8, 6)		El Otero	Cueva del Valle (II)	
	Altamira (7, 6, 3)		Las Aguas	Santián	
	Covalejos (J)		El Linar	A Valiña	
	Cueto de la Mina (VII, V)			Bora Gran	
	La Riera (24)			Reclau Viver (E)	
	Tito Bustillo (1b)			Mollet (3)	

Las Caldas (III-IV, IX)			Can Rubau	
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Table 4-Summary table of representations of reindeer in Paleolithic art from the Iberian Peninsula.

For full details, see Supplementary Information: Table S3.

Site	Province	Chronology	References
Parietal art			
Altxerri	Gipuzkoa	Advanced Magdalenian	Altuna & Apellaniz (1976)
Cobrante	Cantabria	Early Magdalenian	Rasines & Serna (2009)
Hornos de la Peña	Cantabria	?	Cacho (1999)
Las Monedas	Cantabria	Upper Magdalenian	Ripoll (1972)
La Pasiega	Cantabria	Premagdalenian	Balbín & González-Sainz (1993)
Sovilla	Cantabria	Upper Magdalenian	González-Sainz <i>et al.</i> (1993)
Covarón	Asturias	Advanced Magdalenian	Cacho (1999)
Llonín	Asturias	Advanced Magdalenian	Cacho (1999)
Tito Bustillo	Asturias	Advanced Magdalenian	Moure (1992)
Pindal	Asturias	Middle Magdalenian	González-Pumariega (2011)
Peña Candamo	Asturias	?	Corchón <i>et al.</i> , unpublished information

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7	La Hoz	Guadalajara	?	Balbín & Alcolea
8				(1994)
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10				
11	Reno	Guadalajara	?	Alcolea <i>et al.</i> (2000)
12				
13	Fuente del	Huesca	?	Balbín (2008)
14	Trucho			
15	Portable art			
16				
17	Abauntz	Nafarroa	Upper Magdalenian	Utrilla <i>et al.</i> (2009)
18				
19	Urriaga	Gipuzkoa	Upper Magdalenian	González-Sainz
20				(1984)
21				
22				
23				
24	La Viña	Asturias	Middle Magdalenian	Fortea (1990)
25				
26	Las Caldas	Asturias	Middle Magdalenian	Corchón (1990)
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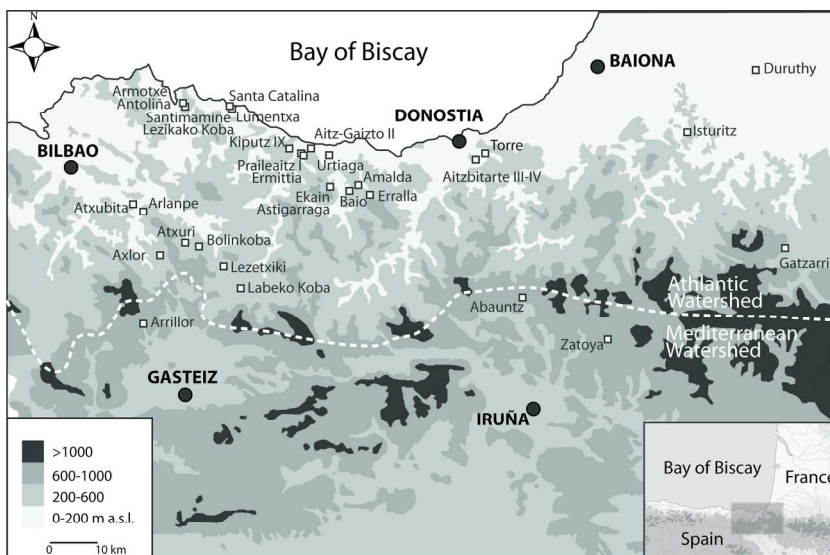


Figure 1. Map of the eastern Cantabrian region showing the sites in the provinces of Biscay, Gipuzkoa and Nafarroa, and other sites discussed in the text. Note that Urtiaga also represents Urtiagako Leizea and that Ermittia also represents Ermittia V.
188x154mm (300 x 300 DPI)

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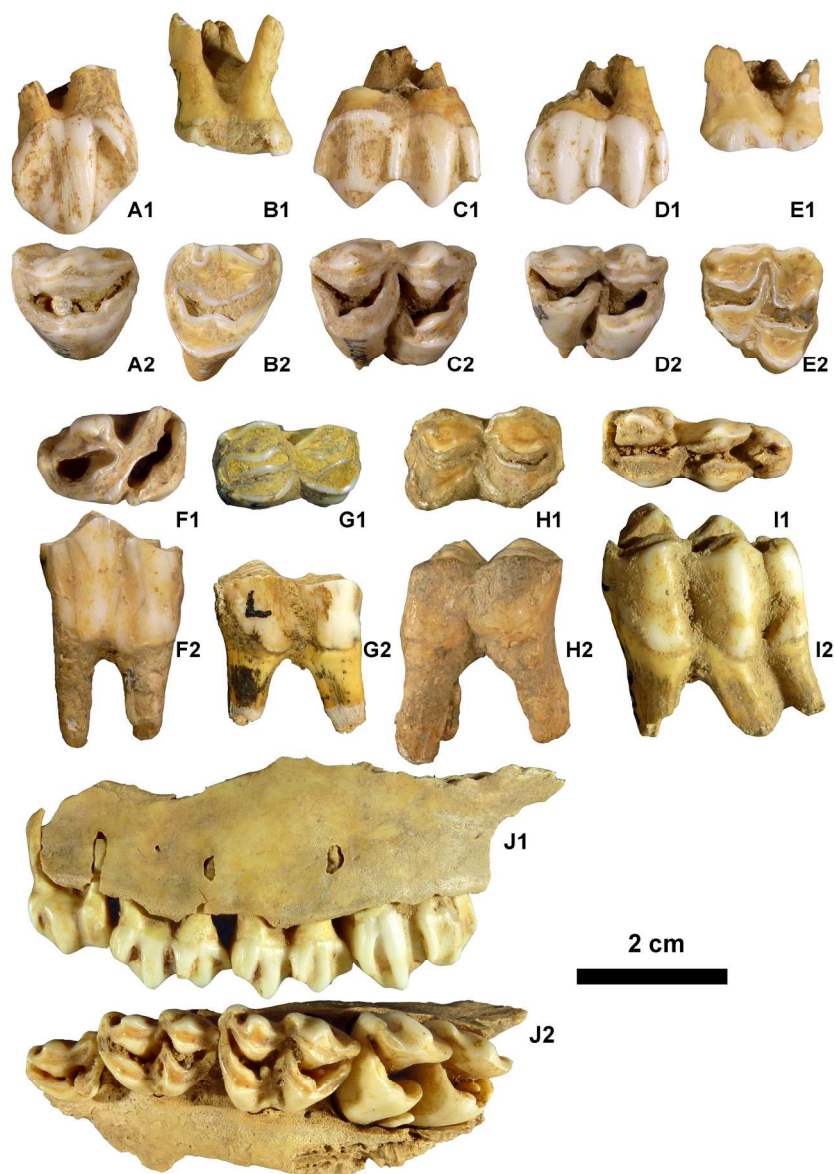


Figure 2. Reindeer tooth and maxillary remains from Lumentxa. A-E) Upper dentition. Labial (A1) and occlusal (A2) views of the right P4 L.6C.205. Labial (B1) and occlusal (B2) views of the left P3 L.7F.155. Labial (C1) and occlusal (C2) views of the right M2 L.6C.205. Labial (D1) and occlusal (D2) views of the left M3 L.6C.205. Labial (E1) and occlusal (E2) views of the right M3 L.9I.125. F-I) Lower dentition. Occlusal (F1) and labial (F2) views of the left P4 L.5D.150. Occlusal (G1) and labial (G2) views of the left M1 L. Occlusal (H1) and labial (H2) views of the right M2 L.13E.80. Occlusal (I1) and labial (I2) views of the left M3 L.5E.200. Left maxilla with D2-M1 (not labelled) in labial (J1) and occlusal (J2) views.
170x235mm (300 x 300 DPI)



Figure 3. Antler remains from Lumentxa: L.6E.195 (A); L.6E.195 (B); L.13E.80 (C); L.10F.105 (D).
170x107mm (300 x 300 DPI)

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Figure 4. Metacarpus remains from Lumentxa. Complete metacarpus from the right side L.6D.216 in ventral (A1) and dorsal (A2) views. Distal fragment from the right side L.9F.230 in ventral (B1) and dorsal (B2) views. Distal fragment from the left side L.1C.365 in ventral (C1) and dorsal (C2) views. 170x174mm (300 x 300 DPI)

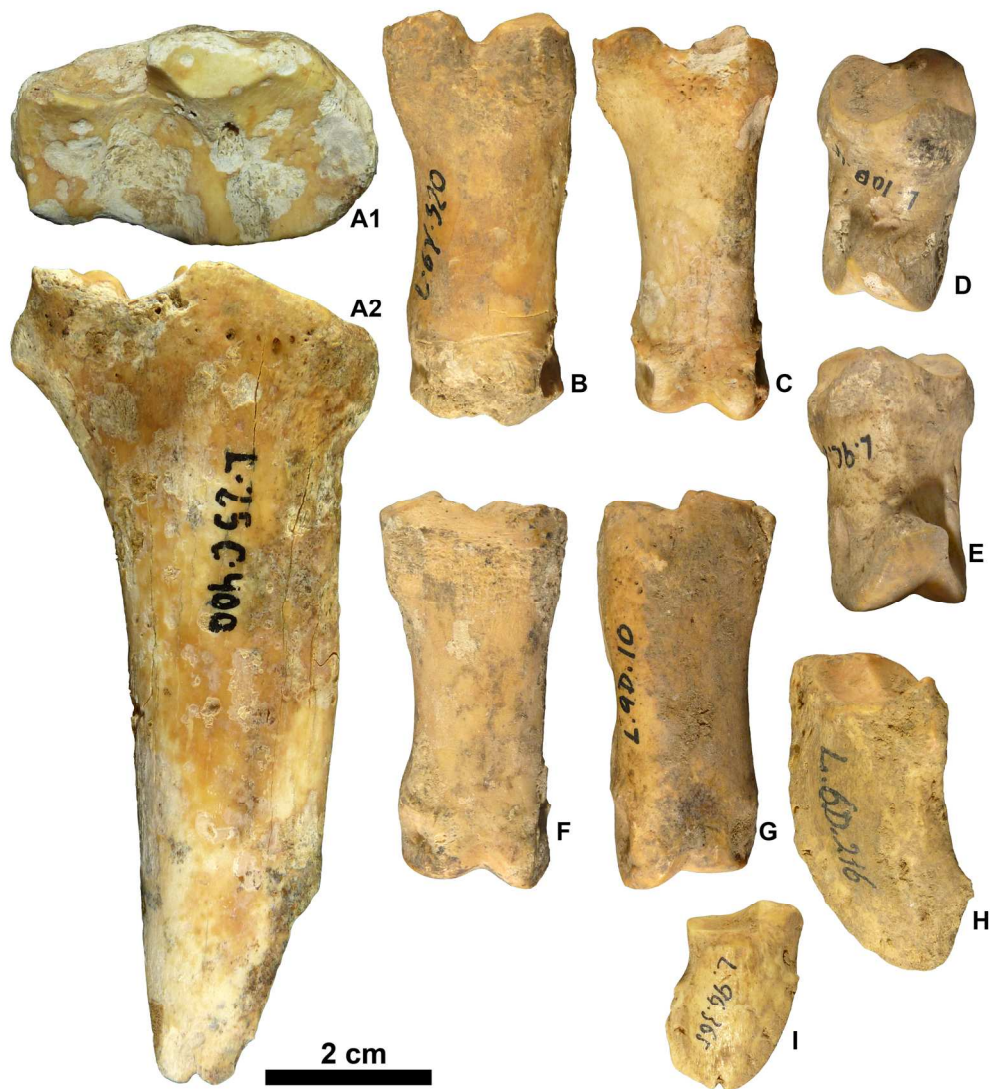


Figure 5. Additional postcranial remains from Lumentxa. Proximal fragment of the right radius L.25C.400 in cranial (A1) and ventral (A2) views. Dorsal views of phalanges: 1st foreleg phalanx L.6Y.320 (B), 1st foreleg phalanx with no physical label L.25C.410 (C), 2nd foreleg phalanx L.10D.15 (D), 2nd foreleg phalanx L.9C.10 (E), 1st foreleg phalanx L.12G.25 (F), 1st foreleg phalanx L.9D.10 (G), 3rd phalanx L.6D.216 (H), 3rd lateral phalanx L.9G.365 (I).
170x188mm (300 x 300 DPI)

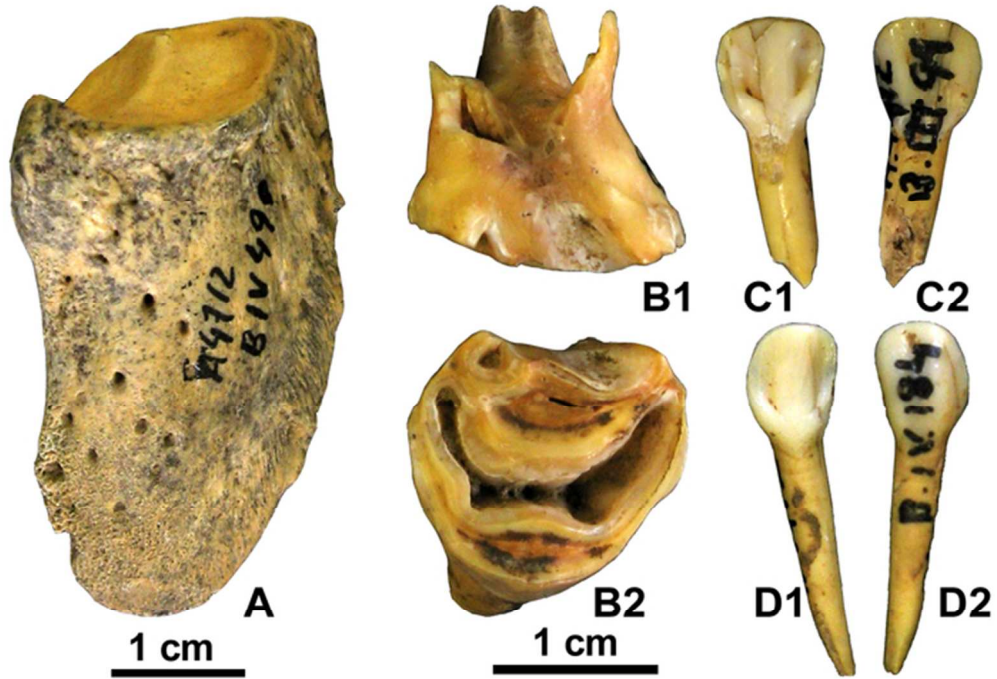


Figure 6. Reindeer remains from Bolinkoba. Third phalanx B.IV.490 in dorsal (A) view. P3 B.V.21 in labial (B1) and occlusal (B2) views. I1 L.III.91 in lingual (C1) and in buccal (C2) views. I2 B.IV.184 in lingual (D1) and in buccal (D2) views. 59x42mm (300 x 300 DPI)

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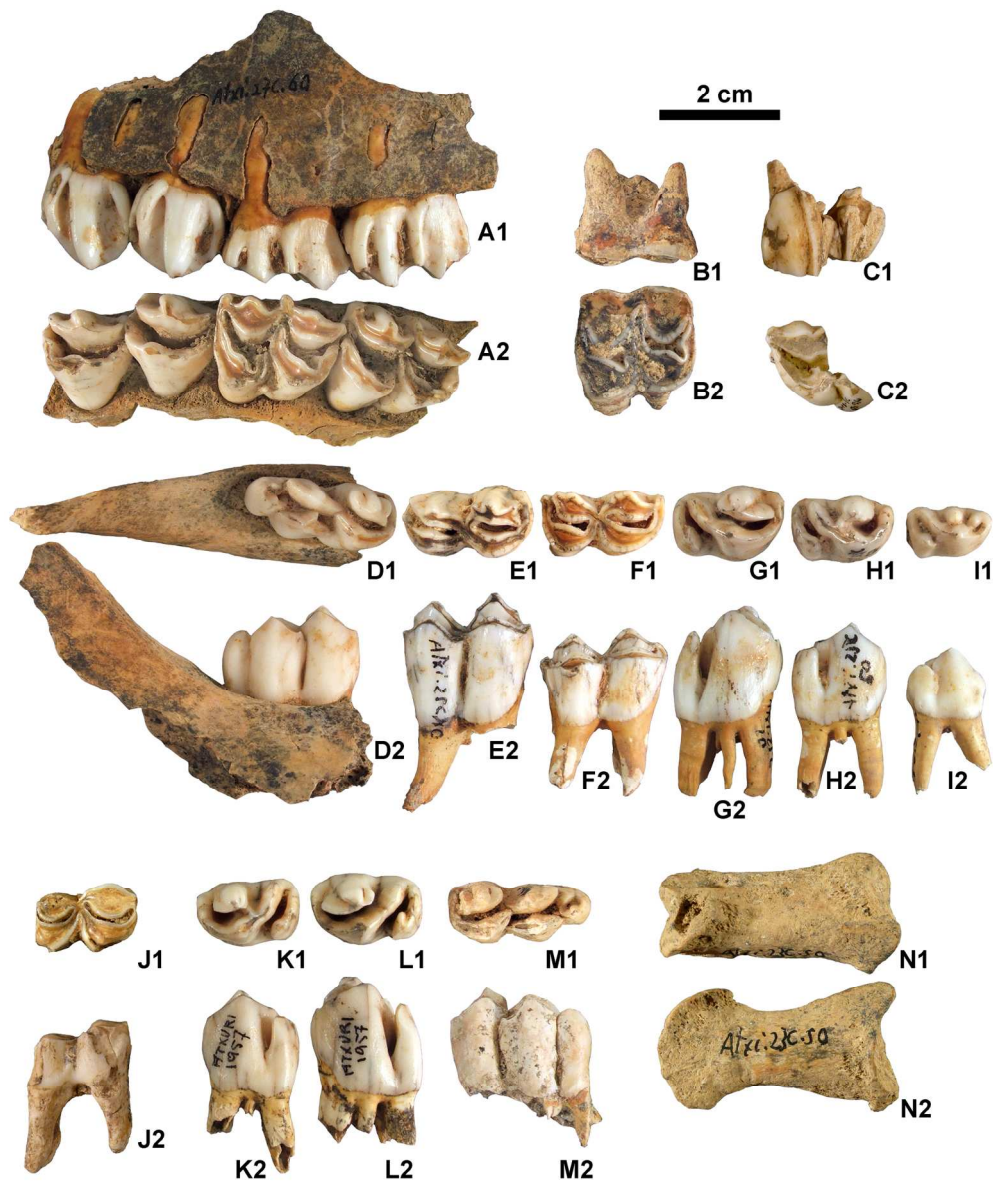


Figure 7. Reindeer remains from Atxuri. Fragment of left maxilla Atxi.27C.60 in labial (A1) and occlusal (A2) views. Left M2 Atxi.23B.110 in labial (B1) and occlusal (B2) views. Upper molar Atxi.1C.50-80 in labial (C1) and occlusal (C2) views. Fragment of right hemi-mandible with M3 Atxi.25B.10 in occlusal (D1) and labial (D2) views. Right M2 Atxi.25C.10 in occlusal (E1) and labial (E2) views. Right M1 Atxi.29B.50 in occlusal (F1) and labial (F2) views. Right P4 Atxi.25C.10 in occlusal (G1) and labial (G2) views. Right P3 Atxi.25C.50 in occlusal (H1) and labial (H2) views. Right P2 Atxi.21B.I.5 in occlusal (I1) and labial (I2) views. Right M1? Atxi.5C.40 in occlusal (J1) and labial (J2) views. Left P3 Atxuri 1957 in occlusal (K1) and labial (K2) views. Left P4 Atxuri 1957 in occlusal (L1) and labial (L2) views. Left M3 Atxi.31D.40 in occlusal (M1) and labial (M2) views. 2nd phalanx of the hind leg Atxi.23C.50 in dorsal (N1) and lateral (N2) views.

170x201mm (300 x 300 DPI)

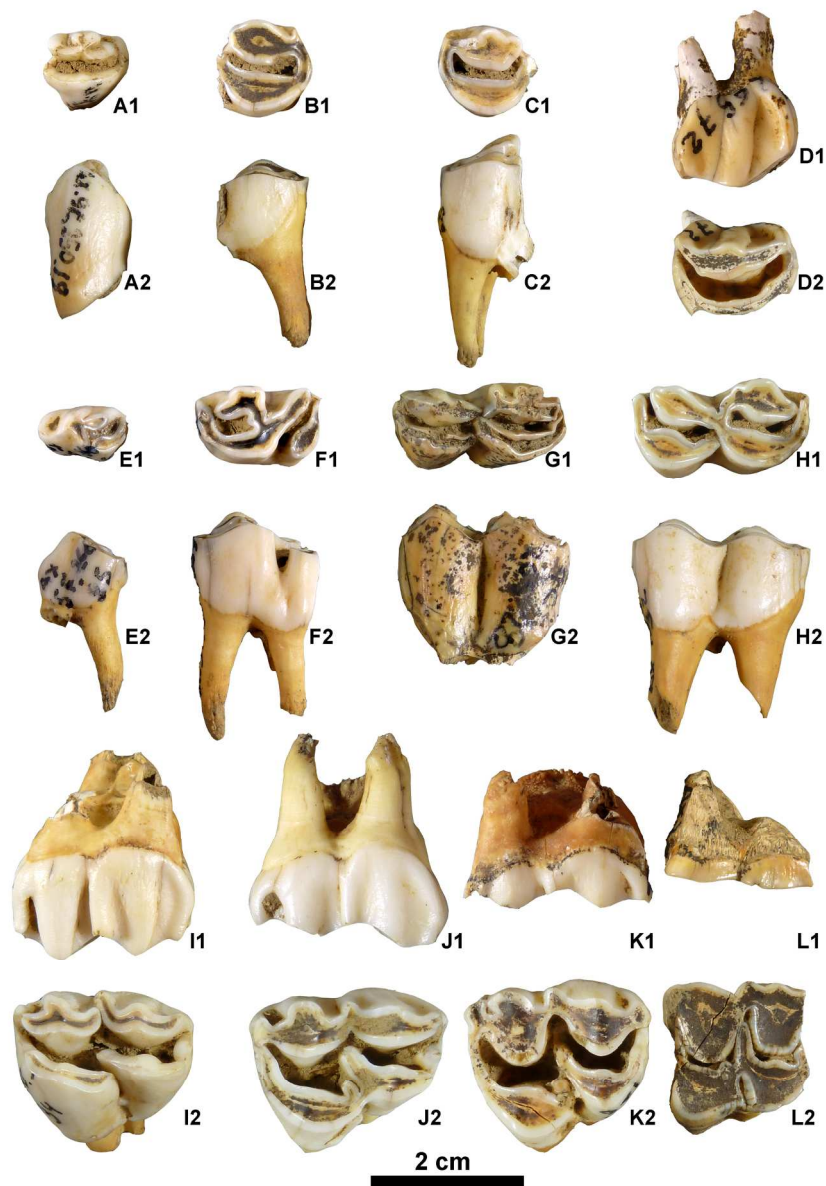


Figure 8. Isolated dental remains from Axlor. Lower M1 Ax.9C.250.19 in occlusal (A1) and buccal (A2) views. Lower molar Ax7F.265.62bis in occlusal (B1) and buccal (B2) views. Lower molar Ax.7F.265.57bis in occlusal (C1) and buccal (C2) views. Right P2 Ax.3F.265.72 in buccal (D1) and occlusal (D2) views. Left P2 Ax.5F.266.85 in occlusal (E1) and buccal (E2) views. Left P3 Ax.5F.266.104 in occlusal (F1) and buccal (F2) views. Left M1-2 Ax.9C.265.28 in occlusal (G1) and buccal (G2) views. Left M2 1973.32 in occlusal (H1) and buccal (H2) views. Left M1-2 Ax.13D._.34 in buccal (I1) and occlusal (I2) views. Left M3 Ax.7F.255.87 in buccal (J1) and occlusal (J2) views. Left M3 Ax.11G.325.126 in buccal (K1) and occlusal (K2) views. Left M1 Ax.7C.1 in buccal (L1) and occlusal (L2) views. Note that Ax.5F.266.85 (E)(left P2) and Ax.5F.266.104 (F)(left P3) could have belonged to the same individual.

170x240mm (300 x 300 DPI)

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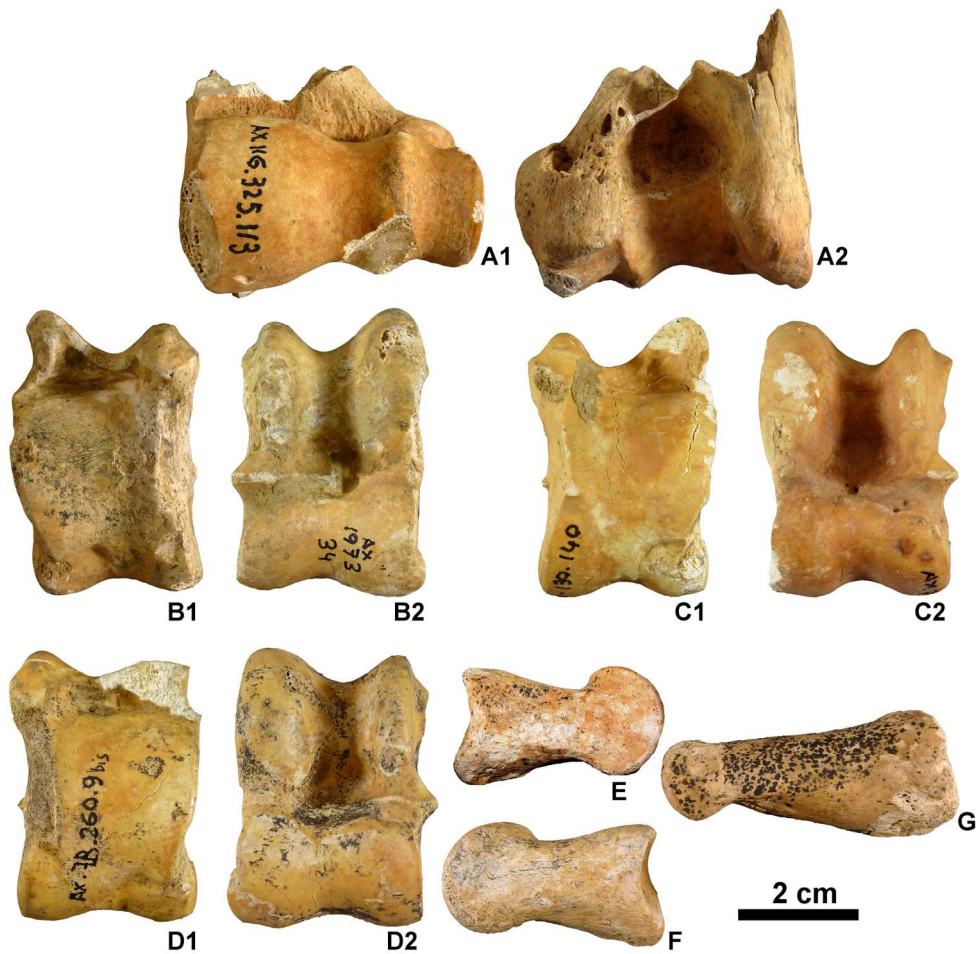


Figure 10. Reindeer postcranial remains from Axlor. Distal fragment of humerus Ax.11G.325.113 in ventral (A1) and dorsal (A2) views. Left talus Ax.1973.34 Ax.1973.34 in tibial (B1) and calcaneal (B2) views. Right talus Ax.7D.60-130.140 in tibial (C1) and calcaneal (C2) views. Right talus Ax.7B.260.9bis in tibial (D1) and calcaneal (D2) views. 2nd phalanx Ax.11E.255.135 in side view (E). 2nd foreleg phalanx Ax.11F.290.455 in side view (F). 1st foreleg phalanx Ax.5D.276.61 in side view (G).
170x163mm (300 x 300 DPI)

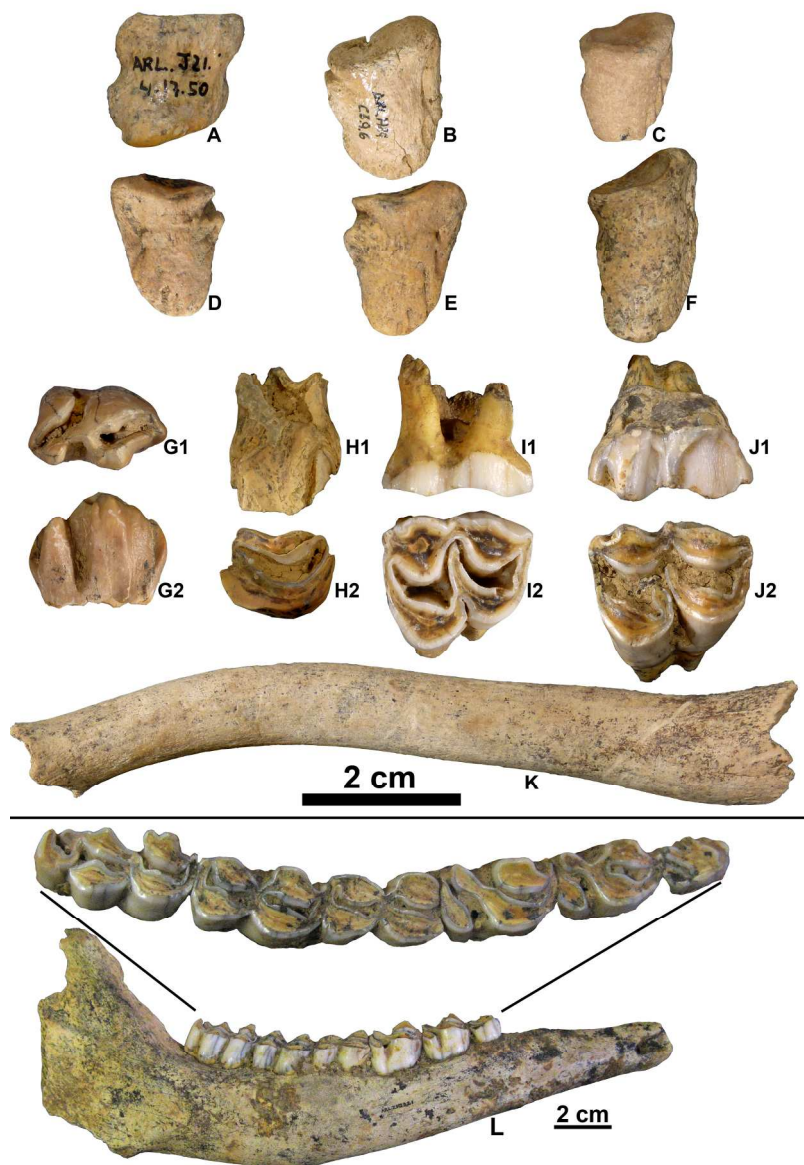


Figure 11. Reindeer remains from Arlanpe. A. Second lateral phalanx (ARL.J21.4.17.50). B-F. Third lateral phalanges (B: ARL.H29.3.9.6; C: ARL.J24.1.9.6; D: ARL.J25.2.2.38; E: ARL.J25.2.5.37; F: ARL.J20.2.2.21). G-J. Dental remains. Occlusal (G1) and labial (G2) views of the lower left P4 ARL.H32.2.5.8. Labial (H1) and occlusal (H2) views of the upper premolar ARL.H32.3.2.8. Labial (I1) and occlusal (I2) views of the M3 from the left side ARL.J20.2.23.35. Labial (J1) and occlusal (J2) views of the M3 from the left side ARL.I29.3.10.2. Antler fragment ARL.H32.2.1.7 (K). Labial view (L) of the nearly complete right hemimandible ARL.I30.3.2.1 with a close-up of the occlusal surface of its teeth.
170x254mm (300 x 300 DPI)

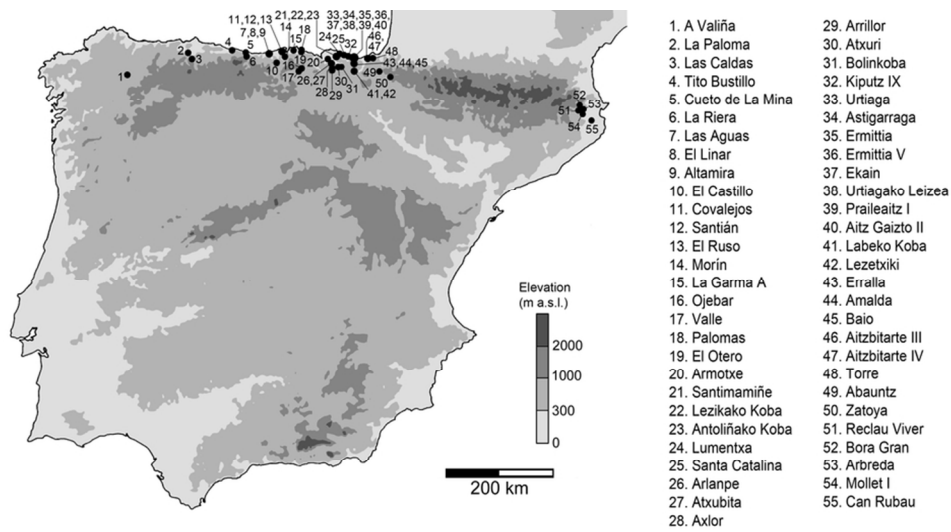


Figure 12. Map of the Iberian peninsula showing sites at which reindeer remains have been found. 83x45mm (300 x 300 DPI)

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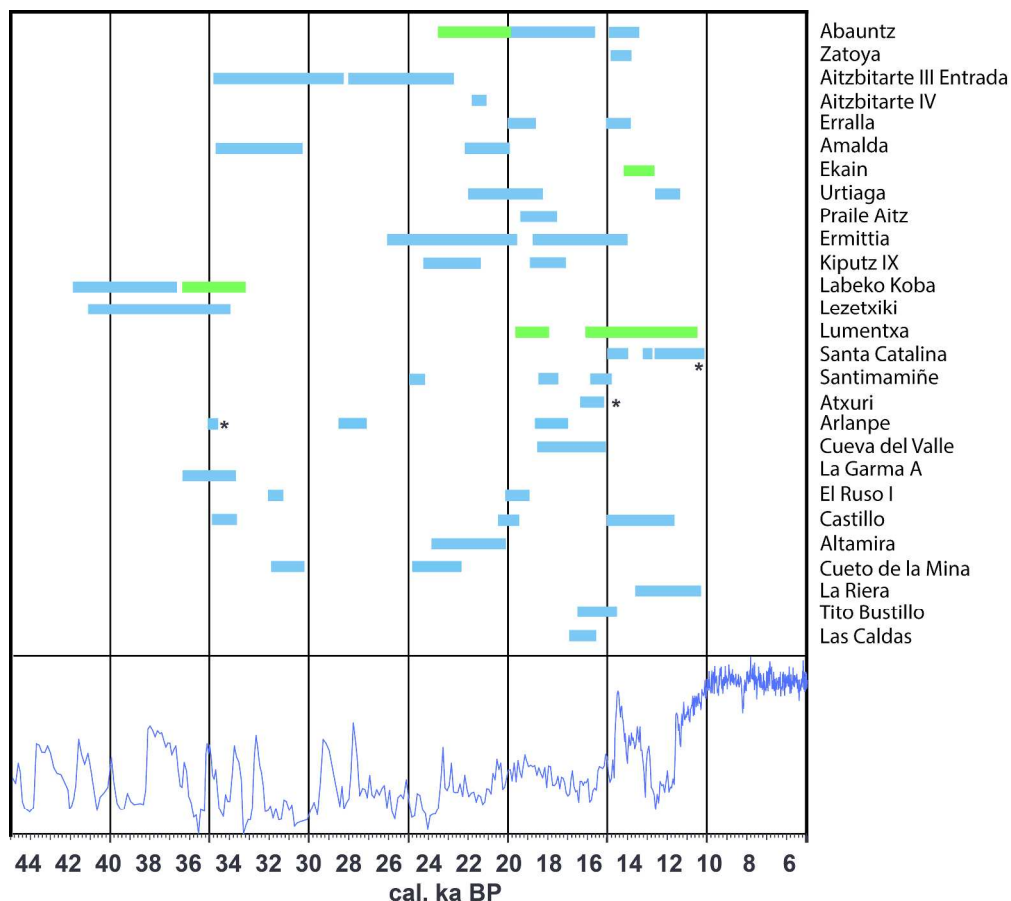


Figure 13. Chronological distribution of the two-sigma dates for the reindeer from the Cantabrian region compared to the GRIP palaeoclimatic oxygen curve. Blue bars represent data from actual dates while green bars are approximate chronologies based on cultural attributions. The asterisks represent the direct dates on reindeer bones from Santa Catalina, Atxuri and Arlanpe presented in Table 2. See Table S2 of Supplementary Information for a complete account of the dates.
152x136mm (600 x 600 DPI)



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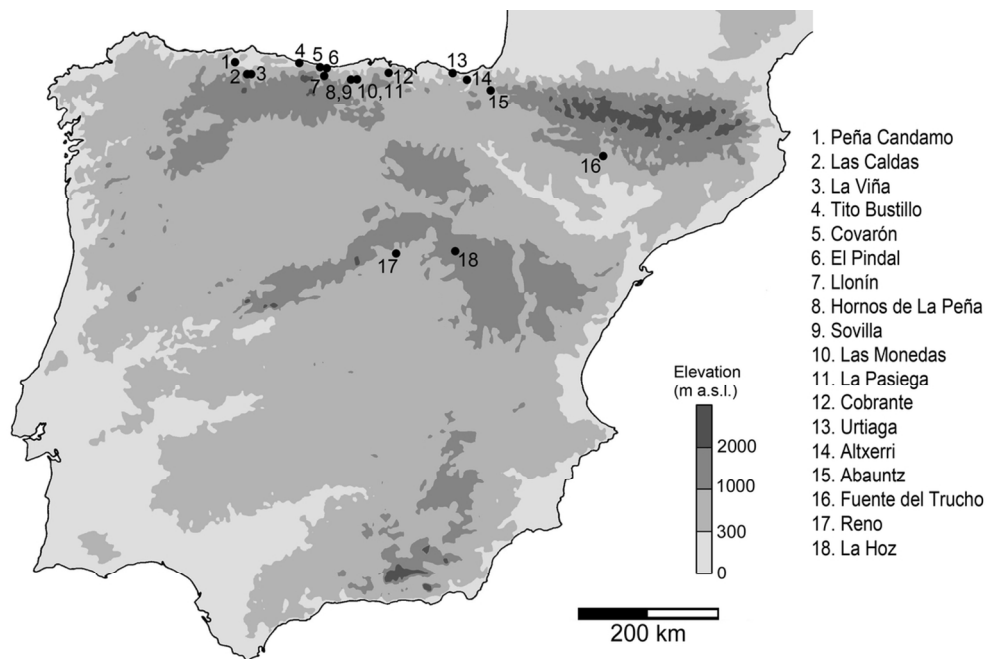


Figure 14. Map of the Iberian Peninsula showing sites where representations of reindeer in art (parietal and/or portable) have been found.
108x70mm (300 x 300 DPI)

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**1- Reindeer remains from the province of Biscay presented in this paper/List of sites that have yielded palaeontological remains of reindeer/List of sites with representations of reindeer in Paleolithic art from the Iberian Peninsula.**

All these informations can be found in the file Sup. Info. 2:

Table S1. Reindeer remains from the province of Biscay presented in this paper.

Table S2. Information on the sites that have yielded palaeontological remains of reindeer.

Table S3. Information on the sites that have yielded representations of reindeer in Paleolithic art from the Iberian Peninsula.

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2-Supplementary information on measurements, abbreviations and definitions in artiodactyls

2.1-Mandible

The measurements of the mandible follow von den Driesch (1976).

LC: length of the cheekteeth.

LM: length of the molar row.

LP: length of the premolar row.

HM₃: height of the mandible behind M₃.

HM₁: height of the mandible in front of M₁.

HP₂: height of the mandible in front of P₂.

BM₃: breadth of the mandible behind M₃.

BM₁: breadth of the mandible in front of M₁.

BP₂: breadth of the mandible in front of P₂.

2.2-Teeth

The measurements of the teeth follow van der Made (1989, 1996).

DAP: maximum anteroposterior diameter.

DAPb: anteroposterior diameter at the basal region.

DAPo: anteroposterior diameter at the occlusal surface.

DLL: buccolingual diameter of the incisors and canines.

DTo: transverse diameter of the occlusal surface.

DTa: transverse diameter of the anterior lobe.

DTp: transverse diameter of the posterior lobe.

DTpp: transverse diameter of the hypoconulid of the third lower molars.

H: crown height.

Ha: height of the anterior lobe.

Hdist: crown height of the incisors at the distal end.

Hla: crown height of the incisor on the buccal side.

Hli: crown height of the incisor on the lingual side.

Hmes: crown height of the incisor on the mesial side.

Hp: height of the posterior lobe.

Ta: enamel thickness of the anterior lobe.

Tp: enamel thickness of the posterior lobe.

2.3-Postcranial remains

The measurements of the postcranial remains follow von Driesch (1976) and are displayed in Figure S3.

2.3.1-Humerus

BD: maximum breadth of the distal epiphysis.

DD: maximum depth of the distal epiphysis.

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3 2.3.2-Radius

4 **BFP:** breadth of the proximal articular surface.

5 **BP:** maximum breadth of the proximal epiphysis.

6 **DP:** maximum depth of the proximal epiphysis.

7 **GL:** maximum length of the bone.
8

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10 2.3.3-Metacarpus

11 **BD:** maximum breadth of the distal epiphysis.

12 **BP:** maximum breadth of the proximal epiphysis.

13 **DD:** depth of the distal epiphysis.

14 **DM:** maximum depth of the medial condyle.

15 **DL:** maximum of the lateral condyle.

16 **DP:** maximum depth of the proximal epiphysis.

17 **GL:** maximum length of the bone.

18 **SD:** width of the shaft.

19 **SDD:** minimum depth of the shaft.
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22 2.3.4-Astragalus

23 **ATPL:** height of the lateral trochlea.

24 **BD:** maximum breadth of the distal epiphysis.

25 **BP:** maximum breadth of the proximal epiphysis.

26 **DM:** maximum depth of the medial end.

27 **DL:** maximum of the lateral end.

28 **GLm:** maximum length of the medial end.

29 **GLl:** maximum length of the lateral end.
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33 2.3.5-First phalanx (anterior and posterior)

34 **BD:** maximum breadth of the distal epiphysis.

35 **BP:** maximum breadth of the proximal epiphysis.

36 **DD:** depth of the distal epiphysis.

37 **DPi:** maximum depth of the proximal epiphysis.

38 **DPs:** depth of the proximal articular surface.

39 **GL:** axial length.

40 **GLpe:** abaxial length.

41 **Hmax:** maximum length.

42 **SD:** breadth of the shaft.

43 **SDD:** minimum depth of the shaft.
44

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46 2.3.6-Second phalanx (anterior and posterior)

47 **BD:** maximum breadth of the distal epiphysis.

48 **BP:** maximum breadth of the proximal epiphysis.

49 **DD:** depth of the distal epiphysis.

50 **DPi:** maximum depth of the proximal epiphysis.

51 **DPs:** depth of the proximal articular surface.

52 **GL:** axial length.

53 **GLpe:** abaxial length.

54 **Hpost:** posterior length.

55 **SD:** width of the shaft.

56 **SDD:** minimum depth of the shaft.
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3 2.3.7-Third phalanx

4 **DLS:** greatest diagonal length of the sole.

5 **Ld:** length of the dorsal surface.

6 **MBS:** middle breadth of the sole.
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8 2.3.8-Second lateral phalanx

9 **DAP:** anteroposterior diameter.

10 **DT:** transversal diameter.

11 **H:** height.
12

13 2.3.9-Third lateral phalanx

14 **DAP:** anteroposterior diameter.

15 **DT:** transversal diameter.

16 **H:** height.
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For Review Only

Table S4. Measurements (in mm) of the mandible of *Rangifer tarandus*.

Site	Label	r/l	BM ₁	BM ₃	BP ₂	HM ₁	HM ₃	HP ₂	LC	LM	LP
Arlanpe	ARL.I30.3.2.1	r	19.0	15.9	14.3	29.4	(38.5)	27.6	103.9	62.1	44.3
Urtiagako Leizea	Ur.L.L.8 B.C.16	l	16.0	15.6	13.8	34.1	34.5	(29.7)	(100.3)	(61.8)	40.4
	Ur.L.	r	18.8	17.3	15.5	30.3	40.7	32.0	91.7	(55.2)	39.5
	Ur.L (2)	l	18.5			28.6					
Urtiaga	UR.6D.200	r								63.8	
Arnotxe	(No label)	l	15.5		11.7	28.2		27.9			45.7

Table S5. Measurements (in mm) of the incisor of *Rangifer tarandus*.

Site	Label	Teeth	r/l	DAP	DLL	Hdist	Hla	Hli	Hmes
Bolinkoba	B.III.91	I ₁	r	6.4	4.2	6.8	7.2	6.6	6.5
	B.IV.184	I ₂	r	5.2	3.9	6.9	7.7	7.8	7.6

Table S6. Measurements (in mm) of the lower cheek teeth of *Rangifer tarandus*.

Localidad	Sigla	Diente	d/i	DAPo	DAP	DAPb	DTa	DTp	DTpp	DT	DTb	H	Ha	Hp	Ta	Tp
Lumentxa	L.5D.150	P ₄	l	18.4	18.6	16.0	10.7	12.7		11.6	12.7	14				
	L	M ₁	l	19.6	19.2	18.6	11.2	10.9		10.5	11.2		8.3	7.6	1.1	0.9
	L.13E.80	M ₂	r	19.5	18.4	17.9	12.7	12.9		12.9	12.9		9.4	9.4	1.0	1.1
	L.5E.200	M ₃	l	24.8	25.5	24.8	10.9	10.3	7.2	10.3	10.9		16.7	14.6	1.3	1.3
Atxuri	Atxi 21B.I.5	P ₂	r	13.2	13.7	11.7	7.4	8.1		6.4	8.1	12.8				
	ATXURI 1957	P ₃	l	15.8	16.3	13.8	10.3	10.2		9.7	10.3	16.2				
	Atxi 25C.50	P ₃	r	15.3	16.1	15.6	10.1	9.9		8.9	10.1	14.9				
	Atxi 25C.10	P ₄	r	17.1	18.2	15.9	11.8	10.5		8.4	11.8	17.9				
	ATXURI 1957	P ₄	l	17.3	17.7	15.9	11.8	10.8		9.9	11.8	16.9				
	Atxi 25C.10	M ₂	r	21.1	21.1	18.2	12.2	11.4		9.7	12.2		14.8	16.1	1.0	1.0
	Atxi 5C.40	M ₁₇	r			17.7	12.3	11.4		11.7	12.3		7.9	7.6		0.9
	Atxi 29B.50	M ₁	r	20.8	20.4	17.3	11.4	11.5		10.3	11.5		9.9	9.9	1.3	1.0
	Atxi 25B.10	M ₃	r	21.8	23.6	(22.7)	11.1	9.9	6.1	8.9	11.1		16.2	14.6		
Atxi 31D.40	M ₃	l	22.9	24.7	23.6	10.4	10.1	7.1	8.8	10.4		15.6	15.1			
Axlor	Ax.5F.265.85	P ₂	l	11.2	11.3	9.7	5.9	6.9		6.1	6.9	9.5				
	Ax.5F.266.109	P ₃	l	15.9	16.0	13.5	9.7	10.2		9.0	10.2	12.4				
	Ax.7E.265.191	P ₄	l	16.7	17.2	12.0	12.6	12.7		11.9	12.7	13.1				
	Ax.7E.265.191	M ₁	l	16.2	15.6	15.2	11.7	11.7		11.5	11.7		6.0	5.1	0.9	1.0
	Ax.7E.265.191	M ₂	l	19.3	19.5	18.8	12.3	11.2		11.5	12.3		8.8	7.8	0.9	0.9
	Ax.1973.32	M ₂	r	21.3	21.3	19.3	11.9	11.2		11.2	11.9		10.6	11.3	1.0	0.9
	Ax.9C.265.28	M ₁₋₂	r	20.5	20.6	15.9	10.4	10.9		9.2	10.9		16.7	15.5		
Ax.7E.245	M ₃	l	23.8	24.7	24.5		10.5	5.5				10.6	9.4	1.2	1.0	
Arlanpe	ARL.I30.3.2.1	P ₂	r	9.5	(9.9)	9.73	7.3	7.4		6.9	7.4	6.07				
	ARL.I30.3.2.1	P ₃	r	15.4	(15.4)	14.66	10.7	10.1		9.4	10.5	10.6				
	ARL.I30.3.2.1	P ₄	r	17.7	(17.7)	14.9	12.4	11.1		11.0	(11.8)	11.44				
	ARL.H32.2.5.8	P ₄	l	18.3	18.6	15.9	9.8	10.9		8.8	10.9	14.92				
	ARL.I30.3.2.1	M ₁	r	17.6	(15.7)	(16.5)	11.4	11.2		9.9	(10.9)		7.1	5.5	0.7	0.7
	ARL.I30.3.2.1	M ₂	r	20.3	(18.8)	(18.5)	12.5	11.0		(9.8)	(12.3)		9.6	9.5	1.0	1.0

	ARL.I30.3.2.1	M ₃	r	23.2	25.6	24.7	11.5	10.6	7.3	(9.9)	(10.9)		12.2	(10.5)	1.0	1.0
Urtiagako Leizea	Ur.L.L.8 B.C 16	P ₂	l	10.3	(10.2)	9.1	6.4	7.4		7.4	7.0	8.4				
	Ur.L.L.8 B.C 16	P ₃	l	(13.4)	(13.4)	(12.1)	8.7	10.4		9.5	10.5	7.2				
	Ur.L.L.8 B.C 16	P ₄	l	(14.8)	(14.8)	(13.0)	12.0	11.4		11.0	11.0	8.6				
	Ur.L.	P ₂	r	11.4	(11.7)	9.9	6.3	7.7		7.0	7.1	5.5				
	Ur.L. (2)	P ₂	l	10.9	11.2	10.9	6.3	7.3		6.8	7.0	6.0				
	Ur.L. (4)	P ₃	r	14.3	12.9	12.9	10.3	10.6		10.8	10.8	4.1				
	Ur.L.	P ₃	r	(13.8)	(13.4)	13.3	10.3	9.7		10.1	(10.2)	7.9				
	Ur.L. (2)	P ₃	l	15.7	15.5	14.2	10.6	10.1		9.9	10.5	10.1				
	Ur.L.	P ₄	r	15.1	14.3	12.5	12.0	9.9		12.1	10.8	7.3				
	Ur.L. (2)	P ₄	l	15.7	14.7	12.9	11.8	10.2		11.4	10.9	7.5				
	Ur.L. (4)	P ₄	r	16.66	16.5	16.5	12.2	11.8		12.0	12.0	4.1				
	Ur.L.L.8 B.C 16	M ₁	l	(16.6)	(16.5)	(16.8)	10.1	10.9		10.7	10.9		4.1	3.0	0.4	0.5
	Ur.L. (4)	M ₁	r	19.2	19.2	19.2	10.5	11.5		11.6	11.6			1.2		0.7
	Ur.L.L.8 B.C 16	M ₂	l	18.7	(18.0)	(17.3)	11.0	10.5		9.9	11.0		6.6	4.4	0.7	0.6
	Ur.L.	M ₂	r	16.1	16.1	16.1	10.6	9.3		10.6	10.6		1.6	1.3		
Ur.L.	M ₃	r	22.0	22.5	21.5	10.1	8.5	5.4	10	10.0		5.3	4.1	0.9	0.5	
Ur.L.L.8 B.C 16	M ₃	l				9.5	8.3					9.3	6.1	0.7	0.7	
Aitzbitarte IV	AitIV.2L.70	M ₁	l	19.4	19.9		9.4	10.2		8.1			14.2	13.5		
	AitIV.7R.70.1	M ₂	l	25.1	25.1	21.52	13.1	12		11.9	12.9		12.0	17.6		
	Ait. IV. 7R. 100.R	M ₂	l	23.9	24.1	21.75	11.9	11.5		10.7	11.9		14.6	13.3	0.9	1.1
	Ait. IV. 10M. 140.I	M ₃	l	(24.1)	24.4	24.51	11.0	10	5.4	11.1	11.0		10.3	9.1		1.0
Armotxe	(No label)	P ₂	l	12.1	12.7	11.32	7.4	8.14		6.9	8.2	10.0				
	(No label)	P ₃	l	15.6	(15.8)	(13.8)	9.6	9.9		8.5	9.9	13.1				
	(No label)	P ₄	l	15.7	(16.5)	(15.1)	10.8	10.3		9.5	(10.4)	14.8				
	(No label)	M ₁	l	17.7	(16.8)	(16.2)	10.8	10.7		9.9	10.6		7.6	6.3	0.8	0.8
Urtiaga	"Serie P3-M1"	P ₃	r	15.9	15.9	14.4	9.5	10.8		8.7	10.7	12.7				
	UR.6D.200	P ₄	r	17.5	17.5	16.0	12.7	12.6		10.9	12.6	12.2				
	"Serie P3-M1"	P ₄	r	15.6	(16.5)	14.4	10.6	11.3		9.7	11.0	13.61				
	UR.6D.200	M ₁	r	16.9	(16.7)	(16.7)	11.3	11		10.9	11.0		7.1	5.7	0.9	0.7
	UR.9D.265	M ₁	l	18.4	(18.6)	16.5	10.9	11.2		8.0	10.1		10.8	11.3	0.9	0.9
	UR.9F.415	M ₁	l	20.4	(20.2)	17.8	10.6	10.5		9.5	10.3		10.2	11.0	1.1	0.9
	UR.7D.260	M ₁	r	20.4	20.4		10.6			9.1			14.2		0.9	0.9
	UR.9D.300	M ₁	l	20.4	21.0	18.7	10.9	11.3		8.9			13.4	13.3	1.1	1.3
	"Serie P3-M1"	M ₁	r	17.9	16.8	16.6	10.5	12.2		9.8	11.2		8.4	6.5	0.8	0.7
	UR.5.D.150	M ₁	r	19.8	19.9	18.4	11.1	10.3		10.2	11.1		10.9	10.5	0.9	
	UR.6D.200	M ₂	r	20.3	(20.4)	17.8	11.8	10.4		11.6	(12.2)		10.1	10.4	1.0	1.0
	UR.9D.265	M ₂	l	(20.5)	21.3		11.8	11.3		9.7					1.2	1.2
	UR.7D.260	M ₂	r	21.8	21.7											
	UR.9D.300	M ₂	l	(20.8)	(21.5)											
	"Serie M2-M3"	M ₂	l	19.9	19.8	18.7	12.2	11.5		10.3	12.4		10.9	11.4	1.1	0.9
	UR.7.D.260	M ₂	l	21.4	21.3	19.7	11.3	12.1		8.6	11.9		15.3	15.2		0.9
	UR.1.D.130	M ₂	l	20.4	20.6	20.0	12.6	11.4		11.0	12.3		10.8	10.2	0.9	0.9
	UR.7.D.270	M ₃	r	22.7	23.3	22.2	10.1	9.3	6.3	8.56	10.14		15.5	16.0		
UR.9.F.415	M ₃	l	23.3	24.8	24.4	10.5	10.1	7.1	9.5			17.0	15.7			
"Serie M2-M3"	M ₃	l	23.5	23.9	23.4	10.6	9.4	6.0	9.1	10.4		14.3	13.7		0.9	
UR.6D.200	M ₃	r	24.6	23.5	22.9	10.9	9.9	5.9	10.1	11.1		12.7	12.2	1.2	1.1	

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Lezetxiki	Lz.6C.380	M ₃	r	23.8	24.4	22.9	11.4	10.4	5.3	10.2	11.2		12.5	11.6	1.3	1.0
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Table S7. Measurements (in mm) of the upper cheek teeth of *Rangifer tarandus*.

Site	Label	Teeth	r/l	DAP	DAPb	DAPo	DTa	DTp	DTo	DTp	H	Ha	Hp	Ta	Tp
Lumentxa	(No label)	D ²	l	11.8	11.2	10.7	6.4	8.8	7.8	8.8	7.8			0.8	
	(No label)	D ³	l	16.1	13.9	16.1	9.8	11.0	10.1	11.0		7.9	7.4	1.0	1.1
	(No label)	D ⁴	l	17.5	14.0	17.5	11.7	12.6	10.6	12.6		8.2	7.7	1.0	1.0
	L.7F.155	P ³	l	14.2	13.2	15.6	15.7	17.7	16.0	17.6	4.9			0.8	
	L.6C.205	P ⁴	r	16.5	13.5	16.4	16.3	16.3	11.6	16.2	15.2			0.7	
	(No label)	M ¹	l	20.2	17.9	20.3	14.8	14.8	10.4	13.2					
	L.6C.205	M ²	l	21.2	18.7	21.2	17.1	17.1	13.8	16.3		11.5	12.8	1.3	0.9
	L.9I.125	M ³	r	16.6	15.9	16.6	17.2	17.2	17.0	14.0		3.0	3.9	1.0	1.2
L.6C.205	M ³	r	20.3	17.5	20.3	17.1	17.1	12.5	14.7		12.9	13.4	1.0	1.2	
Bolinkoba	B.V.21	P ³	r	14.8	12.6	15.3	14.3	15.5	14.1	15.5	4.9				
Atxuri	Atxi.27C.60	P ³	r	14.3	12.1	15.6	15.7	15.7	10.7	14.9	15.5				
	Atxi.27C.60	P ⁴	r	14.2	13.2	15.0	15.1	15.1	10.3	12.3	14.1				
	Atxi.1C.50-80	Upper M	l				14.9								
	Atxi.27C.60	M ¹	r	19.9	17.3	21.5	16.2	16.2	16.2	15.0		9.1	13.0	0.8	0.8
	Atxi.27C.60	M ²	r	21.7	18.4	20.8	17.2	17.2	16.3	15.9		13.2	14.3	0.8	0.8
	Atxi.23B.110	M ³	l	18.6	17.7	20.1	18.2	18.2	18.8	17.8		2.0	2.0	0.8	0.8
Axlor	Ax.7F.265.72	P ²	r	13.9	9.7	14.8					11.4				
	Ax.7C.1	M ¹	l	16.1	15.2	16.4	15.6	15.6	15.7	14.2		2.2	3.6	1.1	0.8
	Ax.13D._.34	M ¹⁻²	l	20.2	17.2	19.7	17.6	17.6	12.2	15.5		11.8	12.4	1.2	0.9
	Ax.7F.255.87	M ³	l	21.0	17.8	21.1	18.0	18.0	15.1	15.1		8.2	10.9	1.1	1.1
Arlanpe	ARL.J20.2.23.35	M ³	l	19.5	18.0	19.7	18.2	18.2	17.5	16.2		4.2	4.9	0.9	1.1
	ARL.I29.3.10.2	M ³	l	21.2	17.5	21.2	19.1	19.1	16.4	18.2		9.6	9.1	1.2	1.6
Arnotxe	(No label)	P ⁴	l	14.6	12.9	14.7					13.7				

Table S8. Measurements of the humerus of *Rangifer tarandus*.

Site	Label	r/l	BD	DD
Axlor	Ax.11G.325.113	l	49.3	37.6

Table S9. Measurements of the radius of *Rangifer tarandus*.

Site	Label	r/l	BPF	BP	DP
Lumentxa	L.25C.400	r	38.9	41.6	24.0

Table S10. Measurements of the metacarpus of *Rangifer tarandus*.

Site	Label	r/l	BD	BP	DD	DL	DM	DP	GL	SD	SDD
Lumentxa	L.6D.216	r	38.6	31.5	20.1	20.9	20.2	23.4	181.6	18.9	18.9
	L.1C.365	l	39.3		22.2	21.0	22.2				
	L.9F.230	r	45.2		24.3	23.2	24.3				

Arnotxe		r		32.3		21.8		23.6		18.5	20.4
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Table S11. Measurements of the astragalus of *Rangifer tarandus*.

Site	Label	r/l	ATLP	BD	BP	DL	DM	GLI	GLm
Axlor	Ax.1973.34	l	29.3	29.3	28.9	25.7	28.6	47.4	44.2
	Ax.7D.60-130.140	r	26.9	28.7	30.3	25.8	26.9	46.1	43.6
	Ax.7B.260.9bis	r			28.6r	26.2	27.1		44.3
Urtiagako Leizea	Ur L.	l	28.5	29.3	27.9	24.1	25.9	44.5	42.0
	Ur L.	r	22.9	28.0	28.0	22.3	23.7	42.3	40.5
	Ur L.	r	28.6	29.8	29.5	26.6	28.4	47.8	44.9
	Ur L.	l	28.7	29.7	29.1	26.6	28.8	47.7	45.2

Table S12. Measurements of the first phalanx of *Rangifer tarandus*.

Site	Label	BD	BP	DD	DPi	DPs	GL	Glpe	Hmax	SD
Lumentxa	L.25C.410 (no physically labelled)	17.1	20.8	12.5	21.1	19.2	48.4	46.0	48.6	14.3
	L.6Y.320	19.2	22.1	13.7	21.6	21.4	49.6	47.7	50.1	17.7
	L.9D.10	18.5	20.9	13.3	19.7	18.7	46.1	45.8	48.7	15.9
	L.12G.25	18.8	21.1	13.3	18.4	20.5	46.3	45.2	48.4	15.5
Atxuri	Atxi 23C.50	14.6	17.4	18.5	20.4	16.3	36.5	34.6	36.9	13.2
Axlor	Ax.5D.276.61	17.5	22.1	11.5	20.9	18.2	46.4	46.1	48.3	15.1
Urtiagako Leizea	Ur L.	17.9	21.4	12.8	21.9	22.6	48.1	49.7	51.7	13.6
	Ur L.	18.2	22.3	13.2			45.0			15.2
	Ur L.	18.2	22.2	13.9	22.2	21.7	49.1	50.2	50.6	15.1
	Ur L.	18.6	23.5	13.5	21.6	21.4	45.4	46.8	49.2	15.7
	Ur L.	18.0	23.0	12.9	21.6	21.2	45.8	47.7	49.1	15.2
	Ur L.	18.6	22.2	13.9	22.3	22.3	48.9	50.2	52.0	14.8

Table S13. Measurements of the second phalanx of *Rangifer tarandus*.

Site	Label	BD	BP	DD	DPi	DPs	GL	Glpe	Hpost	SD
Lumentxa	L.9C.10	16.9	19.5	18.5	14.5	20.6	30.4	28.7	31.0	16.2
	L.10D.15	15.8	18.0	17.9	15.0	19.4	30.5	28.9	30.7	15.9
Axlor	Ax.11F.290.455	16.6	18.7	18.4	20.5	16.4	36.5	32.9	36.1	14.7
	Ax.11E.255.135	17.0		20.5	22.0		37.2			14.0
Urtiagako Leizea	Ur L.	17.3	18.9	20.5	20.2	19.2	34.7	32.6	35.4	14.6
	Ur L.	16.7	19.4	20.4	20.7	19.4	34.6	33.0	34.9	14.9
	Ur L.	17.1	19.0	20.5	20.5	20.1	34.7	33.5	34.7	15.8
	Ur L.	16.4	18.6	18.8	20.0	20.6	36.8	35.3	37.2	13.3
	Ur L.	16.2	19.0	19.3	20.5	20.9	36.7	35.2	37.3	14.3

	Ur L.	16.8	19.4	20.2	19.9	20.1	35.1	32.2	35.2	14.9
	Ur L.	16.3	18.7	19.2	21.2	21.3	36.8	35.1	37.4	14.3

Table S14. Measurements of the third phalanx of *Rangifer tarandus*.

Site	Label	DLS	Ld	MBS
Lumentxa	L.6D.216	43.5	16.4	41.6
Bolinkoba	B.IV.490	45.4	43.4	19.2
Urtiagako Leizea	Ur L.	41.1	41.1	16.3
	Ur L.	40.5	41.0	17.8
	Ur L.	44.2	42.4	18.4
	Ur L.			19.7

Table S15. Measurements of the second lateral phalanx of *Rangifer tarandus*.

Site	Label	DAP	DT	H
Arlanpe	ARL.J21.4.17.50	16.2	8.0	16.8

Table S16. Measurements of the third lateral phalanx of *Rangifer tarandus*.

Site	Label	DAP	DT	H
Lumentxa	L.9G.365	14.8	21.5	25.6
Arlanpe	ARL.H29.3.9.6	14.9	11.9	22.3
	ARL.J24.1.9.6	12.5	8.7	17.5
	ARL.J25.2.2.38	14.3	7.5	18.1
	ARL.J25.2.5.37	16.1	7.9	20.7
	ARL.J20.2.2.21	14.4	8.4	25.0

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3-Supplementary information on taphonomic modifications

3.1-Lumentxa

There is evidence of human processing of some of the reindeer remains found at this site. The distal fragments of metacarpal L.1C.365 and L.9F.230 were fractured when the bone was fresh, and the latter also preserves an impact point. Both of these two fragments display shallow parallel cut-marks interpreted as scraping marks.



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4 Figure S1. Metacarpi from Lumentxa with evidences of fresh bone breakage. L.1C.365
5 in dorsal (a1) and ventral (a2) views of this distal metacarpal fragment. There is
6 evidence of scraping on the ventral surface of the bone (a2, a3). L.9F.230 in dorsal (b1)
7 and ventral (b2) views of this distal metacarpal fragment. The evidence of an impact
8 point is indicated with an arrow. Evidences of scraping on the dorsal surface of the bone
9 (b1, b3).
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12 3.2-Atxuri

14 The external surface of the maxilla Atxi.27C.60 displays multiple cut-marks: most are
15 incisions, but other are scrapings. The mandibular fragment Atxi.25B.10 shows both
16 cut-marks and anthropogenic fracturing. The fracturing of the mandible is related to the
17 extraction of the marrow.
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Figure S2. Lingual view of the Atxi.25B.10 right mandible fragment that preserves the M₃ (a1) and detail of this fossil (a2) showing evidence of incision, scraping and anthropogenic fracturing with percussion, impact points, and a parasitic flake. Lingual view of the left maxilla Atxi.27C.60 (b1) and detail of this fossil (b2) in which it is possible to see multiple cut marks, mainly incisions, but also evidence of scraping. All scale bars = 1 cm.

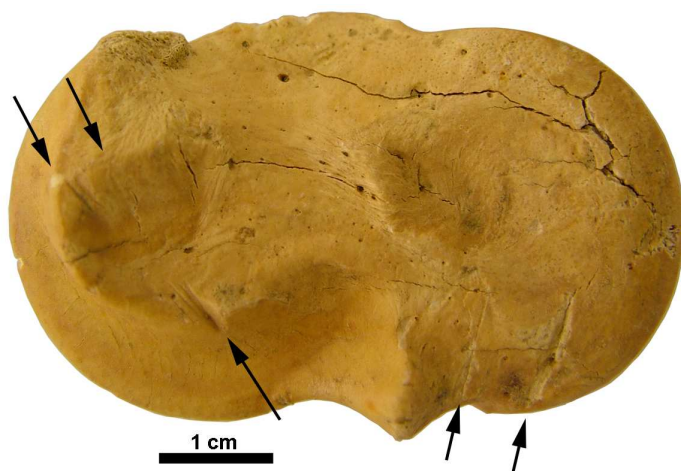
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3.3-Axlor

There are clear cut-marks on the astragalus Ax.7D.60-130.140 probably related to the disarticulation of the tarsal bones. There is also evidence of anthropogenic breakage on the humerus Ax.116.325.113 (morphology of the fracture lines, impact points (see sup. info.). Finally, the mandibular fragments Ax.7E.265 and Ax.7E.245 show evidences of having being burnt.



Figure S3. Posterior view of the distal epiphysis of the humerus Ax.11G.325.113 (a) in which it is possible to see the impact point. Medial view (b) of the humerus in which it is possible to see cut marks related to cutting ligaments during the disarticulation of the foreleg from the radius-ulna.



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Figure S4. Cut-marks on the complete talus Ax.7D.60.130.140. These are short, deep and with a clear “V”-shaped cross-section. These marks are probably related to the disarticulation of the talar bones.

3.4-Arlanpe

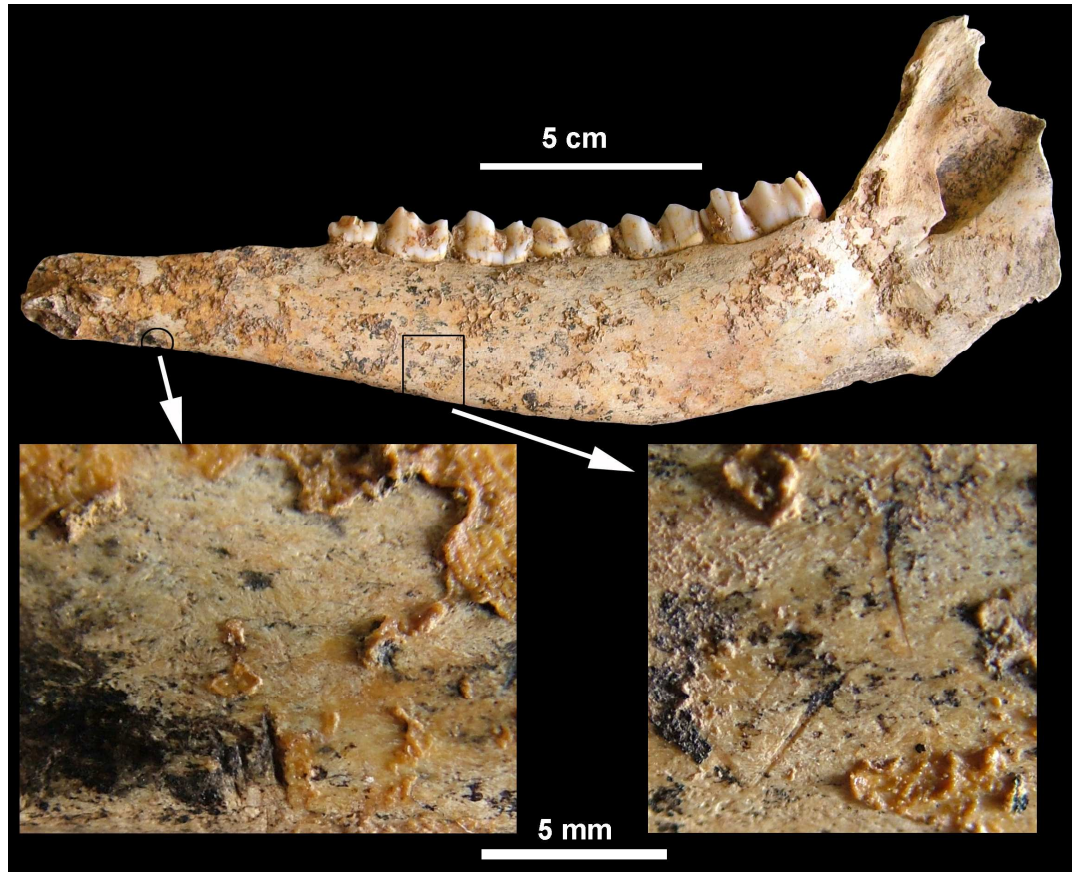


Figure S5. Lingual view of the mandible ARL.I30.3.2.1 in which it is possible to see some possible anthropogenic modifications.

4-Supplementary information on the alleged presence of reindeer in the cave of Armiña

Obermaier (1925) quotes the presence of reindeer in the cave of Armiña (also known as Errecas or Errekas, at Berriatua, province of Biscay; see Altuna, 1972) based on information provided by E. Harlé. He says that the presence of reindeer was provided for the first time by E. Harlé for the sites of Serinyá, Aitzbitarte, Armiña, Valle, Ojebar and Palomas. The cave of Armiña was found when the road between Amoroto and Berriatua was built in the mid 19th century (Adán de Yarza (1892). Gálvez-Cañero (1912) quotes the work by Adán de Yarza (1892) in which both Marqués del Socorro and Ramón Adán de Yarza found a large number of cave bear remains in Armiña (see also Puig y Larraz, 1896). Gálvez-Cañero (1912) believes that these remains were at that time curated at the Natural History Museum of Madrid. In fact, Domingo et al. (2005) have described the faunal remains from the Cantabrian region curated at the Natural History Museum of Madrid, including remains from a cave in Berriatua composed of 58 *Ursus spelaeus* fossils and a horse specimen, that in our opinion correspond to Armiña. Domingo et al. (2005) attribute these remains to either of the two caves described by Altuna (1972) in Berriatua (Atxurra and Goikolau). However, Altuna (1972) also references Armiña in this work. Thus, in the faunal remains found by Marqués del Socorro and Ramón Adán de Yarza there are no reindeer remains. Later, Altuna (1972) dug a test pit in Armiña and mostly found cave bear remains. Harlé (1908a, 1912) certifies the presence of reindeer in Serinyá, Aitzbitarte, Valle, Ojebar and Palomas, but no mention to Armiña is provided, even though at that time Armiña was already known. In our view there is no solid evidence for the presence of reindeer in Armiña, Obermaier quoted Harlé's works but wrongly introduced Armiña into the list attributed to this author.

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