



Taste for colours in Basque country during Upper Palaeolithic - Integrative approach to contextualise rock art.

Claire Chanteraud, Brandi L. Macdonal, Diego Garate, Hélène Salomon, Iñaki Intxaurbe, Veronica Fernandez

► To cite this version:

Claire Chanteraud, Brandi L. Macdonal, Diego Garate, Hélène Salomon, Iñaki Intxaurbe, et al.. Taste for colours in Basque country during Upper Palaeolithic - Integrative approach to contextualise rock art.. 88th annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Mar 2023, Portland, United States. . halshs-04061524

HAL Id: halshs-04061524

<https://shs.hal.science/halshs-04061524>

Submitted on 6 Apr 2023

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.



Distributed under a Creative Commons Attribution - NonCommercial - ShareAlike 4.0 International License



Scientific questions

Is there a shared selection preference for colouring materials across the Gravettian territory in northern Spain?

Are the colouring materials part of a specific chain to produce cave art, or are they part of a cross exploitation for multiple uses?

Materials & Methods

- Four rock art caves: Lumentxa, Ondaro, Morgota, Armiña with cave art & colouring remains in archaeological layers
- Multiscalar observations & analyses: Microscopy (optical, SEM) & geochemistry (LA-ICP-MS)

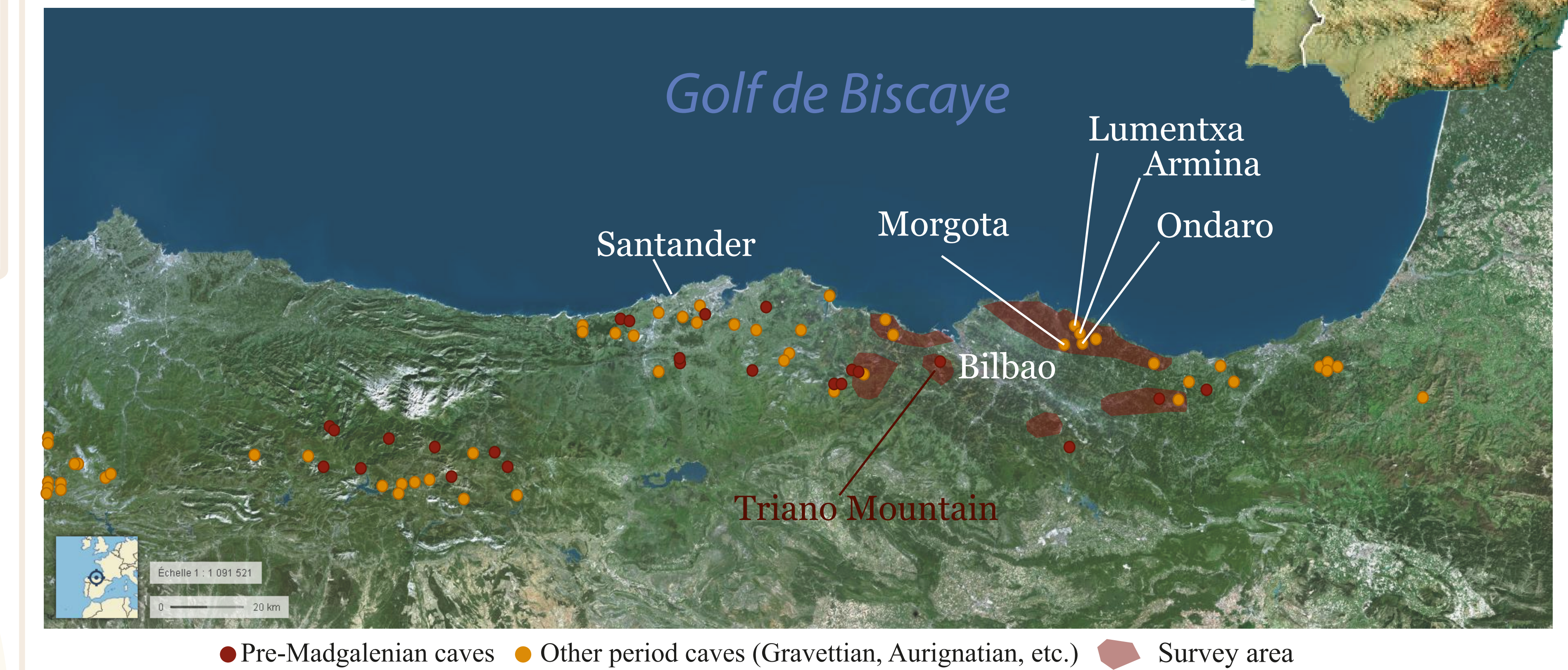
First Results on 4 caves

- 9 different lithologies toward the 4 caves
- Lithology A & D: same material, at different stages of weathering present in the four caves.

A shared taste for a specific material

Geographic & archaeological context

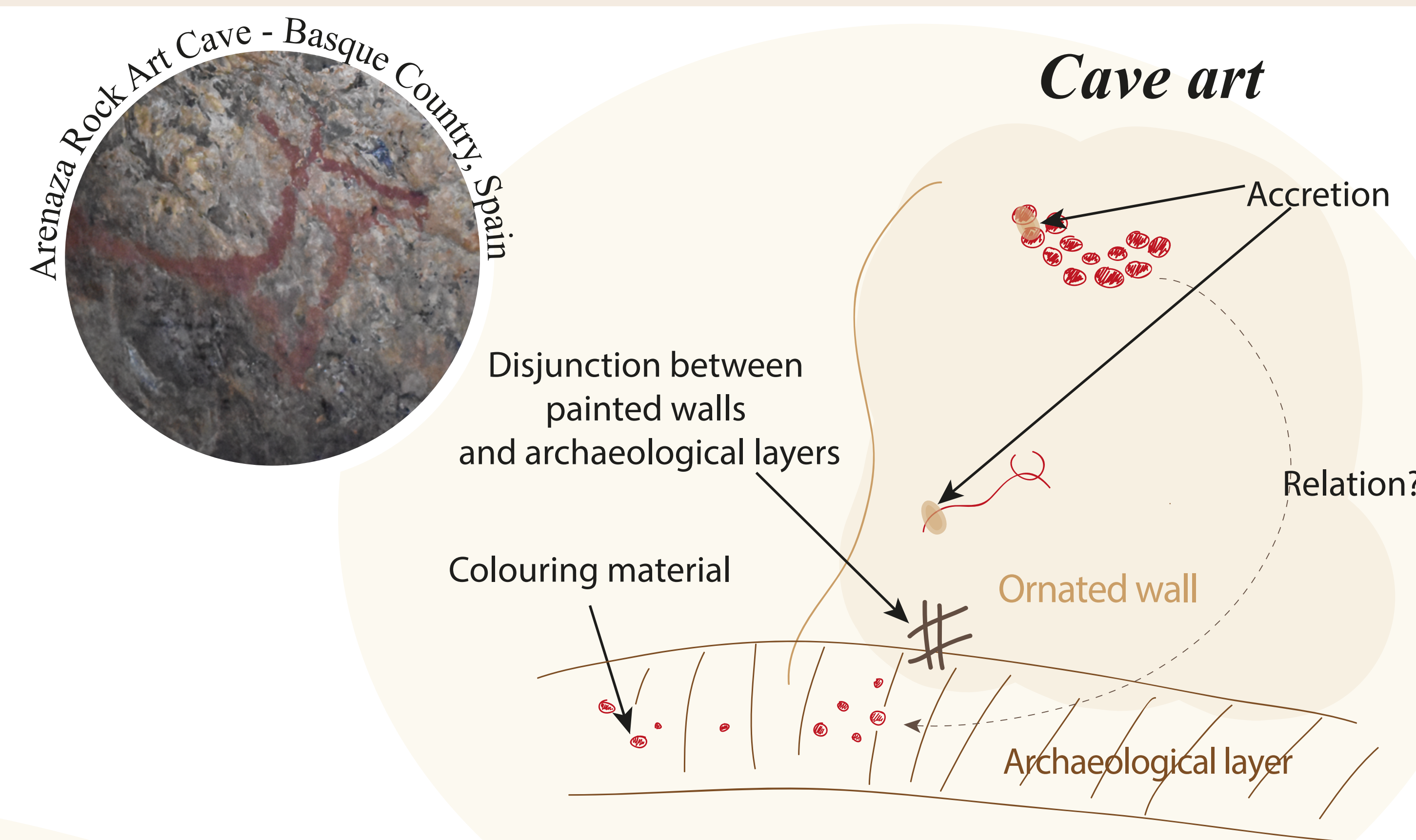
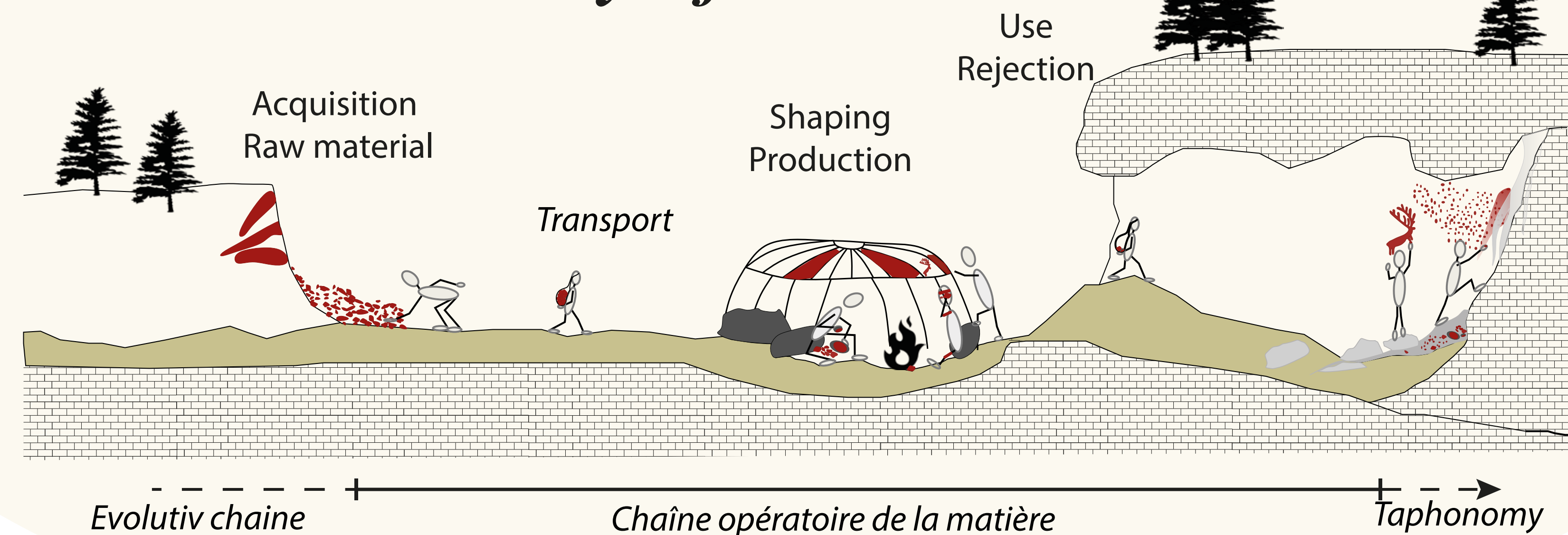
A montaneous area with a high concentration of caves and rock art caves from different prehistoric periods.



A probable hydrothermal origin (local)

Hematite morphology of lithologies A, C & D are compatible with hydrothermal formation.

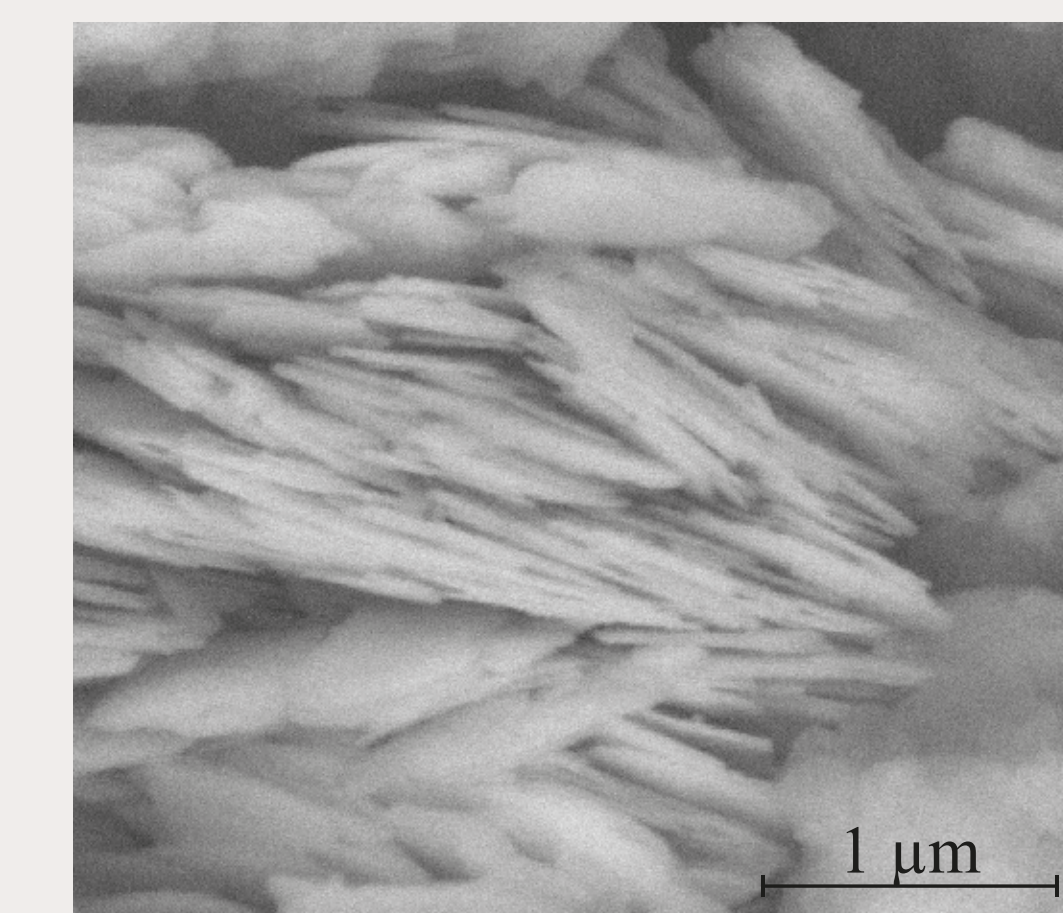
Daily-life activities



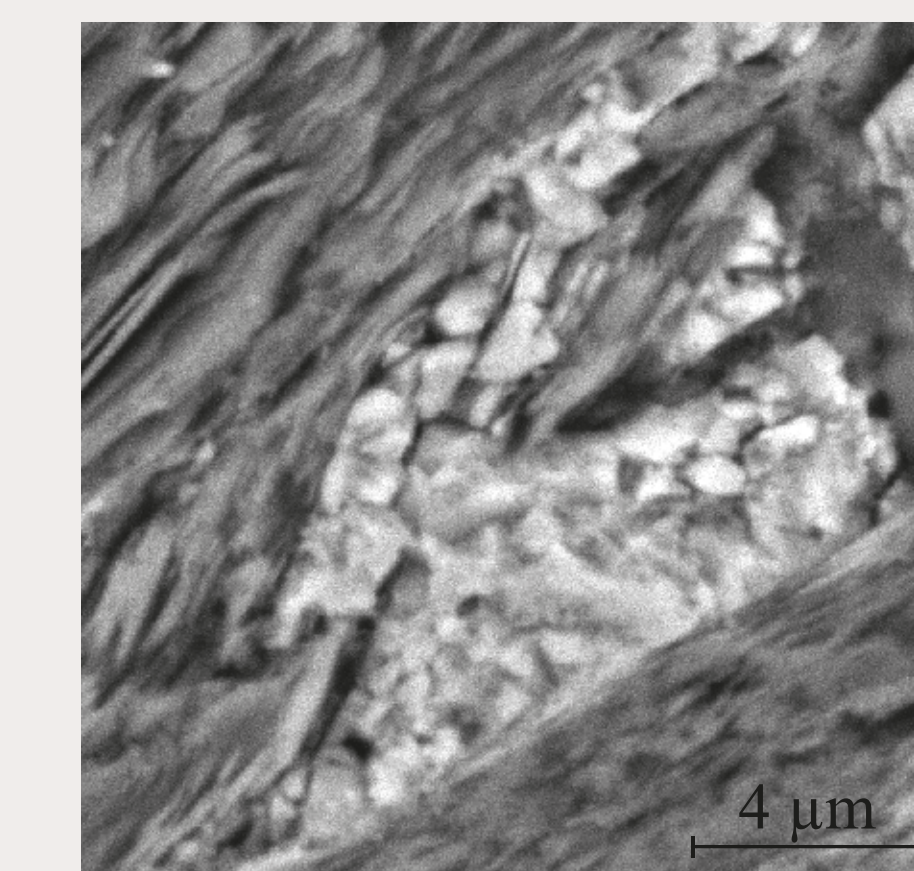
Colouring material as a connector between different contexts (archaeological levels, painted walls) and cultural marker (selection) through the North of Spain.

Mineral landscape

A diversity of formation, rock type and outcrop availability



Armiña lithology D



Hydrothermal reference (Amoroto, Spain)



Hydrothermal Iron rich outcrop on top of the Triano Mountain

Project Prospect

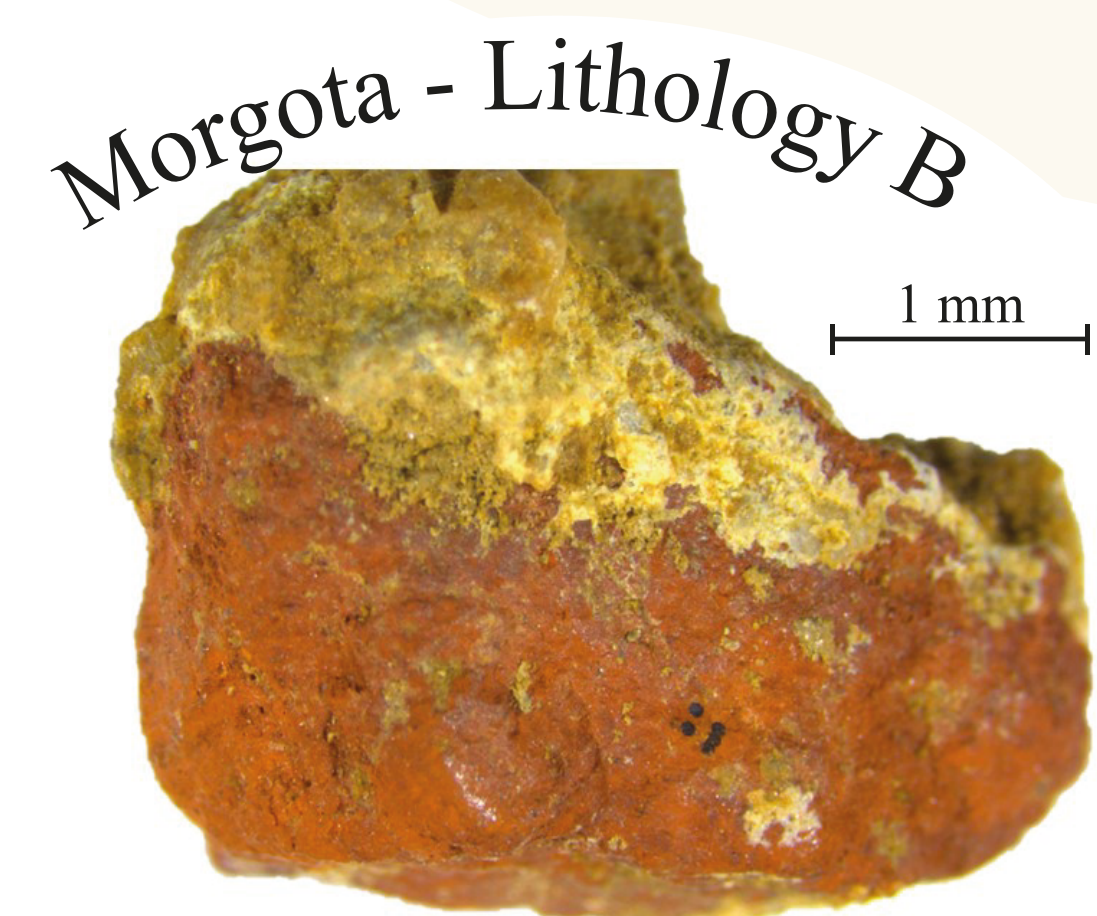
- Expanding the number of caves to cover a bigger area over the Gravettian territory
- Acces to μ-samples from paintings and drawings on the cave's walls to establish links with archaeological layers based on pigment morphology and geochemistry
- Opening the study to induce open air sites

Bibliography

Salomon, et al. 2022. A Geological Collection and Methodology for Tracing the Provenance of Palaeolithic Colouring Matter. JLS, University of Edinburgh, 8 (1)

Garate et al. 2020. Redefining shared symbolic networks during the Gravettian in Western Europe: new data from the rock art findings in Aitzbitarte caves (Northern Spain) ». PloS one 15 (10): e0240481.

Pradeau et al. 2016. Procurement strategies of Neolithic colouring materials: Territoriality and networks from 6th to 5th millennia in North-Western Mediterranean ». J. Archaeolog. Sci. 71: 10-23.



Morgota - Lithology B



Armiña- Lithology A



Ondaro - Lithology D