



SMALL IS INFORMATIVE: THE CASE OF BOIS-ROCHE (CHERVES-RICHEMONT, CHARENTE)

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ABSTRACT

Excavation and analysis of the Bois-Roche very large and well-preserved faunal assemblage accumulated by hyenas have allowed us to evaluate and improve diagnostic criteria for recognizing the effects of carnivores on fossil bone accumulations and for distinguishing between occasional visitors and the principal inhabitant of an apparently mixed human-carnivore site. I summarize the site's characteristics, stratigraphy and age, describe our excavation and analytical procedures, discuss the main features of the assemblage and present the major scientific results of the project. These results are important for prehistoric archaeology because many cave sites in Europe dated to Middle and Upper Pleistocene have been occupied by humans and carnivores in alternation and is often quite difficult to know what the work of each was and who was the main bone accumulator and the main site inhabitant.

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