Raw materials exploitation in Prehistory: sourcing, processing and distribution

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Book of abstracts of the Raw materials exploitation in Prehistory: sourcing, processing and distribution meeting

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Chaînes Opératoires and lithic raw materials procurement of the Mousterian occupation in Abrigo del Molino (Segovia, Spain)

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In this paper we present the state of the Arts of the research on the lithic raw material procurement and its use in specific Chaînes Opératoires in this site.

Abrigo del Molino is located in the upper part of Eresma river valley (Segovia, Spain), in the northern slope of Central System mountain range. The site is being excavated since 2013 and it contains a wide stratigraphy in which three Mousterian occupation levels have been found, with a chronology between 40 and 60 Ka.

The lithological variety of the upper basin of Eresma favors the presence of a remarkable variety of rocks and minerals in its bed, which have been used for different purposes in the Chaînes Opératoires developed by different Neanderthal groups in the rockshelter. Morphology, hardness, size or the facility to be knapped of everyone of these materials have made the different raw materials appropriate for different objectives.

The presence of endogenous and exogenous materials, together with the selection of them, according to their characteristics, shows a high degree of selection and planning of the activities carried out in Abrigo del Molino.