

**YubaNet.com****"I never give them hell. I just tell the truth and they think it's hell." - Harry Truman**

 Latest
  Regional
  Govt. Meetings
  CA
  US
  World
  Columns
  Op-Ed
  Sci/Tech
  Life
  Odr

## Climate change was the cause of Neanderthal extinction in the Iberian Peninsula

**Results show that the Neanderthal extinction could have been greatly determined by environmental and climate changes and not by competitiveness with modern humans.**

By: Universidad de Granada

Published: May 1, 2007 at 07:14

[Email this article](#)[Printer friendly page](#)

Climate – and not modern humans – was the cause of the Neanderthal extinction in the Iberian Peninsula. Such is the conclusion of the University of Granada research group RNM 179 - Mineralogy and Geochemistry of sedimentary and metamorphic environments, headed by professor Miguel Ortega Huertas and whose members Francisco Jose Jimenez Espejo, Francisca Martinez Ruiz and David Gallego Torres work jointly at the department of Mineralogy and Petrology of the University of Granada (Universidad de Granada) and the Andalusian Regional Institute of Earth Sciences (CSIC-UGR).

Together with other scientists from the Gibraltar Museum, Stanford University and the Japan Marine Science & Technology Center (JAMSTEC), the Spanish scientists published in the scientific journal Quaternary Science Reviews an innovative work representing a considerable step forward in the knowledge of human ancestral history.

The results of this multidisciplinary research are an important contribution to the understanding of the Neanderthal extinction and the colonisation of the European continent by Homo Sapiens.

During the last Ice Age, the Iberian Peninsula was a refuge for Neanderthals, who had survived in local pockets during previous Ice Ages, bouncing back to Europe when weather conditions improved.

### Climate reconstructions

The study is based upon climate reconstructions elaborated from marine records and using the experience of Spanish and international research groups on Western Mediterranean paleoceanography. The conclusions point out that Neanderthal populations did suffer fluctuations related to climate changes before the first Homo Sapiens arrived in the Iberian Peninsula. Cold, arid and highly variable climate was the least favourable weather for Neanderthals and 24,000 years ago they had to face the worst weather conditions in the last 250,000 years.

The most important about these data is that they differ from the current scientific paradigm which makes Homo Sapiens responsible for the Neanderthal extinction. This work is a contribution to a new scientific current – led by Dr. Clive Finlayson, from the Gibraltar Museum – according to which Neanderthal isolation and, possibly, extinction were due to environmental factors.

These studies on climate variability are part of the work of the group RNM 179, funded by the excellence project RNM 0432 of the Andalusian Regional Government's Department for Innovation, Science and Business and by the MARCAL project of the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science, both linked to the Andalusian Environment Centre (CEAMA - Centro Andaluz de Medio Ambiente).



### Search

Entire Site

[Advanced Search](#)

Get the YubaNet email newsletter  
latest regional news  
more

your email

### News Headlines

[More recycling could reduce problems](#)

[Global Survey Reveals](#)

[New Species Off the Coast](#)

[Amphibians in with environment](#)

[Climate change of Neanderthals in the Iberian Peninsula](#)

[Urbanization Sedentary Mammals](#)

[New VERITAS May Help Find](#)

[Brain shrink in War syndrom](#)

[Arctic ice retreats quickly than expected project](#)

[FDA/USDA Update on Animal Feed](#)