



Cave of La Chėnelaz (Hostias, Ain, France). The large Mammals of the layer 6b

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More than 3600 remains of large Mammals have been discovered in layer 6b of the cave of La Chenelaz, about 33'000 years ago. The identified taxa belong to the orders of Insectivora, Carnivora, Lagomorpha, Rodentia, Perissodactyla and Artiodactyla. The Carnivora are the most numerous with 38% of the remains. At this time, the cave was occupied by bears (cave bears mainly and brown bears) which hibernated there. Alternatively, it was a lair for hyaenas and wolves, who raised their cubs there and brought their preys (Perissodactyla and Artiodactyla mainly), and smaller Carnivora like the red fox or the pine marten. Many of the studied species indicate a warm and woody climate. Some remains belong to the porcupine. The genus *Hystrix* is present in Europe during the Pleistocene but is always scarce. No trace of human occupation was discovered in layer 6b.

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Liens

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