First approximation to the Gravettian shell bead assemblage from Cova Foradada

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1. INTRODUCTION

Foradada Cave is a **small karst** developed in the Miocene calcarenite formations of the Catalan Mediterranean coastline.
The technotypology and the first chronological reports place the occupations along the **Middle-to-Upper Palaeolithic transition**, from the Châtelperronian to Early Gravettian (Morales et al., 2016)

Selection of ornaments from layer III

2. MATERIALS

All the shell beads appeared concentrated in a surface of less than 2m². A direct AMS C14 on an *H. sanguineum* date the layer III in ca. 30 kyr BP, relating the assemblage to the **Early Gravettian**.

3. METHODS

The traces of perforation and the suspension techniques have been determined by **digital microscopy**, making possible to work at both high and low augments and able to perform **3D models**.
The pigment residues have been analyzed using an Environmental Scanning Electron Microscope (**ESEM**) (Fig.7) by Energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- Assemblage formed during a **single moment** of abandonment
- Mainly, selection of **small** and **globular** supports
- Detection of **perforation patterns** only in the globular shell beads
- **Functional** use of **ochre**, to immobilize the strings fibres

4. RESULTS

SHAPE
computer package
program
(Iwata & Ukai, 2002)

Preference for **globular morphologies** **85%**

Using a **mixture** of **ocher** to fix the strings?

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