

Presentation of the supplementary information file for:

Alice Leplongeon, “The main Nile Valley at the end of the Pleistocene (28-15 ka): corridor of dispersal or environmental refugium?”, submitted to *Frontiers in Earth Sciences*.

This supplementary information is composed of four files:

- **SupplInfo1a.pdf** (this file) – presentation of supplementary information
- **SupplInfo1b-SITES.csv** – raw dataset of all archaeological sites considered in the manuscript
- **SupplInfo1c-DATES.csv** – raw dataset of all dates associated with the archaeological sites considered in the manuscript
- **SupplInfo1d-DATES.pdf** – same as SupplInfo1c-DATES but in pdf to enhance data visualization

SupplInfo1b-SITES

In this csv file, you will find an inventory of sites attributed to the Late Palaeolithic.

Data collection method (see also section 4.2 of the manuscript):

This inventory was constituted in parallel with the creation of the database for the ‘Big Dry’ Project funded by the French National Research Agency (ANR).

Site: What is defined as a site, particularly when dealing with surface material in desert areas, is a matter of debate. In the frame of this paper, the designation used by the excavators was kept. Only in the case of sites with different areas of the site (localities) assigned to different cultural entities were these areas considered as separate sites. For example, site 8905 is divided in several localities, but all are attributed to the Qadan, and it was thus considered as a single site. On the contrary, site E71P1, located in the Edfu area consisted of material collected at four arbitrarily-defined localities, two of which were later attributed to the Kubbanian and two others to the Levallois Idfuan. In this study, E71P1 is therefore considered as two sites. Only sites with an – even limited – description of the context (location, geological description) were considered. This resulted for example in the exclusion from the database of the surface occurrences in the Nile Delta surveyed in the first part of the 20th century and mentioned above, as no description of the geological setting of the sites is available. Similarly, and despite the presence of geological descriptions, the seminal work of E. Vignard in the plain of Kom Ombo could not be included in the database as Vignard’s survey methods do not allow the identification of sites. Sites where only surface and limited subsurface material was found (usually within ten centimetres below the surface) were considered as having only one ‘archaeological’ layer. Only in the case of sites with stratified evidence for multiple layers, were sites divided into two or more archaeological layers. Absolute dates associated with the archaeological layers were also systematically collected in the database.

The csv file includes the following information:

- SITE (site denomination)
- REGION (site region)
- COUNTRY (site country)
- LAT (approximative latitude)
- LONG (approximative longitude)
- FAKHURIAN, GEMAIAN, KUBBANIYAN, HALFAN, BALLANAN-SILSILIAN, QADAN, AFIAN, ISNAN, SEBILIAN, LEVALLOIS IDFUAN, SHUWIKHATIAN, LATE PAL – OTHER (Late Palaeolithic - other cultural entities, or undefined).

These are the different industries or cultural entities defined for the Late Palaeolithic in the Nile Valley. Numbers indicate the number of archaeological layers attributed to one or more of these entities per site (see also Tables 2 and 3 of the manuscript).

- BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE (main bibliographical references for each site in author-date format, see below for full references)

SupplInfo1c-DATES.csv and SupplInfo1d-DATES.pdf

These two files present all collected absolute dates associated with Late Palaeolithic contexts in two different formats (.csv to facilitate data use and queries; .pdf to facilitate data visualisation).

It includes the following information:

- REF DATE (Date reference)
- SITE
- REGION
- PERIOD (LatePal: Late Palaeolithic or LateUpperPal: Late Upper Palaeolithic)
- CULTURAL ENTITY (attribution to a specific cultural entity or broadly to the Late Palaeolithic (LatePal). Question marks are noted when attribution is questioned)
- ARCHAEOLOGY (Is the date coming from a layer containing archaeological material ? Yes / No)
- DATE (BP, Before Present)
- ERROR (Error margin associated with the date, \pm)
- CALBPfrom, CALBPto - Calibrated ranges for the date, calculated using Intcal20 (Reimer et al., in press) and CALIB 8.1 (Stuiver & Reimer, 1993)
- CONF INT (Confidence Interval for the calibrated range). All dates were calibrated using two-sigma ranges (95.4% for the confidence interval)

- CAL. CURVE (Calibration curve, Intcal20 (Reimer et al., in press))
- MATERIAL DATED
- DATING METHOD (14C = radiocarbon, OSL = Optically Stimulated Luminescence, TL = Thermoluminescence)
- DATING METHOD PRECISION (blank = conventional radiocarbon method, AMS = Accelerator Mass Spectrometry, OSL-SAR = Optically Stimulated Luminescence, single-aliquot regenerative-dose protocol)
- COUNTRY (Country of the site where the dated sample comes from)
- SAMPLE LOC (Sample Localization)
- SEDIMENTARY DESCRIPTION (of the layer where the sample comes from)
- REMARKS STRATIGRAPHY (Remarks on the layer where the sample comes from)
- SAMPLE ADDITIONAL INFO (Additional information on the dated sample, e.g., precision on its localisation)
- FIELDWORK DATES (corresponding to when the layer where the sample comes from was excavated)
- EXCAVATING TEAM (which project excavated the layer where the dated sample was recovered)
- REFERENCES (general bibliographical references for the site and the layer where the dated sample comes from)
- REFERENCES DATES (specific bibliographical references for the published date)
- REMARKS DATES
- INCLUDED IN FINAL DATASET (Yes, No. All samples with 'YES' were considered in the study, e.g., see figures 4 and 5 of the manuscript. All samples with 'NO' were not included in the final dataset and the reason why is given in the next column)
- REASON FOR DATE REJECTION (Reason why the date was not included in the dataset used in the manuscript. Reasons include unclear association with archaeological material, indirect association with archaeological material (thus giving minimal or maximal ages), suspicion of contamination, problematic dated material (e.g. carbonate), dates with a too great error margin (arbitrary limit fixed at 1000 years).

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