

The Late Neandertal permanent lower left third premolar from Walou Cave (Trooz, Belgium) and its context

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### **Abstract**

**Objectives:** We describe a hominin permanent lower left third premolar unearthed in 1997 at

Walou Cave (Belgium), in association with Mousterian industries, in a layer confidently dated to 40-38,000 years BP.

**Materials and Methods:** The taxonomical attribution of the tooth is addressed through comparative morphometric analyses, and stable isotope analyses aim to depict the diet of the individual.

**Results:** The morphometric assessments of the Walou P<sub>3</sub> plot within the Neandertal distribution and are significantly different from recent modern humans. The Walou individual acquired its dietary proteins from terrestrial food sources.

**Discussion:** We discuss the implications of the existence of a clearly Neandertal premolar dating to the Middle to Upper Paleolithic transition in the Meuse river basin.

In recent decades, research and debate have been devoted to the Middle to Upper Paleolithic transition (MUPT) in Western Eurasia, and to the Neandertal replacement by modern humans between 40,000 and 35,000 BP (e.g., Hublin, 2015; Richter, 2016). These topics involve related issues such as the possible chronological overlap and interbreeding between both groups, the existence of refuge areas for late Neandertals, the association between lithic technocomplexes and hominins (e.g., Green et al., 2010; Higham et al., 2014; Nigst et al., 2014; Fu et al., 2016).

Recently, interdisciplinary reassessment of the Spy and Goyet anthropological collections involving new direct AMS dating suggested a late survival of Neandertals in the Belgian Meuse Basin up to 36,000 BP (Toussaint and Pirson, 2006; Semal et al., 2009; see Table S1 for calibration of the dates). From an archeological perspective, the most recent Middle Paleolithic occupations of the area date back to 40-38,000 BP (Di Modica et al., 2016). The earliest reliable ages of the Belgian Aurignacian are around 33,500-32,000 BP (Flas, 2015). A possible transitional facies between the Middle Paleolithic and the Aurignacian has also been recognized as the Lincombian-Ranisian-Jerzmanowician (LRJ; Flas, 2011). However, the relationship between material cultures and the Northwestern Europe hominin fossils is not always clear.

In this context, excavations at Walou Cave allowed the study of a sequence covering the Late Pleistocene, with several layers yielding archeological artifacts as well as a hominin premolar.

### **Context of the Walou tooth**

Walou Cave (Trooz, Province of Liège, Belgium), in the Meuse River Basin (Fig. S1), is composed

of a terrace and a narrow cave opening in Visean limestones. It was excavated twice: from 1985 to 1990 (Dewez, 2008), and from 1996 to 2004 (Draily, 2011).

The hominin tooth (WA97 G24-120) was found in 1997 in Layer CI-8. It was identified during the sorting of the paleontological collections. It had however been positioned in stratigraphy and in three dimensions during fieldwork (Fig. S1; Draily et al., 1999).

***The stratigraphic sequence and paleoenvironment of Walou Cave.*** The local topography transformed Walou Cave into a sedimentary trap. It was possible, by integrating all the stratigraphic lateral variations, to reconstruct its sedimentogenesis and a synthetic sequence (~12 m), with 50 stratigraphic units distributed into 10 sedimentary cycles. Thirteen climatic improvements were identified across the sequence. Here we will only focus on Layer CI-8, where the tooth was found, as well as under- and overlying units, respectively CII-1 and CI7/6 (Pirson et al., 2011; Fig. S2; Text SI 1).

Mettre en supplementary data, pas important ici

**Chronostratigraphy.** The sequence of Walou Cave ranges from the end of the Middle Pleistocene to the Holocene (Fig. S2; Pirson et al., 2011).

Cycle CI belongs to the Weichselian Middle Pleniglacial (MIS 3). The layer CII-1, directly underlying CI-8, is a paleosol which might be equivalent to “Les Vaux” Soil. This correlation is fully compatible with the stratigraphic position of CII-1 at Walou and is reinforced by several dates framing Unit CII-1. It provides a *terminus post-quem* for the Neandertal tooth and the associated Middle Paleolithic material, which would therefore be younger than 40,000 BP (details in Text SI 2).

**Lithic artifacts.** Walou Cave yielded an important series of prehistoric lithic industries ranging from the Middle Paleolithic to the Upper Paleolithic and finally to the Mesolithic and Neolithic (Draily, 2011). Layer CI-8, where the hominin tooth comes from, yielded 1280 Mousterian flint artefacts (See detail in Text SI 3, Table S2 & Fig. S3). The core reduction technique is essentially unifacial, unipolar and centripetal centered on an important production of backed pieces.

## Materials and methods

The Walou tooth is a well preserved mandibular left third premolar (P<sub>3</sub>), with a complete crown and a taphonomically broken root (apical third broken; Fig. 1). The Walou P<sub>3</sub> is compared to samples of Neandertals, Middle Paleolithic early (MP-EMH), Upper Paleolithic (UP-MH) and recent (RMH)

modern humans from historical periods (Table S3).

Seven morphological features of the occlusal surface were scored according to the ASUDA System (Turner et al., 1991) supplemented by Bailey (2002) and Martín-Torres et al. (2012). The MD (mesio-distal) and BL (bucco-lingual) dental crown diameters of the Walou P<sub>3</sub> are compared to the groups described above using univariate analyses (adjusted z-score; Azs) and bivariate graphs. The occlusal outline of the Walou premolar was also studied using a 2D geometric morphometric approach (Mitteroecker and Gunz, 2009; Gómez-Robles et al., 2008; Text SI 4).

The actual root length was measured on the lingual side of the tooth. Furthermore, an estimation of the missing portion of the root apical third was made on the  $\mu$ CT data (Text SI 5) for comparison with the data provided by Bailey (2005).

Finally, we undertook isotopic dietary analysis of collagen extracted from a dentine sample taken from the Walou tooth to determine the main sources of protein in the individual's diet (Texts SI 4 and 6).

## Results

***Morphological and metric description of the Walou P<sub>3</sub>***. The tooth is a permanent mandibular left P<sub>3</sub> (Figs. 1, 2 and S 4) that likely belonged to an adult given its stage of occlusal wear.

[Figures 1 and 2 here]

Its crown has a bucco-lingual diameter of 9.3 mm and a mesio-distal diameter of 7.9 mm (Table 2). The bucco-lingual and mesio-distal diameters at the cervix are 8.1 mm and 5.6 mm. The height of the crown, measured on the vestibular face, is 9.0 mm, and 8.3 mm on the lingual face.

The premolar is two-cusped, without any accessory lingual cusplet (premolar lingual cusp variation ASUDAS 0). The crown is somewhat triangular in outline, the lingual half being smaller than the buccal.

The protoconid is heavily worn and shows an exposed dentine surface which draws a narrow and mesio-distally elongated triangular area (stage 3 after Molnar, 1971). The metaconid is by contrast almost unworn. In spite of the strong occlusal wear, the protoconid was much higher than the metaconid as it is generally the case in third mandibular premolars. Two interproximal wear facets

are present on the mesial and distal faces of the crown and are slightly concave in occlusal view. The distal interproximal facet (4.8 mm × 3.3 mm) exhibits five sub-vertical grooves, the three most buccal ones being deeper and longer. There is no groove on the mesial facet (3.1 mm × 3.4 mm).

Two strong essential crests run from the protoconid and metaconid tips toward the center of the crown where they joined each other, forming a transverse crest that is continuous and not interrupted by the groove (grade 2 of Martín-Torres et al., 2012). The crest is also present at the EDJ where it connects the base of the protoconid to the apex of the metaconid (Fig. S5). The mesial and distal foveae lie on both sides of this crest and are themselves limited by thick marginal crests. The mesial fovea forms a long bucco-lingual groove that does not extend on the lingual face of the crown (no mesio-lingual groove or MLG; grade 0 of Bailey, 2002; Table 1). From the distal fovea, two small grooves run along the lingual side of the buccal cusp, and limit a distal accessory ridge (grade 1 of Bailey, 2002; Martín-Torres et al., 2012). This accessory crest is also well developed at the EDJ (Fig. S5). The buccal face of the crown is strongly convex, both vertically in lateral view and mesio-distally in occlusal view and bulges close to the cervix. The strong convexity of the buccal face of the protoconid, together with the location of the exposed dentine shows that the tip of the protoconid was projected lingually close to the metaconid. As a result, the occlusal polygon (see Gómez-Robles et al., 2008) was small and lingually placed. In addition, the metaconid is slightly distally displaced relative to the protoconid and the talonid is small. The mesial part of the lingual outline is longer than the distal part (estimating the part that is obscured by the interproximal facet) and shows a slight inflection at the level of the mesial fossa. All these features give the crown outline an asymmetric shape.

On both interproximal sides, the cervical line is more convex towards the occlusal plane, especially on the mesial side (Fig. 1).

The tooth has a single and broken root, which was likely completely formed, and approximately one third of it is currently missing (Figs. 1, 2, S4 and S35). The fracture is ancient and of taphonomic origin. The breakage follows an oblique plan that slopes buccally and distally from top to bottom. The root deflects distally and exhibits a rather flat mesio-distal section. There are two shallow mesial and distal developmental grooves (Fig. S6).

***Comparative analyses and taxonomical attribution of the Walou P<sub>3</sub>***. Four out of the seven morphological discrete traits scored on Walou correspond to a pattern that is more frequently observed in Neandertals and Pleistocene modern humans (MP-EMH + UP-MH) than among RMH (Table 1). These involve the presence of a distal accessory ridge (DAR) and a transverse crest

(TRCR), an asymmetric occlusal outline (ASYM) and an absence of a mesial location of the metaconid (MET-MES). The combination of these features aligns Walou with the Pleistocene samples.

For three traits, Walou shows a configuration that is slightly more frequent in Pleistocene EMH than in Neandertals (absence of MAR, MLC and MLG; Text SI 4, Table 1). MAR is however found in all groups with rather low frequencies, even though it occurs more often in Neandertals than on Pleistocene modern humans according to Bailey (2006; 23.5% vs 10%) but not according to Martín-Torres et al., 2012 (4.8% vs 8.3%). Its absence on Walou thus does not bring much indication regarding its taxonomy. Similarly, an absence of multiple lingual cusps is found in all Pleistocene groups at rather high frequencies, including Neandertals (79.4% according to Bailey, 2006 and 54.5% for Martín-Torres et al., 2012).

The presence of a transverse crest, as seen on Walou, has also been observed on both Neandertals and Pleistocene modern humans at a very high frequency and does not discriminate the taxa (Table 1). The same is true for the presence of a distal accessory ridge according to Bailey (2002, 2006), whereas according to Martín-Torres et al. (2012), this trait is much more frequent in Neandertals (90%, n = 20) than in Pleistocene modern humans (47 %, n = 15).

Finally, the occlusal outline asymmetry, although frequent in all Pleistocene group, is the most discriminating trait, observed in 94% of the Neandertals, 75% of the MP-EMH and only 56% of the UP-MH. For this particular trait, Walou aligns better with Neandertals.

[Table 1 here]

As for geometric morphometric analyses, the occlusal anatomy of the Walou P<sub>3</sub> plots on the area of the morphospace occupied by other Neandertals in the shape PCA (Fig. 3a). This area, however, overlaps with part of the range of distribution of modern humans. When looking at size-shape space, however, both species are much more clearly separated, in part because Neandertal premolars are larger than modern human's, but also because of the shape changes associated with these differences in size (Fig. 3b). The shape PCA and the size-shape PCA show a change in the patterns of occlusal variation explained by PC1 and PC2, mostly because the changes associated with PC2 in the shape PCA are those that are associated with size variation in the size-shape PCA, and are then recovered by PC1 in the latter analysis. Regardless of these changes in the structure of the morphospace, Neandertal P<sub>3</sub>s tend to have a reduced and lingually located occlusal polygon (the area enclosed by

the lines connecting the four landmarks) and a slightly asymmetric configuration that contrasts with the larger occlusal polygon of modern human P<sub>3</sub>s and their more symmetric shape (Gómez-Robles et al., 2008). The Neandertal features are clearly present in the premolar from Walou, which shows a reduced and lingually placed occlusal polygon and a general asymmetric shape. These features drive the classification of this premolar as a Neandertal with high probability when based on shape variation (92.4% of probability to be classified as a Neandertal) and on size-shape variation (99.7% of probability to be classified as Neandertal). Together, these results strongly support a Neandertal classification for this specimen.

[Figure 3 here]

[Table 2 here]

The adjusted z-scores associated with the dental crown measurements show that the MD diameter of Walou (7.9 mm) falls well within the Neandertal range of variation (Table 2, Fig. S7), very close to the average of early Neandertal (EN) and in the upper half of the range of variation of late Neandertals (LN). This diameter is also included in the variation of our MP-EMH and UP-MH samples, but remains high compared to the UP-MH average and range of variation. It is excluded from the RMH range. The BL diameter (9.3 mm) is high and falls in the upper half of the Neandertal and MP-EMH ranges. It is excluded from the UP-MH and RMH ranges. Overall, the BL diameter is rather high relative to the MD diameter when compared to EN and MP-EMH, and therefore the crown index falls in the upper half of their range of variation. This index is however very close to the LN and UP-MH mean, showing similar crown proportions to these late Pleistocene samples. The crown base area is high, close to the EN mean, in the upper half of the LN and MP-EMH ranges and excluded from the UP-MH and RMH ranges of variation. On the bivariate plot (Figs. 4 and S7), the Walou tooth falls well within the late Neandertal 95% confidence ellipses, just outside that of UP-MH, and well outside the RMH range.

[Figure 4 here]

Although the root of the Walou P<sub>3</sub> is broken, its length has been measured on the lingual side of the original specimen: 11.2 mm (Table 3). The amount of missing root was estimated in two ways. First, based on its morphology and by comparison to a series of other Neandertal P<sub>3</sub>, the missing part of the Walou root was estimated on the real specimen to a minimum of 5 mm, yielding a minimal length of 16.2 mm, which falls close to the Neandertal mean but at the upper limit of the UPMH. Second, on 2D slices (from the conventional  $\mu$ CT-scans) of the root in the labio-lingual and in the mesio-distal

planes of section (Fig. S8), the missing root was estimated and drawn based on the angle of the walls of the pulp chamber and on the thickness of the dentine walls at the broken tip. This yields an average estimation of 7 mm of broken root, and thus a 17 mm total root length, which also falls closer to the Neandertal mean documented by Bailey (2005). These estimations provide a third additional indication that would move Walou closer to Neandertals than to UP-MH.

[Table 3]

***Carbone and nitrogen isotope analysis.*** The collagen was not well preserved in the Walou P<sub>3</sub> and we did not obtain any useable collagen in the >30 kDa fraction usually used for radiocarbon dating and isotope analysis. We then further ultrafiltered the smaller fraction and obtained collagen from in the 10 to 30 kDa fraction that we were then able to measure the carbon and nitrogen isotopes from. This collagen fraction had a  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  value of -22.6 ‰ and a  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  value of 9.3 ‰. The extract had a C:N ratio of 3.4 and a %C value of 22.4% and a %N value of 7.6%. The >10 kDa fraction was much more poorly preserved, and had a C:N ratio of 4.5 which is outside of the acceptable range for collagen (DeNiro, 1985) so we did not include the isotope data from this fraction here.

The carbon isotope value of -22.6 ‰ from the 10 to 30 kDa fraction indicates that the specimen obtained most of its dietary protein from terrestrial food sources. Without contemporary faunal collagen nitrogen isotope data from Walou cave, we cannot definitively interpret the nitrogen isotope value. This is because the nitrogen isotope values of mammals (especially herbivores) do fluctuate over time (Richards and Hedges, 2003) so it is necessary to compare the Neanderthal value to contemporary fauna to use it to determine trophic position. However, the value of 9.3 ‰ obtained for Walou is similar to nitrogen isotope values of other contemporary Neandertals from Northern Europe (Richards and Trinkaus, 2009) as well as the Neandertal dredged from the North Sea just off the coast of Belgium (Hublin et al., 2009), which had  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values of 10.1‰ (>30 kDa fraction) and 10.2 ‰ (10-30 kDa fraction). It is, however, quite different from the Neandertals from the sites of Goyet and Spy, Belgium (Wißing et al. 2016), which have higher  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values (~11 ‰).

## Discussion

The Walou premolar exhibits a combination of morphological features and metrics that align it with the Pleistocene samples and distinguish it from recent humans. The scored morphological features of

its occlusal surface are compatible with both Neandertals and EMH. However, its overall topography, with a small and lingually displaced occlusal polygon and an asymmetric lingual outline, is typically not observed in modern human P<sub>3</sub>s, but it is frequently shown by premolars within the Neandertal lineage. In addition, its dental metrics also position Walou among Neandertals. These results add to other evidence that Neandertals were still present in the Meuse Valley after 40,000 BP, producing Mousterian lithic artifacts.

The Belgian Meuse Basin is of high interest when studying the MUPT as well as the replacement of Neandertals by early modern humans. Firstly, this small area has yielded dozens of archeological sites from this period (Flas, 2015; Di Modica et al., 2016). Secondly, it is rich in hominin remains. In addition to Walou, seven other caves of the area yielded Pleistocene fossils, mostly Neandertals (Toussaint and Pirson, 2014). At least four of these seven sites can be related to Late Middle Paleolithic. Anatomically modern humans were also recently identified in the 19<sup>th</sup> century collections from Goyet Cave and were dated from Aurignacian to Magdalenian (Posth et al., 2016). Thirdly, some of these sites have been the subject of recent interdisciplinary studies: Scladina, Walou, Couvin and Trou Al'Wesse in karstic environment (Bonjean et al., 2014; Draily, 2011; Miller et al., 2011), and Maisières-Canal and Veldwezelt-Hezerwater in open-air environments (Miller et al., 2004; Bringmans, 2006). In addition other sites excavated in the 19<sup>th</sup> century have also recently benefited from new studies including AMS radiocarbon dates, such as for Spy and Goyet (Rougier and Semal, 2013; Rougier et al., 2016).

At the scale of the immediately neighboring regions, there are very few possible comparisons, as most of the sites that yielded Neandertal and UP-MH remains are older excavations without a reliable chronostratigraphic context.

When integrating all the available datasets, the following temporal pattern emerges in the Meuse Basin and surrounding areas, from 45,000 BP onwards. Before this time, several Middle Paleolithic sites are known (Text SI 7).

From 45,000 to 40,000 BP, Neandertal remains are represented in two caves from the Meuse Basin. The first is Couvin, where a Neandertal dm<sub>2</sub> is associated with late Middle Paleolithic (Toussaint et al., 2010). The second site is Goyet, where the two oldest <sup>14</sup>C-dated Neandertal fossils are situated around 41,000-40,000 BP (Wißing et al., 2016), but without precise archeological context.

From 40,000 to 36,000 BP, Neandertals are still represented in the Meuse Basin, notably by the Walou

P<sub>3</sub> and its associated late Mousterian assemblage. Six directly-dated Neandertal fossils from Goyet are also ranging from 40,000 to 37,000 BP but there is uncertainty about the associated lithic industries: Mousterian and/or LRJ. About 100 km north-east of Walou, the Neandertals from Feldhofer cave are also dated to around 39-40,000 BP (Street et al., 2006); however it is not possible to certify that the Mousterian artifacts recently found in the site are associated with the Neandertal fossils.

Around 36,000 BP, Neandertals are still represented by two directly-dated individuals from Spy (Semal et al., 2009) and one from Goyet (Wißing et al., 2016). In both cases, the associated lithic industry is imprecise, LRJ, or very late Mousterian.

From 34,000 BP to ca 29,000 BP, the few regional archeological assemblages are attributed to the Aurignacian (Flas, 2015). However, a reliable chronostratigraphic data are lacking most of the time. Some radiocarbon dates are available for only three sites from the Belgian Meuse Basin: Spy (32,800 BP; Semal et al., 2009), Trou Al'Wesse (33,650 BP; Miller et al., 2011) and Goyet (~30,000 BP; Posth et al., 2016).

About 100 km to the West, the open-air site of Maisières-Canal yielded an assemblage from recent Aurignacian with a reliable chronostratigraphy (Haesaerts, 2004). About 100 km to the East, the Rhineland site of Lommersum (Germany) provided an early Aurignacian occupation dated between ~35,000 and 33,000 BP (Street et al., 2011). From an anthropological point of view, the only proven human fossils associated with that industrial facies in western Europe, mainly teeth, are anatomically modern humans (Churchill and Smith, 2000; Bailey et al., 2009; Verna et al., 2012). The direct dates recently obtained on human fossils from Goyet Cave support this hypothesis.

At about 450 km south of Walou, numerous Neandertal remains have been found at Arcy-sur-Cure (Burgundy, France). These fossils were mainly found in a Châtelperronian context but some teeth are from Mousterian layers (Leroi-Gourhan, 1958; Hublin et al., 2012). Even if there is disagreement among researchers about the Châtelperronian layers being mixed for some (Bar Yosef & Bordes, 2010), the archaeological sequence seems now quite confidently dated and the association between Châtelperronian and Neandertals has been strengthened (Welker et al., 2016). Broadly, the data from Arcy-sur-Cure are compatible with the Mosan model: Late Mousterian before 40,000 BP, transitional industries (Châtelperronian) between 40,000 and 36,000 BP, early Upper Paleolithic (Proto Aurignacian) after 35,000 BP.

In 1927, around 650 km west of Walou was found the Kent's Cavern 4 maxilla (United Kingdom). It is most often interpreted as modern, notably because its teeth possess more modern human than Neandertal characteristics (Keith, 1927). Its direct  $^{14}\text{C}$  AMS date of  $30,900 \pm 900$  BP (OxA-1621) seems to be contaminated (Higham et al., 2011). According to AMS radiocarbon dates obtained using ultrafiltration on animal remains found above and below it, the maxilla has been reported as being much older, with a modelled age of 44,180-41,530 cal BP, i.e. ~40,000-37,000 BP. This date has however been challenged because the sedimentary context was not well-controlled due to poorly executed excavations (White and Pettitt, 2012). Furthermore, such an ancient date for modern humans does not fit within the general pattern that emerges in the westernmost part of Europe (Hublin, 2015). However if such an antiquity was validated by new discoveries, this could change our model of the Meuse Basin.

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## FIGURE CAPTIONS

Figure 1. The Walou left inferior third premolar: 1. Photographs and 3D models; 2. Details of the occlusal surface; 3. Close-up on a wear facet of the Walou distal interproximal facet.

Figure 2. Outer enamel surface of the Walou P<sub>3</sub> rendered from synchrotron micro-CT scans (technical details in Text SI 3) using the protocol (normalized gradients, colored second light source oriented from the top) described in Le Cabec et al. (2015). Note the minute marks left by the laser ablation sampling (close-up framed in mesial view) on the enamel cap and the dentine root surface, as well as the more important trace of <sup>14</sup>C sampling (apical view).

Figure 3. Shape PCA (a) and size-shape PCA (b) of Neandertal and modern human P<sub>3</sub>s showing the location of Walou premolar. TPS-grids show the patterns of variation corresponding to the positive and negative extreme of each principal component. Although analyses are based on right premolars, TPS-grids are mirror-imaged to facilitate comparisons with Walou, which is a left antimere and was in turn mirror-imaged for the purposes of these analyses. NE: Neandertals; FSAP: fossil modern humans (MP-EMH + UP-MH); RMH: recent modern humans.

Figure 4. Walou Cave, first lower left premolar, morphometric comparisons: relation between the mesio-distal and bucco-lingual diameters of different human P<sub>3</sub>s, with equiprobable ellipses at 95 %, of recent Neandertals, Middle Paleolithic modern humans from Qafzeh and Skhul, Upper Paleolithic *Homo sapiens* and recent modern humans.

## TABLE TITLES

Table 1. Morphological features of the occlusal surface scored for Walou and comparisons following the ASUDAS System. UP-MH = Upper Paleolithic – Modern Humans; MP-EMH = Middle Paleolithic/Middle Stone Age – Early Modern Humans; RMH = recent modern Humans.

Table 2. Statistical comparisons of the crown metrics in the Walou premolar and comparative groups: LN = late Neandertals (MIS 5d-3), EN = early Neandertals (MIS 7-5e), MP-EMH = Middle Paleolithic/Middle Stone Age Early modern humans, UP-MH= Upper Paleolithic modern humans (Aurignacian. Gravettian), RMH = recent modern humans (historical periods). MD = mesio-distal (mm); BL = bucco-lingual (mm), IND = crown index (BL×100/MD), CBA = crown base area = BL×MD. Azs = adjusted z-score. Azs close to 0 means that Walou is close to the mean of the

reference sample, while if  $>1$  or  $<-1$  Walou stands out of their variation.

Table 3. Root length of the Walou P<sub>3</sub> and comparisons.

Table 1

	<b>Walou Late Neand.</b>	<b>Azs Early Neand.</b>	<b>Azs MP-EMH</b>	<b>Azs UP-EMH</b>	<b>Azs Recent MH</b>	<b>Azs</b>
<b>MD</b>	<b>7.89</b> 7.6 ± 0.4 (28)	0.337.9 ± 0.7 (18)	-0.01 8.0 ± 0.5 (8)	-0.13 7.06 ± 0.5 (22)	0.815,6 ± 0,4 (82)	<b><u>2,73</u></b>
<b>BL</b>	<b>9.31</b> 8.9 ± 0.7 (28)	0.289.0 ± 0.7 (17)	0.21 8.9 ± 0.6 (9)	0.31 8.30 ± 0.4 (22)	<b><u>1,26</u></b> 6,2 ± 0,5 (82)	<b><u>3,25</u></b>
<b>IND</b>	<b>118.01</b> 117 ± 8.5 (28)	0.06115.3 ± 6.6 (17)	0.19 112.9 ± 7.1 (8)	0.30 118.3 ± 6.3 (20)	-0.02 111,6 ± 6,7 (82)	0,48
<b>CBA</b>	<b>73.37</b> 68.5 ± 7.4 (28)	0.3271.6 ± 11.4 (17)	0.07 72.9 ± 6.3 (8)	0.03 59.17 ± 5.9 (20)	<b><u>1,15</u></b> 48,3 ± 5,5 (82)	<b><u>2,29</u></b>

MD = mesio-distal (mm)

BL = bucco-lingual (mm)

IND = crown index (BL\*100/MD)

CBA = crown base area = BL\*MD

LN = late Neandertals (OIS 5d-3)

EN = early Neandertals (OIS 7-5e)

MPMH = Middle Paleolithic modern humans (Qafzeh/Skhul)

EMUPMH = early and mid-Upper Pal modern humans (Aurignacian. Gravettian)

AZS = adjusted z-score. Si > 1 ou <-1 = hors variation

Table 2

	<b>MAR</b>	<b>DAR</b>	<b>MLC</b>	<b>MET-MES</b>	<b>TRCR</b>	<b>ASYM</b>	<b>MLG</b>
<b>Neandertals</b>	23.5 (17)	90.0 (20)	20.6 (34)	6.3 (32)	96.7 (30)	94.4 (18)	64.0 (25)
<b>UP-EMH</b>	12.5 (08)	100.0 (09)	7.1 (14)	20.0 (15)	81.3 (16)	56.3 (16)	50.0 (14)
<b>MP-EMH</b>	0 (02)	50.0 (02)	16.7 (06)	50.0 (04)	75.0 (04)	75.0 (04)	25.0 (04)
<b>RMH</b>	9.5 (130)	50.8 (118)	30.4 (138)	35.7 (140)	68.1 (137)	7.5 (120)	38.5 (127)
<b>Walou</b>	Abs	Pres	Abs	Abs	Pres	Pres	Abs

Table 3

<b>Actual root length of the Walou P3 (=broken)</b>	11.2			
<b>Attempt of reconstruction:</b>	Existing RL	Estimated missing RL	Reconstructed RL	Estimation from the mCT slices recorded in the BL and MD planes of section
<b>BL</b>	9.5	7.3	16.8	
<b>MD</b>	10.6	6.4	17.0	
<b>Comparative samples</b>	Mean	Min-Max	SD	
<b>Neandertals (7)</b>	16.6	14.5-18.1	1.11	
<b>UP humans (6)</b>	13.6	11.4-16.3	1.8	
<b>Azs</b>	Neandertals	UP humans		
<b>Walou BL</b>	-0.09	-0.85		
<b>Walou MD</b>	-0.19	-0.91		

Figure 1

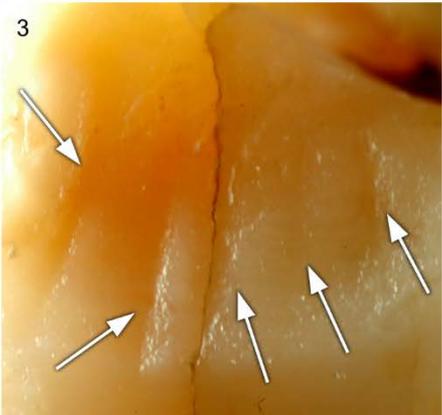
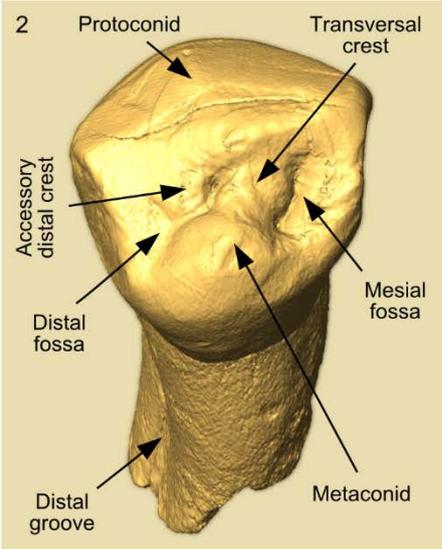
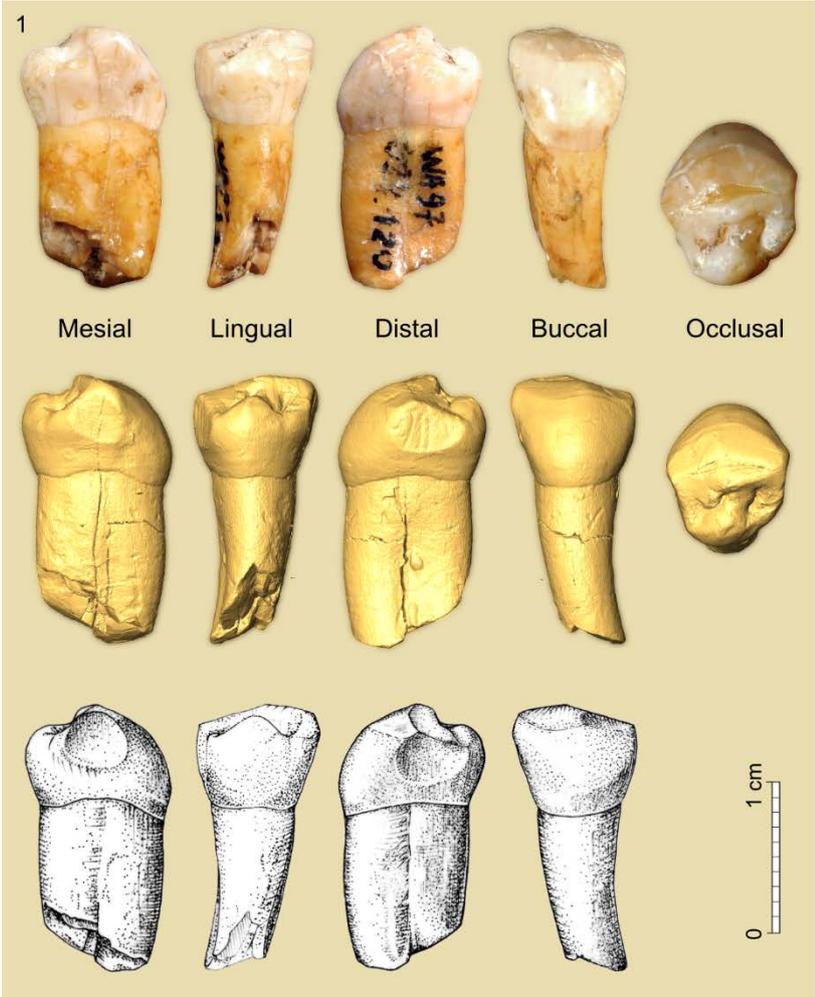
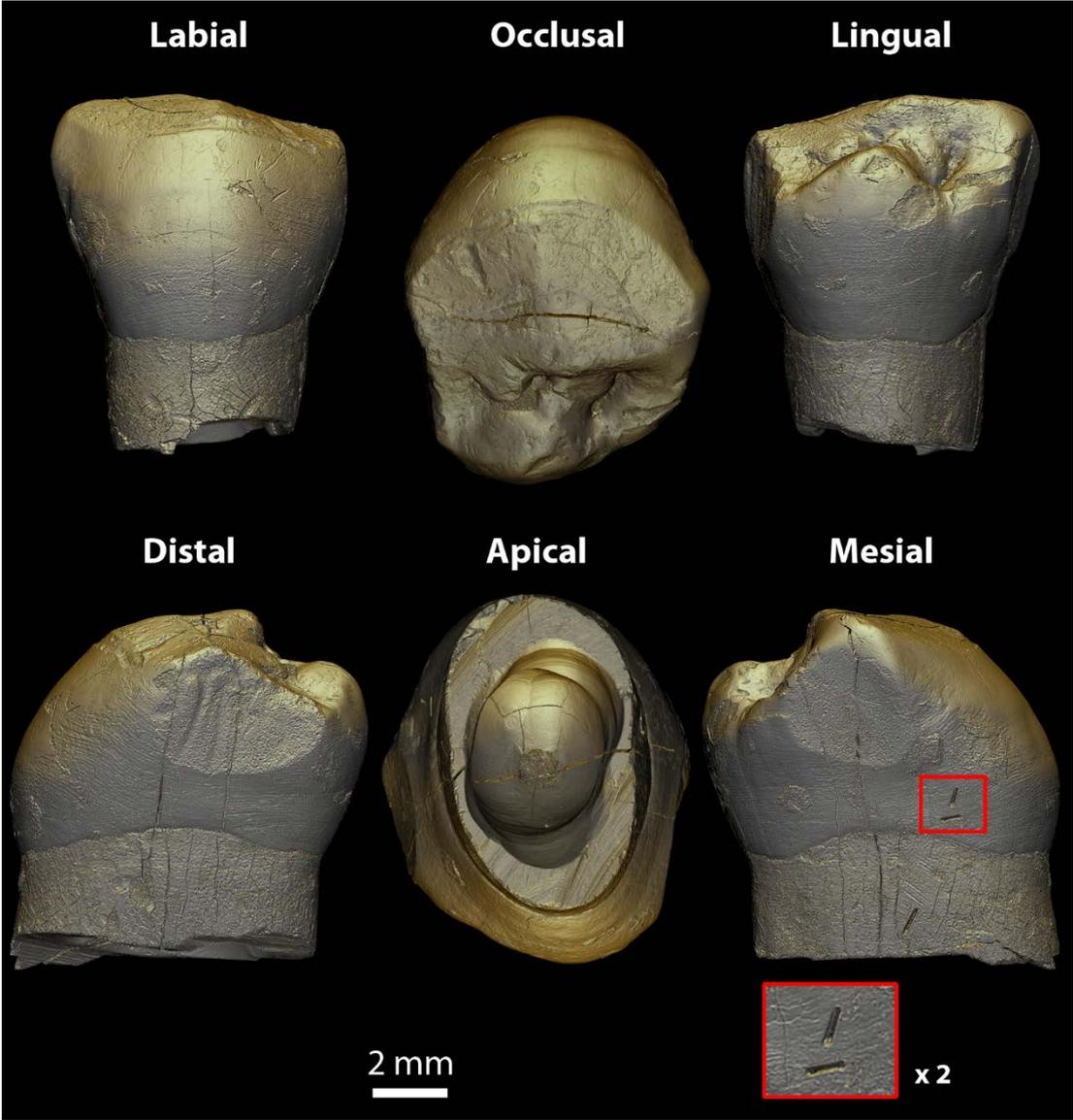


Figure 2



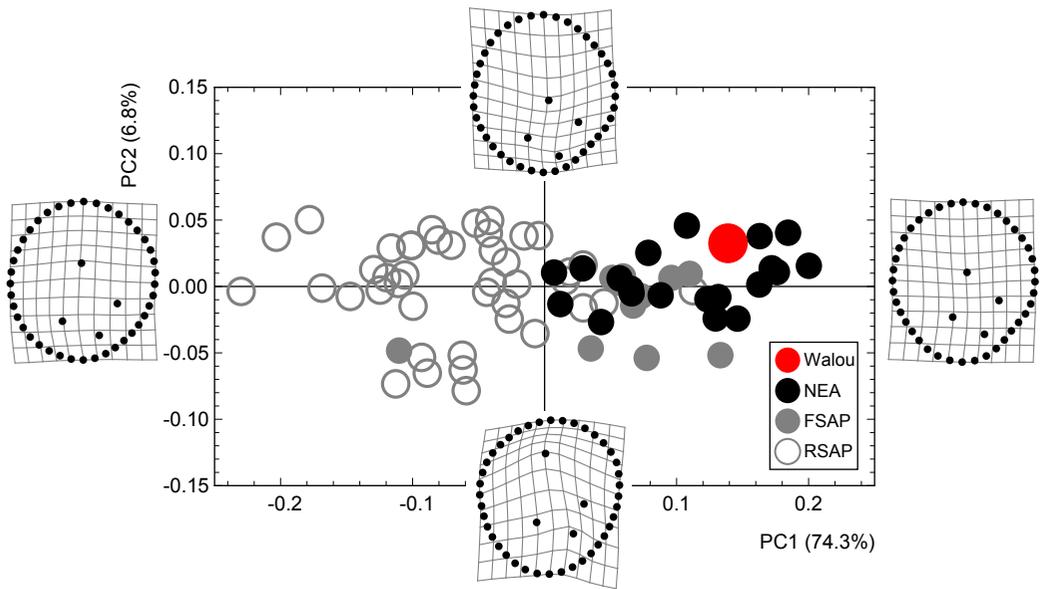
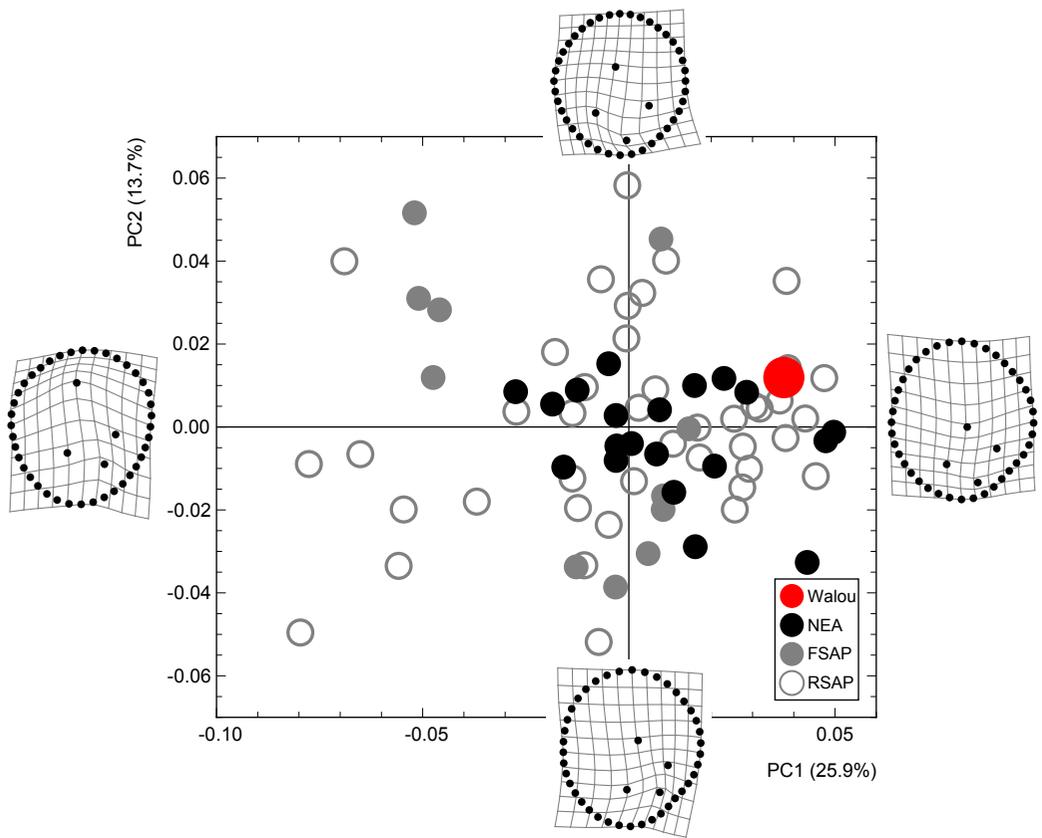


Figure 4

