

Peer Review

Review of: "Does Palaeolithic Resource Management Leading to Domestication Explain Human “Modernity”?”

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The article is a thought-provoking synthesis that seeks to integrate domestication research with human evolutionary theory. It offers a broad evolutionary perspective linking ecology, behaviour, and anatomy. Likewise, the emphasis on taphonomic bias is refreshing, as it is often underrepresented in domestication debates. The use of multiple animal case studies (canids, reindeer, horses, bovids) highlights the diversity of domestication pathways and cautions against overly rigid definitions.

However, the sensation is that the article raises more questions than intended, as some arguments are built on insufficient data for specific relevant time-frames, especially for the Middle and Upper Paleolithic interval, which is of key importance in the debate regarding the emergence of human *modernity*.

This manuscript raises interesting and provocative ideas, but many sections are too speculative and insufficiently grounded in Paleolithic archaeological evidence to support its broader claims. We recommend clearer definitions of key concepts (human *modernity*, resource management) and a stronger engagement with empirical datasets pertaining to the Middle and Upper Paleolithic.

In its current form, the paper is suitable as a theoretical essay or hypothesis-driven perspective.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.