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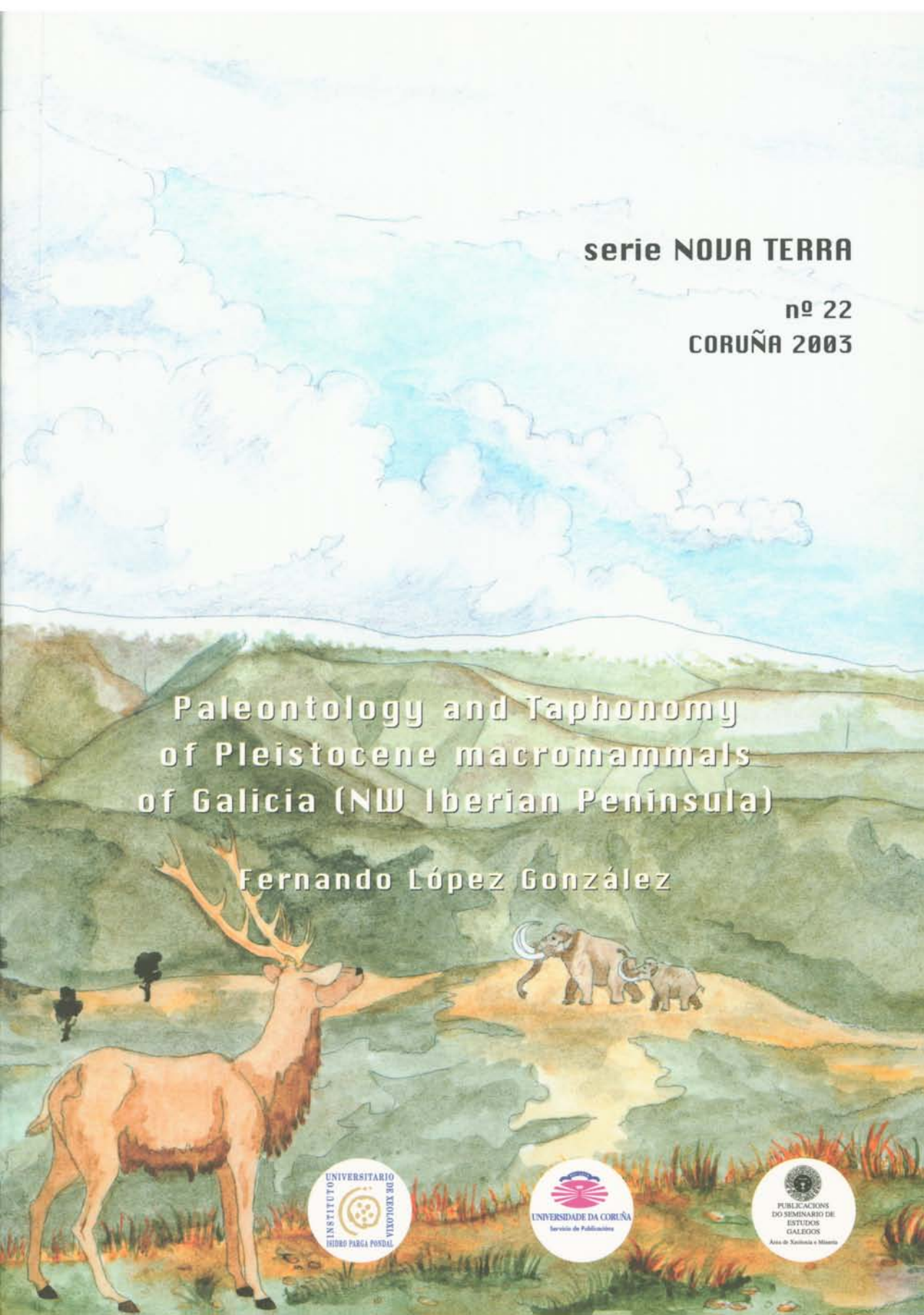
Fernando López González



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PALEONTOLOGY AND TAPHONOMY OF PLEISTOCENE MACROMAMMALS OF GALICIA (NW IBERIAN PENINSULA)

Fernando López González

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ABSTRACT

In this work there have been studied the Pleistocene macromammals' bone remains of the karstic site of Liñares.

The fossil assemblage of this site is formed by the species: *Cervus elaphus*, *Ursus spelaeus*, *Equus caballus*, *Capreolus capreolus*, *Sus scrofa* and a large bovid, probably *Bison priscus*. The red deers and cave bears form the greatest part of the bone collection.

There were carried out a complete morphologic and metric description and a detailed taphonomic study, including a complete analysis of the exceptional conservation status of the bone sample.

The study of the taphonomic alteration processes, which acted on the remains found, allows us to establish the evolution of the Liñares cave as from the faunal occupation up to the present, with special utility in the case of strong depositions of manganese and ferric oxids affecting most of the pieces.

Also, it is studied in detail the action of carnivores detected in the bone set, partly coming from the action of cave bears, but specially by carnivores of less size. The damages are located in certain parts of the body but they are not enough for explaining the accumulation of remains, especially in the case of red deers. There do not exist signs of antropic activity that explain the presence of this animals in Liñares cave. In this sence, using the excellent observation conditions of the sample of Liñares, the differences in the preservation of the remains were analysed in the natural origin site as well as in the anthropic origin ones.

Finally, the paleontologic data obtained have been integrated with the paleoenvironmental conditions corresponding to the area during site ocupation in the final fase of the isotopic satge 3: the interrelationship of the glacial processes and the occupation of the karstic sites, the establishment of new hypothesis for the accumulation of remains based on climatic causes, etc. Likewise, it is proved the importance that this work represents in the framework of the Paleontology of Macromammals of Galicia, indicating the keys that establish the knowledge situation in the subject and a complete revision of the data existing up to now.

PALEONTOLOGY AND TAPHONOMY OF PLEISTOCENE MACROMAMMALS OF GALICIA (NW IBERIAN PENINSULA)

INDEX

CHAPTER 3
THE SITE

CHAPTER 4
THE FAUNA OF LIÑARES

CHAPTER 5
TAPHONOMIC ANALYSIS

CHAPTER 6
PALEONTOLOGIC STUDY

CHAPTER 7
DISCUSSION