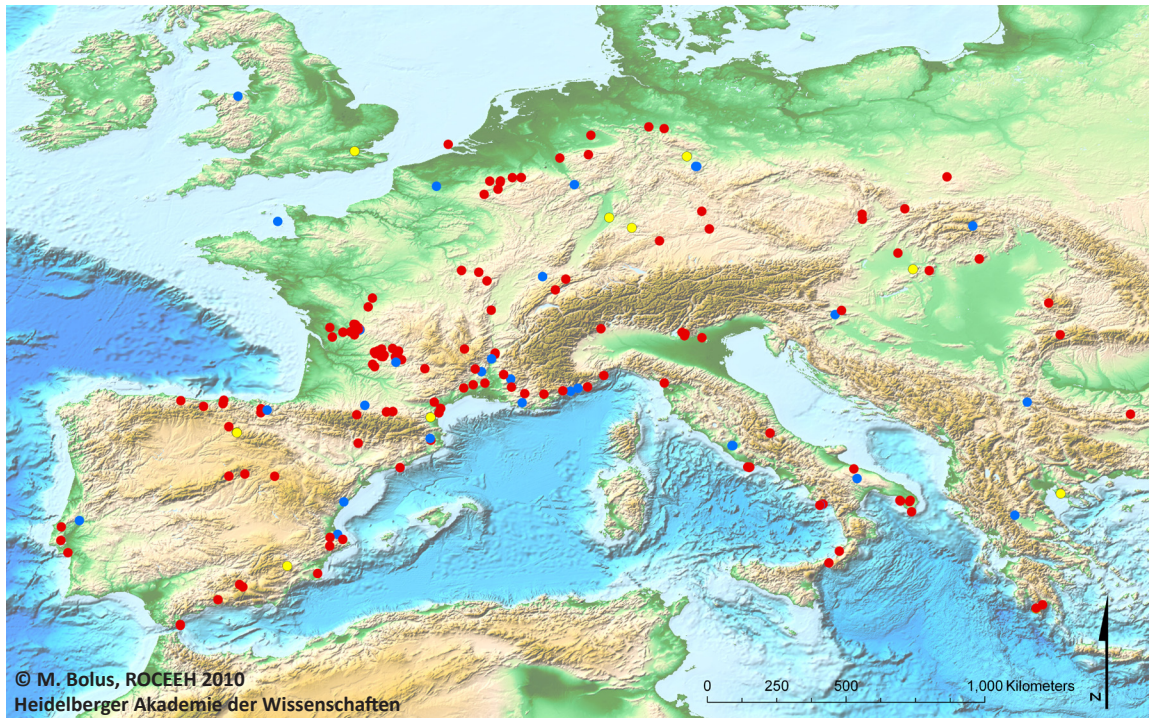
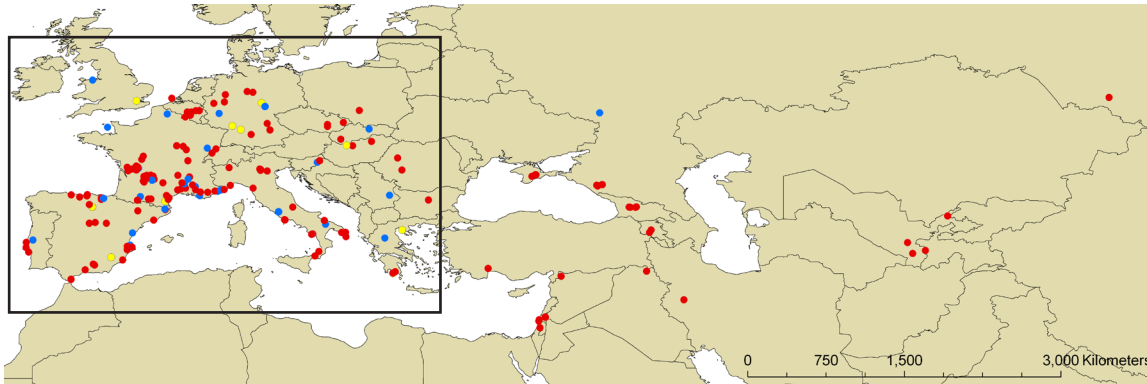




Distribution of Neandertal Fossils



Source: ETOPO1: NOAA 2009, Country Borders: ESRI 2006
Cartography: G. Quénéhervé 2010-08-31

Based on the present fossil evidence, the Neandertals were an indigenous European hominin form whose origins can be seen exclusively on this continent. This map of the month presents the overall geographical distribution of all 219 sites with anthropological remains of Neandertals from 29 countries, including 11 sites with Pre-Neandertals showing the first distinct Neandertal features, 34 sites with Early Neandertals of pre-Weichselian/pre-Würmian age, and finally, 174 sites with Classic Neandertals from the last Glacial.

The map highlights the core area of Neandertals in southern and southwestern Europe. Given this core area, Neandertals originally were adapted to a temperate, rather than cold or even extremely cold climate. However, under favorable climatic and environmental conditions, they repeatedly left their core area to move into areas of temporary occurrence and even 'learned' to cope with harsher environmental and climatic conditions. During the last Glacial, Classic Neandertals enlarged their originally exclusive European settlement area, expanding into the Near East, parts of Central Asia and even as far as the Altai region, a dispersal that has been called the *Out of Europe Movement*.

Reference

J. Serangeli and M. Bolus, Out of Europe - The dispersal of a successful European hominin form. *Quartär* 55, 2008, 83-98.

Legend

- Classic Neandertal
- Early Neandertal
- Pre-Neandertal