

## THE CHRONOLOGY OF PLEISTOCENE MODERN HUMANS IN CHINA, KOREA, AND JAPAN

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**ABSTRACT.** The chronological status of Pleistocene fossils of early modern humans in the People's Republic of China is based almost exclusively on indirect dating of the stratigraphic context and faunal and radiocarbon dating of associated or supposedly associated archaeological specimens. A similar pattern is observed in Korea and Japan. This paper examines the  $^{14}\text{C}$  and other dating techniques of early modern humans in East Asia to gain a more complete and up-to-date understanding of their chronology.

### INTRODUCTION

Most early modern *Homo sapiens* fossils of Pleistocene or presumed Pleistocene age in East Asia are from the People's Republic of China (PR China), while far fewer have been found in Japan and Korea. The reasons for this are the larger land area of PR China (the third largest country in the world) and the greater length of Pleistocene archaeological research in China, and, perhaps equally important, the more favorable sedimentary conditions in this country. There are 46 localities with early modern *H. sapiens* fossils in China. The majority is dated by means of stratigraphic and/or faunal assessments. A similar pattern can be observed in Korea and Japan. Korea has 7 sites and Japan 16 (Table 1). In this paper, I include all sites that have yielded Pleistocene fossils attributed to early modern humans to document the number of dated and undated sites. Some human fossils may be earlier than late Late Pleistocene, while others could date to the Holocene. The number and kind of human fossils are also given to show the direct dating potential available (subject to preservation).

Table 1 Summary of Pleistocene modern human sites and dating frequencies in East Asia.

a) Sites with Pleistocene modern humans:

China: 46

Korea: 7

Japan: 16

b) Sites with Pleistocene modern humans with  $^{14}\text{C}$  and U-series dates on associated materials with known context:

China: 25

Korea: 5

Japan: 5

c) Sites with Pleistocene modern humans with direct  $^{14}\text{C}$  dates:

China: 1

Korea: 0

Japan: 2

Two major sources are used for the Chinese sites: the compilation of human fossils by Wu and Poirier (1995) and the compilation of radiocarbon dates by The Institute of Archaeology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the latter henceforth referred to as CASS (1991). The latter includes the majority of  $^{14}\text{C}$  dates performed on Chinese sites. The dating was conducted by several laboratories, e.g. the  $^{14}\text{C}$  Laboratory, Peking University; the  $^{14}\text{C}$  Laboratory, the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology; and the Laboratory of the Institute of Archaeology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Academia Sinica; all in Beijing. Original sources were consulted when available.  $^{14}\text{C}$  dating has been practiced in China since 1965 (with the first results published in 1972: Barnard 1972; An 1991) and accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS)  $^{14}\text{C}$  dating results are known since 1998

(Zhou and Chen 2009). Uranium-series dates of hominid sites are also presented. For geographic orientation of sites, I have consulted the Atlas of the People's Republic of China (Yang 1989).

## OVERVIEW OF CURRENT DATA

### CHINA

In China, the 46 identified sites with modern human fossils are categorized in this paper according to whether they have directly dated human fossils, indirectly dated human fossils (i.e. chronologically assessed with reference to the stratigraphy and/or fauna), and those without any radiometric dates. One of these sites is problematic in regard to the human status of the fossil (Longtanshan site 2). Another site, based on recent direct dating, is not of Pleistocene age (Xarus), but is also included in this paper.

Hominid finds in China are usually named after the county they were found in (e.g. Wu and Poirier 1995). In this paper, whenever possible, the local site names are given with the conventional site names in brackets. Chinese anthropologists classify archaic *Homo sapiens* fossils as early *Homo sapiens*, an intermediate grade between *Homo erectus* and anatomically modern *H. sapiens*, and modern *H. sapiens* as late *H. sapiens* (e.g. Zhang 1986). This paper is a review of East Asian modern humans from Pleistocene or assumed Pleistocene contexts. The majority of fossils classified as Pleistocene modern *H. sapiens* from China are teeth (see e.g. Wu and Poirier 1995).

#### *Directly Dated Human Fossil Sites*

The only directly dated early modern human fossil in China was excavated at the cave site of Tianyuandong near Zhoukoudian, Fangshan County (Shang et al. 2007; see Figure 1). Parts of a human skeleton (Tianyuandong I, 34 cranial and post-cranial elements) were mostly found in layer 3 (of a total of 4 layers) and some in a disturbed area; 39 mammalian species (including *Martes* sp., *Ursus thibetanus*, Tong et al. 2004) were associated with the human remains in the 0.75-m-thick clay with breccia layer. The 6 AMS  $^{14}\text{C}$  dates on animal bones and a human femur from layer 3 range from  $30,500 \pm 370$  to  $39,430 \pm 680$  BP (Tong et al. 2006) with Tianyuan I occupying an intermediary date of  $\sim 34,000$  BP (Shang et al. 2007; see Table 3).

#### *Indirectly Dated Human Fossil Sites*

##### 1. Shandingdong (Upper Cave)

The most prominent site in China is Zhoukoudian near Beijing. Zhoukoudian is in fact a complex of early to late Middle Pleistocene and late Late Pleistocene limestone sites (e.g. Jia and Huang 1990; Figure 1). Shandingdong, or Upper Cave, was discovered in 1930 during excavations of the *Homo erectus* site of Zhoukoudian Locality 1. A trial excavation in 1930 was followed by excavations in 1933 and 1934 (Jia and Huang 1990; and see Jia 1999). Animal and human bones were found in the Entrance, the Upper Room, and the Lower Room (Pei 1939; also see Wu and Poirier 1995:165–6). A small number of human bones and artifacts derive from layer 1 close to the Entrance. The Upper Room with its 3 cultural layers, layers 1–3, contained a small number of human bones and a large collection of perforated animal teeth are from layer 2; layer 3 yielded a small number of artifacts and indications of burning (Pei 1934, 1939). The main collection of human fossils was found in the Lower Room in layers 4 and 5 (depth >5 m), including cranial and post-cranial fossils of *H. sapiens* (including a skull and 2 crania); a lithic artifact, perforated teeth, and bone ornaments were also recovered (Pei 1939).

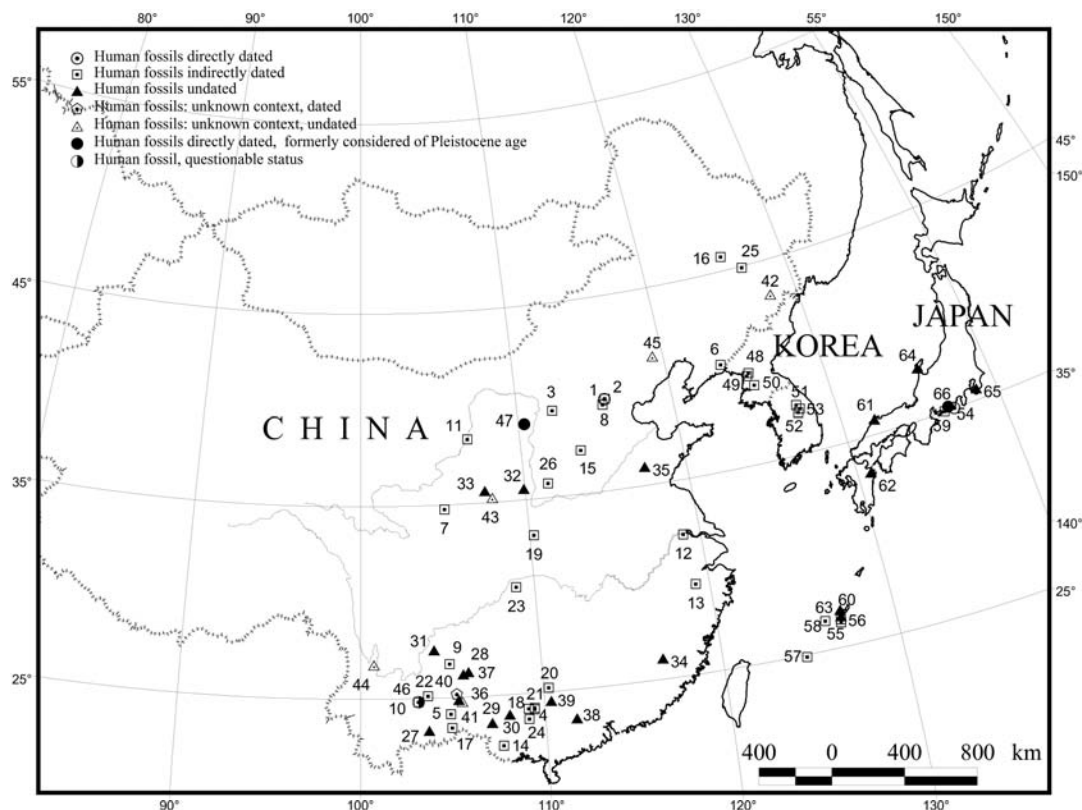


Figure 1 Distribution of modern human fossil sites in East Asia. **A:** Human fossils directly dated: 1. Tianyuan; 54. Negata. **B:** Human fossils indirectly dated: 2. Shandingdong; 3. Shiyu; 4. Tongtianyan; 5. Huangshanxi; 6. Miaohoushan Dongdong; 7. Yuanyang; 8. Laishui; 9. Xiaohuidong; 10. Longtanshan Site 1; 11. Shuidonggou; 12. Lianhuadong; 13. Wuquidong; 14. Nanshandong; 15. Dangcheng; 16. Yanjiagang; 17. Xianrendong; 18. Ganqian; 19. Huanglongdong; 20. Baojiyandong; 21. Bailiandong; 22. Zhangkoudong; 23. Migongdong Locality 4; 24. Gaitoudong; 25. Site H8601; 26. Chaoyang Xigou; 48. Mandalli; 49. Ryonggok; 50. Kumchon; 51. Chommal; 52. Sangsi and Hungsugul; 53. Kunanggul; 55. Minatogawa and Upper Minatogawa; 56. Yamashita-cho Cave 1; 57. Pinza-abu; 58. Shimojibaru; 59. Ushikawa. **C:** Human fossils undated: 27. Maludong; 28. Chuandong; 29. Dingmo; 30. Cave R5013; 31. Guoshandong; 32. Huanglong; 33. Niujiagou; 34. Hulidong; 35. Wuzhutai; 36. Nalai; 37. Taohua; 38. Dongzhongyan; 39. Shuiyan Dongdong; 60. Kadabaru and Gohezu; 61. Yomigahama; 62. Hijiridake Cave; 63. Tobaru and Oyama; 64. Tomari Cave; 65. Kuzuü. **D:** Human fossils unknown context, dated: 40. Maomaodong. **E:** Human fossils unknown context, undated: 41. Longlin; 42. Antu; 43. Changwu; 44. Mujiajiao; 45. Jianpin. **F:** Human fossils, directly dated, formerly considered of Pleistocene age: 47. Xarus; 66. Mikkabi. **G:** Human fossil, questionable status: 46. Longtanshan Site 2.

The modern human fossil collection from Shandingdong (also including a maxilla fragment, 4 mandibles, 3 mandible fragments, many teeth, and about 32 post-cranial bones) is representative of a minimum number of individuals (MNI) of 8 (Wu 1961). There are 46 species of mammals (including *Crocota ultima*, *Elephas* sp.) from Shandingdong (Wu and Poirier 1995:166–8).

<sup>14</sup>C dating places the lower limit of the cultural layers at ~10,000 BP (CASS 1991:17), while the upper limit of these layers is about 24,000–29,000 BP (e.g. Chen et al. 1992). A U-series date for a cultural layer is ~19,000 yr old (Chen et al. 1984; Table 3). As Kamminga and Wright (1988) with reference to An (1983) point out, sample ZK-0136(2) is from layer 5, and therefore earlier than layer 4. Although Wu and Wang (1985) argue that samples ZK-136-0 and -0136(2) (ZK-136-0(1) and -136-0(2) in Wu and Wang 1985; Table 2) were recovered from below the archaeological layers, the labels on the bones identify the provenance as layer 4 (Kamminga and Wright 1988; Table 3).

Table 2 Dates of the Shandingdong (Upper Cave) modern humans.

Area and layer <sup>a</sup>	Sample	Method	Age <sup>b</sup>	Lab nr	Reference
JK7:33:88; H8:33:109, Lower Room, cultural layer 4 (human remains & artifacts)	Animal bone	<sup>14</sup> C	10,470 ± 360	ZK-0136(1)	CASS (1991:17) <sup>c</sup>
F9:34:44	Deer bone ( <i>Pseudaxavis hortulomum</i> )	<sup>14</sup> C	18,340 ± 410	ZK-136-0	The Laboratory of IA and of IVPP, AS (1976:30) <sup>d</sup>
F9:34:44, Lower Recess, Late Paleolithic, base of cave	Deer bone	<sup>14</sup> C	18,330 ± 420	ZK-0136(2)	CASS (1991:17); The Laboratory of IA and of IVPP, AS (1976); An (1991) <sup>e</sup>
layer 5					An (1983)
Lower Room	Bone	<sup>14</sup> C	10,175 ± 360	ZK-136-0(4)	Wu and Wang (1985: Table 2.1)
J-II-33	<i>Cervus</i> sp. bone amino acid from bone <sup>f</sup>	<sup>14</sup> C <sup>g</sup>	13,200 ± 160	OxA-891	Hedges et al. (1988); Chen et al. (1989)
J:11:33:?	Bone	<sup>14</sup> C <sup>g</sup>	23,700 ± 350	OxA-1247	Hedges et al. (1988) Chen et al. (1989)
33-60-al A1:33:60	Bone	<sup>14</sup> C <sup>g</sup>	26,500 ± 450	OxA-1246	Hedges et al. (1988); Chen et al. (1989)
J6:34:11	Bone	<sup>14</sup> C <sup>g</sup>	23,150 ± 330	OxA-1248	Hedges et al. (1988); Chen et al. (1989)
F7:34:32	Bone	<sup>14</sup> C <sup>g</sup>	32,600 ± 2000	OxA-190	Hedges et al. (1988) Chen et al. (1989)
F9:34-42	Bone	<sup>14</sup> C <sup>g</sup>	27,500 ± 380	OxA-2772	Chen et al. (1992); Hedges et al. (1992)
F9:34:44	Bone	<sup>14</sup> C <sup>g</sup>	27,500 ± 380	OxA-2772	Chen et al. (1992); Hedges et al. (1992)
S?:33:?, Cultural layer, Up- per layer	Bone	<sup>14</sup> C <sup>g</sup>	27,370 ± 410	OxA-2274	Chen et al. (1992)
J?:33:70, Cultural layer, Up- per layer	Bone	<sup>14</sup> C <sup>g</sup>	25,700 ± 360	OxA-2275	Hedges et al. (1992)
J, K7:33:80, Cultural layer, Upper layer	Bone	<sup>14</sup> C <sup>g</sup>	28,680 ± 460	OxA-2771	Chen et al. (1992); Hedges et al. (1992)
N6:33:90, Cultural layer, (Upper layer)	Bone	<sup>14</sup> C <sup>g</sup>	29,100 ± 520	OxA-2776	Chen et al. (1992); Hedges et al. (1992)
O9:33:108, Cultural layer, Upper layer	Bone	<sup>14</sup> C <sup>g</sup>	33,460 ± 850	OxA-2773	Chen et al. (1992); Hedges et al. (1992)
H4:34:36 Lower Recess	Bone	<sup>14</sup> C <sup>g</sup>	33,200 ± 820	OxA-2277	Chen et al. (1992); Hedges et al. (1992)
H4:34:44 Lower Recess	Bone	<sup>14</sup> C <sup>g</sup>	19,000 ± 1000	BKY 80017	Chen et al. (1984)
33:41:06 Cultural layer	Deer bone	U-series			

Table 2. Dates of the Shandingdong (Upper Cave) modern humans.

Area and layer <sup>a</sup>	Sample	Method	Age <sup>b</sup>	Lab nr	Reference
J6:34:11	Deer bone	U-series	21,000 ± 4000	BKY 80018	Chen et al. (1984)
Lower Recess	Tooth	U-series	24,000 ± 3000	BKY 85144	Chen and Yuan (1988; Table 3) <sup>h</sup>
J11:33:?	?	TL	>32,500 to <50,000	?	Pei (1985)

<sup>a</sup>Notes: Area & layer, sample provenance; JK7 = number of the square unit; 33 = year of excavation 1933; 88 = 88th day of excavation.

<sup>b</sup><sup>14</sup>C date (both LSC and AMS) ages are given as yr BP (before present); U-series date ages are in yr ago. Half-life of <sup>14</sup>C dates is Libby's half-life of 5568 yr.

<sup>c</sup>Lab nr ZK-136-0(3) in Wu and Wang (1985; Table 2.1) and 5730 ± 40 yr half-life.

<sup>d</sup>Lab nr ZK-136-0(2) in Wu and Wang (1985; Table 2.1).

<sup>e</sup>Lab nr ZK-136-0(1) with a date of 18,865 ± 420 and 5730 ± 40 half-life in Wu and Wang (1985; Table 2.1). According to Chen and Yuan (1988; Table 3), same sample as for <sup>14</sup>C date OxA 891, i.e. bone.

<sup>f</sup>This is now called collagen. Henceforth, samples dated by Hedges et al. (1988) are referred to as bone here.

<sup>g</sup>AMS <sup>14</sup>C.

<sup>h</sup>Uranium leaching from tooth indicated date is "upper limit of the true age" (Chen and Yuan 1988:64).

Table 3 Dates of Pleistocene early modern humans in China.<sup>a</sup>

Locality, layer	Sample	Method	Age	Lab nr	Reference
Tianyuan, layer 3	Bone	<sup>14</sup> C	34,430 ± 510	BA-03222	Shang et al. (2007)
Shiyu, layer 2, Paleolithic	<i>Bubalus wanshouki</i> bone	<sup>14</sup> C	28,130 ± 1370	ZK-0109	CASS (1991:41)
Tongtianyan, layer 1, cave entrance	Stalagmitic crust	<sup>14</sup> C	2790 ± 100	BK 82204	CASS (1991:219)
Tongtianyan, layer 2	Stalagmitic crust	<sup>14</sup> C	>40,000	BK 82205	CASS (1991:219)
Tongtianyan, 2nd layer stalagmitic crust, location ~1 m above big panda skeleton	Stalagmitic crust	U-series	67,000 ± 6000 ? - 5000 ?	BKY 82225	Yuan et al. (1986:180)
Tongtianyan, below stalagmitic crust?	Hog tooth	U-series	101,000 ± 6000 - 5000	BKY 82115	Yuan et al. (1986)
Tongtianyan, below stalagmitic crust?	Tooth	U-series	138,000 ± 10,000	BKY 82138	Yuan et al. (1986)
Tongtianyan, below stalagmitic crust?	Hog tooth	U-series	165,000 ± 8000	BKY 82086	Yuan et al. (1986)
Tongtianyan, below stalagmitic crust?	Hog tooth	U-series	190,900 ± 10,900 - 10,700	BKY 82137	Yuan et al. (1986)
Tongtianyan, below stalagmitic crust?	Hog tooth	U-series	227,000 ± 26,000 - 22,000	BKY 82136	Yuan et al. (1986)
Tongtianyan, flowstone, intrusive breccia, approximately same depth as human fossils	Speleothem, sample LJR-17	U-series, alpha-spectrometric <sup>230</sup> Th/ <sup>234</sup> U	Mean of 111,000 ± 4000 <sup>230</sup> Th age	n.a.	Shen et al. (2002a)
Tongtianyan, flowstone, Upper Unit, FL2	Speleothem, sample LJR-2 (i); sample LJR-2 (ii)	U-series, alpha-spectrometric <sup>230</sup> Th/ <sup>234</sup> U	68,000 ± 3000 <sup>230</sup> Th age 70,000 ± 3000 <sup>230</sup> Th age	n.a.	Shen et al. (2002a)
Tongtianyan, flowstone, Upper Unit, FL2 upper part	Speleothem, sample LJR-2-1	U-series, TIMS <sup>230</sup> Th/ <sup>234</sup> U	62,100 ± 500	n.a.	Shen et al. (2002a)
Tongtianyan, flowstone, Upper Unit, FL2 middle part	LJR-2-2		64,400 ± 500		
Tongtianyan, flowstone, Upper Unit, FL2 lower part	LJR-2-3(i) LJR-2-3(ii)		70,000 ± 500 69,600 ± 700		
Tongtianyan, near top of intrusive breccia, above position of human fossils	Speleothem, sample LJR-8	U-series, alpha-spectrometric <sup>230</sup> Th/ <sup>234</sup> U	142,000 ± 11,000 <sup>230</sup> Th age	n.a.	Shen et al. (2002a)
Tongtianyan, near top of intrusive breccia, above position of human fossils	Speleothem, sample LJR-8 (i) sample LJR-8 (ii)	U-series, TIMS <sup>230</sup> Th/ <sup>234</sup> U	139,000 ± 1000 <sup>230</sup> Th age 145,000 ± 2000 <sup>230</sup> Th age	n.a.	Shen et al. (2002a)
Tongtianyan, sandy clay with gravel, below position of human fossils	Speleothem, sample LJR-9	U-series, alpha-spectrometric <sup>230</sup> Th/ <sup>234</sup> U	289,000 ± 35,000 <sup>230</sup> Th age	n.a.	Shen et al. (2002a)
Tongtianyan, middle unit, flowstone FL3	Speleothem, sample LJR-6	U-series, alpha-spectrometric <sup>230</sup> Th/ <sup>234</sup> U	142,000 ± 7000 <sup>230</sup> Th age	n.a.	Shen et al. (2002a)
Tongtianyan, Middle unit, flowstone FL3	Speleothem, sample LJR-6 (i) sample LJR-6 (ii)	U-series, TIMS <sup>230</sup> Th/ <sup>234</sup> U	160,000 ± 2000 <sup>230</sup> Th age 155,000 ± 2000 <sup>230</sup> Th age	n.a.	Shen et al. (2002a)

Table 3 Dates of Pleistocene early modern humans in China.<sup>a</sup> (Continued)

Locality, layer	Sample	Method	Age	Lab nr	Reference
Tongtianyuan, Middle unit, flowstone FL4	Speleothem, sample LJR-31	U-series, alpha-spectrometric $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}$	$250,000 \pm 36,000$ $^{230}\text{Th}$ age	n.a.	Shen et al. (2002a)
Tongtianyuan, Middle unit, flowstone FL4	Speleothem, sample LJR-31	U-series, TIMS $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}$	$228,000 \pm 6000$ $^{230}\text{Th}$ age	n.a.	Shen et al. (2002a)
Huangshanxi, human fossil locality	Ebony	$^{14}\text{C}$	$7420 \pm 140$	PV-0014	CASS (1991:222)
Huangshanxi, 7.1 m below ground surface	Ebony	$^{14}\text{C}$	$2110 \pm 70$	PV-0157	CASS (1991:222)
Huangshanxi, 8.2 m below ground surface	Ebony	$^{14}\text{C}$	$5760 \pm 80$	PV-0158	CASS (1991:222)
Huangshanxi, 9.6 m below ground surface	Ebony	$^{14}\text{C}$	$5380 \pm 80$	PV-0159	CASS (1991:222)
Huangshanxi, same [assumed] layer as human	Wood (log)	$^{14}\text{C}$	$7270 \pm 130$	ZK-0019	CASS (1991:223)
Huangshanxi, big bridge abutment below layer 2	Ebony	$^{14}\text{C}$	$6550 \pm 120$	ZK-0256	CASS (1991:223)
Huangshanxi, locality B, layer 6, upper part above layer 6	Wood	$^{14}\text{C}$	$37,400 \pm 3000$	PV-221	Li and Zhang (1984); Wang (1989: Table 14.1)
Huangshanxi, 11 m below ground surface; Locality B, layer 6, lower part; below layer 6	Ebony (dark wood)	$^{14}\text{C}$	$38,200 \pm 2500$	PV-0160	CASS (1991:223); Li and Zhang (1984); Wang (1989: Table 14.1)
Miaohoushan Dongdong, layer 2, ~2.6 m below surface	Animal bone	$^{14}\text{C}$	$28,040 \pm 680$	PV-366	MLPMB (1986: 100, 8) <sup>b</sup>
Miaohoushan, Locality B West Cave, 3.1 m below surface	Bear tibia fossil	$^{14}\text{C}$	$27,240 \pm 680$	PV-0366	CASS (1991:78)
Yuanyang, fossil layer	Clay	$^{14}\text{C}$	$38,400 \pm 500$	Lab. of Geography, Lanzhou Univ.	Wu and Poirier (1995: 183)
Xiaohuidong, layer 3	Bovid tooth	U-series	$52,000 \pm 3000$	BKY 81092	Yuan et al. (1986)
Xiaohuidong, layer 1, capping flowstone layer	Flowstone	U-series	$59,000 \pm 3000$ corrected age: 55,000	SXC-10-1	Shen (1993)
Xiaohuidong, layer 1, capping flowstone layer	Stalagmite	U-series	$120,000 + 9000$ - 8000 corrected age: 109,000	SXC-9	Shen (1993)
Xiaohuidong, layer unknown	Flowstone	U-series	$115,000 + 7000$ - 6000	SXC-11	Shen (1993)
Xiaohuidong, layer 1	Stalagmite	U-series	$122,000 + 13,000$ - 11,000 corrected age: 116,000	SXC-2 = SXC-2?	Shen (1993)

Table 3 Dates of Pleistocene early modern humans in China.<sup>a</sup> (Continued)

Locality, layer	Sample	Method	Age	Lab nr	Reference
Xiaohuidong, layer 1	Stalagmite	U-series	137,000 ± 14,000 – 12,000 corrected age: 132,000	SCX-3-2	Shen (1993)
Xiaohuidong, layer unknown	Calcite	U-series	220,000 ± 23,000 – 19,000	SXC-8	Shen (1993)
Xiaohuidong, layer 1	Flowstone	U-series	356,000 ± 148,000 – 58,000 corrected age: 341,000	SXC-7-2	Shen (1993)
Xiaohuidong, layer 3, lower part	Stalagmite	U-series	232,000 ± 29,000 – 22,000	SXC-5	Shen (1993)
Longtanshan, Cave 1	Fossil bone	<sup>14</sup> C	18,300 ± 250	PV-0340	CASS (1991:240)
Longtanshan, Cave 2, layer 4	Carbon particles, burnt bone	<sup>14</sup> C	29,640 ± 800	BK 82049	Qiu et al. (1985); CASS (1991:240)
Shuidonggou, [Locality 1], stratum 8, upper part	Deer bone	<sup>14</sup> C	16,760 ± 210	PV-0331	CASS (1991:293) <sup>c</sup>
Shuidonggou, [Locality 1], sand layer middle	Calcite	<sup>14</sup> C	25,450 ± 800	PV-0317	CASS (1991:293)
Shuidonggou, Locality 1, below cultural layer	Horse tooth	U-series <sup>230</sup> Th	38,000 ± 200	BKY-82042	Chen et al. (1984)
Shuidonggou, Locality 1, below cultural layer	Horse tooth	U-series <sup>230</sup> Th	34,000 ± 200	BKY-82043	Chen et al. (1984)
Lianhuadong, layer 2	Bear tooth, sample ZLB-1	U-series <sup>230</sup> Th	136,000 ± 8000	n.a.	Pan et al. (2002)
Lianhuadong, layer 2	Bear tooth, sample ZLB-1	U-series <sup>227</sup> Th	111,000 ± 13,000 – 12,000	n.a.	Pan et al. (2002)
Lianhuadong, layer 2	Deer tooth, sample ZLB-2	U-series <sup>230</sup> Th	127,000 ± 5000	n.a.	Pan et al. (2002)
Lianhuadong, layer 2	Deer tooth, sample ZLB-2	U-series <sup>227</sup> Th	104,000 ± 8000	n.a.	Pan et al. (2002)
Wuquidong, upper layer	Bovoid tooth	U-series <sup>230</sup> Th	97,000 ± 8000	BKY 82013	Yuan et al. (1986)
Wuquidong, upper layer	Bovoid tooth	U-series <sup>230</sup> Th	108,000 ± 9000 – 8000	BKY 82012	Yuan et al. (1986)
Nanshandong, second flowstone	Travertine, sample FNS-1	U-series	51,000 ± 4000	0101	Wang and Mo (2004)
Nanshandong, second flowstone	Travertine, sample FNS-2	U-series	53,000 ± 2000	0102	Wang and Mo (2004)



Table 3 Dates of Pleistocene early modern humans in China.<sup>a</sup> (Continued)

Locality, layer	Sample	Method	Age	Lab nr	Reference
Dangcheng, Paleolithic; Layer 6	Bone	<sup>14</sup> C	30,600 ± 1570	ZK-2006	CASS (1991:52); Wu and Shun (1989)
Dangcheng, late epoch	Charred fossil	<sup>14</sup> C	27,920 ± 1175	ZK-2100	CASS (1991:52)
Yanjiaogang, Zone A	n.d.	<sup>14</sup> C	22,370 ± 300	n.d.	Wu and Poirier (1995:180)
Xianrendong, middle layer	Bovid tooth, sample XRD-1	U-series <sup>230</sup> Th	67,000 ± 3000	n.a.	Zhang et al. (2004)
Xianrendong, middle layer	Elephant tooth, sample XRD-2	U-series <sup>230</sup> Th	105,000 ± 4000	n.a.	Zhang et al. (2004)
Xianrendong, middle layer	Elephant tooth, sample XRD-2	U-series <sup>227</sup> Th	98,000 + 9000 – 8000	n.a.	Zhang et al. (2004)
Xianrendong, middle layer	Boar tooth, sample XRD-3	U-series <sup>230</sup> Th	60,000 ± 2000	n.a.	Zhang et al. (2004)
Xianrendong, upper layer (?)	Deer, sample XRD-4	U-series <sup>230</sup> Th	47,000 ± 2000	n.a.	Zhang et al. (2004)
Xianrendong, upper layer (?)	Deer, sample XRD-4	U-series <sup>227</sup> Th	38,000 + 8000 – 7000	n.a.	Zhang et al. (2004)
Ganqian Cave, upper subunit of flowstone capping fossil layer	Speleothem, sample LTG-1 (upper)	U-series <sup>230</sup> Th	40,000 ± 2000	0041	Shen et al. (2001a)
Ganqian Cave, lower part of flowstone capping fossil layer	Speleothem, sample LTG-1-1	U-series <sup>230</sup> Th	93,000 ± 4000	9907	Shen et al. (2001a)
Ganqian Cave, lower part of flowstone capping fossil layer	Speleothem, sample LTG-1-2 (replicate date)	U-series <sup>230</sup> Th	88,000 ± 5000	0072	Shen et al. (2001a)
Ganqian Cave, lower part of flowstone capping fossil layer	Speleothem, sample LTG-2-1	U-series <sup>230</sup> Th	93,000 ± 4000	0015	Shen et al. (2001a)
Ganqian Cave, lower part of flowstone capping fossil layer	Speleothem, sample LTG-2-2	U-series <sup>230</sup> Th	102,000 ± 8000	0046	Shen et al. (2001a)
Ganqian Cave, second flowstone layer	Speleothem, sample LTG-3	U-series <sup>230</sup> Th	252,000 + 39,000 – 28,000	0057	Shen et al. (2001a)
Ganqian Cave, second flowstone layer	Speleothem, sample LTG-4	U-series <sup>230</sup> Th	232,000 + 41,000 – 29,000	0042	Shen et al. (2001a)
Ganqian Cave, fossil layer	Tapir tooth, sample LTG-5	U-series <sup>230</sup> Th	99,000 ± 4000	0058	Shen et al. (2001a)
Ganqian Cave, fossil layer	Tapir tooth, sample LTG-5	U-series <sup>227</sup> Th	86,000 + 11,000 – 10,000	0058	Shen et al. (2001a)

Table 3 Dates of Pleistocene early modern humans in China.<sup>a</sup> (Continued)

Locality, layer	Sample	Method	Age	Lab nr	Reference
Ganqian Cave, fossil layer	Deer tooth, sample LTG-6	U-series <sup>230</sup> Th	85,000 ± 3000	0060	Shen et al. (2001a)
Ganqian Cave, fossil layer	Deer tooth, sample LTG-6	U-series <sup>227</sup> Th	139,000 + 17,000 – 15,000	0060	Shen et al. (2001a)
Huanglongdong, human fossil layer, TN1 W3	Rhinoceros lower molar, sample HC1	U-series <sup>230</sup> Th/ <sup>234</sup> U	94,700 ± 12,500	Test nr 021 (Lab. of the Institute of Karst Geology)	Wu (2006:235); Wu et al. (2006)
Huanglongdong, Stalagmite layer above human fossil layer/"approximately... "same...level" as "human fossils"	Calcite, sample HL-1	U-series <sup>230</sup> Th	106,267 ± 1009 corrected age: 103,739 ± 1616	n.a. (TIMS Lab. of the Dept. of Geology & Geophysics)	Wu (2006:235–6); Wu et al. (2006)
Huanglongdong, stalagmite layer above human fossil layer/"approximately... "same...level" as "human fossils"	Calcite, sample HL-2	U-series <sup>230</sup> Th	105,049 ± 949 corrected age: 103,119 ± 1348	n.a.; for lab, see above	Wu (2006:235–6); Wu et al. (2006)
Huanglongdong, Layer 4(?)	Rhinoceros tooth	ESR	34,780 ± 3280 (EU) 44,180 ± 4540 (LU)	5103 (State Key Lab. of Earthquake Dynamics)	Wu et al. (2006)
Baojiyandong, Middle 4–6 cm	Calcite	<sup>14</sup> C	24,060 ± 900	BK 79410	CASS (1991:216)
Baojiyandong, Middle 17–20 cm	Calcite	<sup>14</sup> C	27,150 ± 1000	BK 79413	CASS (1991:216)
Baojiyandong, Middle 67–72 cm	Calcite	<sup>14</sup> C	34,590 ± 1500	BK 79421	CASS (1991:216)
Bailiandong, west section; layer 4, base	Upper flowstone	<sup>14</sup> C	26,680 ± 650 25,920 ± 625	BK 82098	Chen and Yuan (1988: Table 3); Yuan et al. (1995: Table 2)
Bailiandong, west section, layer 6; "fossil between 2 flowstones"	Bone	U-series	28,000 ± 2000	BKY 82141	Yuan et al. (1995: Table 2); Chen and Yuan (1988: Table 3)
Bailiandong, west section, layer 10, top	Flowstone	<sup>14</sup> C	36,000 ± 2000	BK 82101	Yuan et al. (1995: Table 2)
Bailiandong, west section, layer 10	Lower flowstone	<sup>14</sup> C	37,000 ± 2000	BK 82101	Chen and Yuan (1988, Table 3)
Bailiandong, flowstone layer above human fossil layer	Calcite	U-series	160,000	n.a.	Shen et al. (2001b in Shen et al. 2001a)
Zhangkoudong, layer 6	Carbon particles	<sup>14</sup> C	9965 ± 110	n.a.	Hu (1995)

Table 3 Dates of Pleistocene early modern humans in China.<sup>a</sup> (Continued)

Locality, layer	Sample	Method	Age	Lab nr	Reference
Zhangkoudong, 4th flowstone layer	Calcite, sample YJZ-3 (I)	U-series	58,000 ± 3000	n.a.	Shen et al. (2005)
Zhangkoudong, 5th flowstone layer	calcite, sample YJZ-4 (II)	U-series	110,000 + 8000 - 7000	n.a.	Shen et al. (2005)
Migongdong, Locality 1, middle deposit	Animal [bone or tooth?]	<sup>14</sup> C	13,150 ± 190	n.a.	Huang et al. (2000)
Gaitoudong, sublayers of flowstone capping human fossil layer, upper part	Flowstone, sample QLS-6	U-series <sup>230</sup> Th	9700 ± 200 corrected age: 7900 ± 200	n.a.	Shen et al. (2007)
Gaitoudong, sublayers of flowstone capping human fossil layer, lower part	Flowstone, sample QLS-7	U-series <sup>230</sup> Th	44,400 ± 1200 corrected age: 38,700 ± 3200	n.a.	Shen et al. (2007)
Gaitoudong, stalagmite overlying flowstone capping human fossil layer	Sample QLS-11	U-series <sup>230</sup> Th	40,300 ± 400 corrected age: 38,500 ± 1000	n.a.	Shen et al. (2007)
Gaitoudong, human fossil layer	Deer tooth fragment: enamel; sample QLS-17	U-series <sup>230</sup> Th	11,100 ± 500	n.a.	Shen et al. (2007)
Gaitoudong, human fossil layer	Deer tooth fragment: dentine; sample QLS-17	U-series <sup>230</sup> Th	15,000 ± 2000	n.a.	Shen et al. (2007)
Gaitoudong, calcite vein ~1.20 m below human fossil layer	Calcite, sample QLS-16 (I)	U-series <sup>230</sup> Th	48,900 ± 600 corrected age: 45,500 ± 1800	n.a.	Shen et al. (2007)
Gaitoudong, calcite vein ~1.20 m below human fossil layer	Calcite, sample QLS-16 (II)	U-series <sup>230</sup> Th	46,000 ± 500 corrected age: 43,500 ± 1400	n.a.	Shen et al. (2007)
Gaitoudong, calcite vein ~1.20 m below human fossil layer	Calcite, sample QLS-12 (I)	U-series <sup>230</sup> Th	43,300 ± 400 corrected age: 40,400 ± 2900	n.a.	Shen et al. (2007)
Gaitoudong, calcite vein ~1.20 m below human fossil layer	Calcite, sample QLS-12 (II)	U-series <sup>230</sup> Th	46,100 ± 400 corrected age: 44,200 ± 1100	n.a.	Shen et al. (2007)
“Xuertian village” possibly site H8601	Mammal bone	<sup>14</sup> C <sup>d</sup>	24,500 ± 400	OxA-1267	Hedges et al. (1988: 301)
Chaoyang Xigou	<i>Equus</i> sp. tooth	<sup>14</sup> C <sup>d</sup>	33,400 ± 1100	OxA-957	Hedges et al. (1988: 301)
Xarus, Fanjiagouwan cultural layer, Paleolithic	Charcoal	<sup>14</sup> C	35,340 ± 1900	PV-0177 (2)	CASS (1991:63)
Xarus, Yangshigouwan upper cultural layer, Paleolithic	Rhinoceros fossil	<sup>14</sup> C	25,620 ± 710	PV-0185	CASS (1991:63)
Xarus, Upper Saraozol group, layer 10	n.a.	U-series	24,000 ± 1200	BKY 80032	Chen and Yuan (1988: Appendix A)

Table 3 Dates of Pleistocene early modern humans in China.<sup>a</sup> (Continued)

Locality, layer	Sample	Method	Age	Lab nr	Reference
Xarus, Upper Saraosol group, layer 6	n.a.	U-series	29,700 ± 1600	BKY 80031	Chen and Yuan (1988: Appendix A)
Xarus, Lower Saraosol group	n.a.	U-series	44,000 ± 7000	BKY 80028-2	Chen and Yuan (1988: Appendix A)
Xarus, Lower Saraosol group	n.a.	U-series	49,500 ± 2200	BKY 81021	Chen and Yuan (1988: Appendix A)
Xarus, lower formation	Mammalian teeth	U-series	37,000–49,000	n.a.	Yuan et al. (1983)
Xarus, Chengchuan formation	Mammalian teeth	U-series	30,000	n.a.	Yuan et al. (1983)

<sup>a</sup><sup>14</sup>C dates (both LSC and AMS) ages are given as yr BP (before present); for U-series dates ages are in yr ago. Half-life of <sup>14</sup>C dates is Libby's half-life of 5568 yr.

<sup>b</sup>MLPMBC: Museum of Liaoning Province and Museum of Benxi City.

<sup>c</sup>A date of 17,250 ± 210 BP is quoted by Madsen et al. (2001). This is calculated though not stated, with the 5730-yr half-life.

<sup>d</sup>AMS <sup>14</sup>C.

## 2. Shiyu

An as yet unstudied human occipital fragment from Shiyu (locality 63661), Shuoxian County, north Shanxi Province, was discovered in layer 2 of this open-air site in 1963 (Chia et al. 1972; Figure 1). Non-human fossils, lithic artifacts (~15,000), burnt fossils, and an up to 0.25-m-thick ash layer were also found in layer 2 (0.9–1.5-m-thick fluvial sands and gravel). The non-human fossils (in a fragmentary state of preservation and mainly teeth) comprise about 12/15 species (including *Crocota* sp. and *Coelodonta antiquitatis*), thought to predate Shandongong (Chia et al. 1972; Wu and Wang 1985; and see Wu and Poirier 1995:177). The <sup>14</sup>C date is ~28,000 BP (CASS 1991:41; Table 3). The exact provenance of the occipital fragment within layer 2 is unclear (see e.g. Chia et al. 1972).

## 3. Tongtianyan (Liujiang)

In terms of depositional context and age, the *H. sapiens* from the Tongtianyan Cave in Liujiang County, north-central Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, is one of the most debated fossil human specimens in paleoanthropology (Figure 1). After the discovery of a human cranium, partial axial skeleton (14 whole bones and fragments), most of a right innominate, and 2 femoral shafts during guano digging of the cave deposits by farmers in 1958, a geological study by Li Youheng (in Woo 1959; Wu and Poirier 1995:186–93) concluded that the human remains derived from the upper deposit of unconsolidated limestone breccia. By the time of the discovery of human fossils, guano diggers had emptied most of the cave's deposits. A giant panda skeleton was found near the human remains. Both the human and panda fossils were covered with “reddish matrix” and considered to be of Late Pleistocene age (Woo 1959:109). More mammalian fossils were recovered from consolidated yellow sediment, and these were judged to be of Middle Pleistocene origin (Woo 1959). The morphological features of Tongtianyan were considered to identify the earliest modern *H. sapiens* in China (Woo 1959).

<sup>14</sup>C dating of layer 2 gave an age of more than 40,000 BP (CASS 1991:219). U-series dating of cave sediments resulted in an age of ~67,000 yr for the human materials (Yuan et al. 1986; Table 3), but it is unclear how the dated sample relates to these fossils (Chen and Zhang 1991). The most recent effort at dating the human fossils also refers to calcrite matrix remaining on and in various parts of the human partial skeleton that points to a provenance in the intrusive breccia or “refilling breccia” according to Shen et al. (2002a). The Upper and Lower Units of the cave contain no carbonate. The most recent dating assumes the “probable” provenance of the hominid in the intrusive breccia (Shen et al. 2002a: Figure 3). Samples of flowstone for U-series dating of the hominid were taken from several locations and different sediments within the cave (for a full list of dates, see Shen et al. 2002a: Tables 1–3). One of these (sample LJR-17) is at the approximate same level as the assumed human fossil level in the intrusive breccia (Shen et al. 2002a: Figure 3; Table 1) with a mean age of ~111,000 yr. Dates from the second flowstone (FL2) located in the Upper Unit (sample LJR-2) provide a minimum age for the intrusive breccia below of ~68,000 yr. An average date of ~153,000 yr for FL3 from the Middle Unit (sample LJR-6) is suggested to be the earliest age of the “washout event” of the intrusive breccia, while an average date of ~139,000 yr (sample LJR-8), is the earliest age for the intrusive breccia, with a “best age estimate” of 111,000–139,000 yr for the breccia and human fossils; the absence of stratification in the breccia would indicate a rapid deposition event (Shen et al. 2002a:824). The authors also note that the human fossils may derive from the Middle Unit, a “carbonate-cemented clay,” thus dating them to more than 153,000 yr based on the FL3 flowstone layer (sample LJR-6; Shen et al. 2002a:825). This flowstone lies above the FL4 flowstone layer with uncorrected dates of ~250,000 and ~228,000 yr (sample LJR-31; see Shen et al. 2002a: Figure 3), which would make the fossils even older.

#### 4. Huangshanxi (Ziyang)

A modern *H. sapiens* cranium, a mostly edentulous hard palate and partial maxilla (lacking the basi-cranium, and parts of other bones, including most facial bones), was found during railway bridge construction on the right bank of the Huangshanxi River in Ziyang County, central Sichuan Province, in 1951 (e.g. Pei 1957a; Woo and Wu 1957; Wu and Zhang 1985; Figure 1). In the same year as the discovery, 2 test pits (east and west sites) were excavated east and west of the railway bridge foundation in the area where the human fossils were found. The northwest area of the east site is closest to the presumed human fossil place (Pei 1957a; Figure 1). The human bones have long been assumed to derive from layer 3 (1.0–1.5-m-thick sands with small pebbles) where a small number of fragmentary fossils and many fossilized roots, branches, and leaves were also found; no fossils or artifacts were found in layers 1 and 4 (6.0 m mean thickness: yellow-red clay and gravel layer, respectively). Some fossil wood was recovered from layer 2 (1-m-thick gray clay intercalated with sands; Pei 1957a: Figure 2; and see Wu and Poirier 1995:199). The non-human fossils include about 13 species of a southern mammalian fauna (Pei 1957b) of which some of the younger (*H. sapiens*) group is less fossilized than the earlier group (Pei 1957a). A bone awl, dark brown in color similar to the human bones, was found during excavation near the base of layer 3 (Pei 1957c). A Late Pleistocene age was first assumed on account of several extinct taxa in the fauna (e.g. Pei 1957b; and see Wu and Wang 1985). However, the depositional/stratigraphic provenance of the human fossils remains uncertain (e.g. Aigner 1981:67; Wu and Zhang 1985; Etler 1996).

Fluorine analysis of 6 fossil samples from Huangshanxi by Chiu (1955), initiated by Pei Wenzhong, identified the human cranium as “slightly fossilised” with a 0.79% fluorine content, while the most fossilized specimen (an indeterminate animal fossil), contained 1.32% fluorine. The *H. sapiens* would therefore be younger than the more fossilized mammalian bones (Chiu 1955; Pei 1957a; and see Wu and Poirier 1995:199).  $^{14}\text{C}$  dates on wood assumed to derive from an equivalent stratigraphic context as the human cranium date to the Early Holocene (e.g. CASS 1991:222–3; Table 3).

Subsequent surveys and test excavations of the site’s environs found many tree fossils, pollen, and few mammalian fossils in a gray clay layer, a lacustrine deposit (The Quaternary Section of the Chengtu Institute of Geology 1974). This layer is situated below a yellow-red clay (upper stratum), a fluvial deposit, and above a gravel layer (lower stratum), a riverbed deposit. Because of the similarity of tree fossils and pollen to those extant in the area and the mostly extant mammalian fossils, it is argued that they derive from the Early Holocene period, as indicated by  $^{14}\text{C}$  dates. The condition of the gray clay layer mammalian fossils indicates river flood transportation to the area in contrast to the short distance transportation of the human cranium (The Quaternary Section of the Chengtu Institute of Geology 1974).

Another excavation of Ziyang [Huangshanxi] Man Locality B in 1981, ~100 m west of the human fossil site, yielded 6 mammalian fossils (including *Cervus* sp., *Rhinoceros sinensis*), tree fossils, and 172 lithic artifacts from layer 6 (pebble layer, of a total of 7 recognized layers), ~8 m below the surface. The similarity of faunal taxa, and comparable color and degree of fossilization of the modern humans and the Site B fossils indicates that the localities are elements of the same fauna (Li and Zhang 1984). A  $^{14}\text{C}$  date of ~37,000 BP (Li and Zhang 1984; Wu and Poirier 1995:199) is from a sample above layer 6 at Locality B (Li and Zhang 1984). A similar date is from a sample below layer 6 (Wang 1989: Table 4.1) at 11 m below the surface (CASS 1991:223; Table 3), thus below the presumed depth of the human fossils.

### 5. Miaohoushan Dongdong

There are 2 sites at Miaohoushan, both of them limestone caves: the Middle and Late Pleistocene Miaohoushan site (also called Cave A) and the Late Pleistocene Miaohoushan Dongdong site (East Cave, also called Cave B). These sites are located on the Liaodong Peninsula in Benxi County, central Liaoning Province (Figure 1) and were discovered in 1978 and excavated from 1978 to 1980. Both sites have yielded animal, human, and plant fossils, and evidence of human activity. Archaic and modern *H. sapiens* fossils were found at Miaohoushan and modern *H. sapiens* at Miaohoushan Dongdong (Museum of Liaoning Province and Museum of Benxi City 1986:98–9).

Miaohoushan Dongdong is situated on the southern inclination of the Miaohoushan hill. The cave contains 5 layers (total thickness of 6.7–10.2 m). Of the 2 fossiliferous layers, layer 2 (0.4–0.6-m-thick clay with breccia) yielded the modern human fossils (2 fragments: parietal bone 1 and parietal [or temporal] bone 2). These were found at the base of layer 2 and associated with 5 mammalian species (including *C. ultima*, *Cervus* sp.) and a quartzite artifact. A human radius from the highest part of layer 2, 0.8 m above the human cranial bones, was associated with *Cervus* sp. and *Sus scrofa*. The fossils of the overlying layer 3 (0.8–2-m-thick breccia and gravel with some sandy clay) were found in the bottom part, including *S. scrofa* (Museum of Liaoning Province and Museum of Benxi City 1986:98–100, 6; see also Wu and Poirier 1995:181). According to the primary source, *S. scrofa* was not present within layer 2 (Museum of Liaoning Province and Museum of Benxi City 1986:99). The stratigraphic section of Miaohoushan Dongdong, however, shows a thin, unnumbered layer between layers 3 and 2 from which the radius derives and with no associated animal fossils, while the fossils of layer 3 are illustrated in the lower and not the basal part of this layer (Museum of Liaoning Province and Museum of Benxi City 1986: Figure 5.1).

The radius is stratigraphically above the cranial bones and less fossilized and therefore considered to be younger than the other human bones (Museum of Liaoning Province and Museum of Benxi City 1986:6). A  $^{14}\text{C}$  date places layer 2 at ~28,000 BP; however, this date is also referred to layer 3 (Museum of Liaoning Province and Museum of Benxi City 1986:100, 91, 8; Table 3). In CASS (1991:78), the origin of the  $^{14}\text{C}$  sample is described as “Xi Dong,” i.e. West Cave and at 0.5 m lower, perhaps a misprint (Table 3).

### 6. Yuanyang (Wushan)

Discovered during a survey in 1984, the open-air site of Yuanyang, near Yuanyang town in Wushan County, south Gansu Province, is one of the earliest dated modern humans (Figure 1). Several parts of a *H. sapiens* cranium were found (frontal bone, both parietals, and nasal and sphenoid fragments) in the central part of a calcified clay layer with some gravel of 15 m thickness. This layer is capped by 2 “layers” reaching a depth of about 23–25 m (Xie et al. 1987 in Wu and Poirier 1995:182–3). A  $^{14}\text{C}$  date of ~38,000 BP on clay from the fossil layer is mentioned by Wu and Poirier (1995:182–3) as dated by the Laboratory of Geography of Lanzhou University, but no further information is given (Table 3).

### 7. Laishui

Laishui, in Laishui County, central Hebei Province, is an open-air site discovered and excavated in 1987 (now destroyed due to house construction; Figure 1). A partial modern *H. sapiens* skeleton, including a skull, was found associated with animal fossils and lithic artifacts at the base of Malan Loess. A U-series date of this unstudied skeleton of about 28,000 yr was obtained on an associated animal fossil (Lü Zun’e, personal communication, 1994; Keates 2003; and see Etler 1996) and a 60,000 yr date has also been reported (Wolpoff 1999:728), but no further details are available.

### 8. Xiaohuidong (Shuicheng)

Xiaohuidong, Shuicheng County, west Guizhou Province, was discovered as a result of road construction in 1973 with much of the site no longer extant (Figure 1). Excavations in 1973 and 1974 revealed 3 stratigraphic layers in this cave (Cao 1978). Layer I (0.1–0.3-m-thick flowstone) overlies layer II (~0.05–0.15-m-thick ash with calcium carbonate) where burnt bones and stones and carbon particles were found. Fossils, including a modern human left upper canine, and 56 lithic artifacts derive from layer III (~0.05–0.45-m-thick sandy clay and breccia) (Cao 1978; see also Wu and Poirier 1995:221) close to and lower than the other fossils (Cao 1978). Five mammalian species were identified (including *Stegodon* sp., *Sus* sp.). The U-series date of layer 3 is ~52,000 yr (see Yuan et al. 1986; Table 3); an age range of 55,000–49,000 yr has also been suggested (Chen and Yuan 1988: Table 6). More recently, U-series dates of layer 1 and the lower part of layer 3 date the archaeological specimens to ~110,000–230,000 yr (Shen 1993:277, Table 1), although there are also other dates for layer 1 of ~59,000 yr and ~356,000 yr (Table 3).

### 9. Longtanshan Site 1

Prior to the discovery of 2 human fossils in 1977 at Longtanshan Site 1, Chengong County, west central Yunnan Province, quarry workers had unearthed mammalian fossils and lithic artifacts from 1973 to 1977 (Figure 1). Longtanshan Site 1 is a fissure site with 2 identified layers: a 2-m-deep red loam layer (cemented to a small degree) and a 1.3-m-thick sandy clay layer with thin travertine plates at the top and basal parts. The modern human fossils (right PM<sub>1</sub> and left M<sub>1</sub>) are thought to originate from the sandy clay layer based on the extent of fossilization, color, and adhering deposit. Most of the fauna is from the sandy clay layer; a small number of fossils is from the base of the red loam layer. The site was dated on the basis of the fauna that comprises 12 species (e.g. *C. ultima*, *R. sinensis*) to the Late Pleistocene (Zhang et al. 1978 in Wu and Poirier 1995:230). The <sup>14</sup>C date is ~18,000 BP (CASS 1991:240; Table 3).

### 10. Shuidonggou

Shuidonggou, Lingwu County, northern Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, is an open-air site complex long known for its rich fossil fauna and lithic artifact assemblages and also for burnt bones (Figure 1). Discovery and excavation in 1923 (e.g. Teilhard de Chardin and Licent 1924), was followed by further investigations (e.g. Chia et al. 1964), the most recent ones in the 1990s, establishing Shuidonggou as the oldest of the Initial Upper Paleolithic sites in China (e.g. Brantingham et al. 2001; Madsen et al. 2001; Barton et al. 2007). The 2 main sites at Shuidonggou, namely Locality 1 and Locality 2, located about 100 m distance from each other, are comparable in terms of stratigraphy (Gao et al. 2002) though Locality 1 has several more layers (see Gao et al. 2002: Figure 2).

In 2000, a modern *H. sapiens* cranial bone (posterior part of the right parietal) was discovered at Shuidonggou, Locality 1 (see Wu et al. 2004). The human specimen, with “moderate fossilisation” was found at the base of stratum 7, close to the top of stratum 8, “just above the erosion surface of the upper part of the late Pleistocene stratum” (Wu et al. 2004:84). There are a total of 8 strata, with strata 1–7 of Holocene age and stratum 8 of Late Pleistocene age. This stratigraphy follows that of the Geological Survey of Ningxia Museum and Ningxia Geological Bureau (1987, in Wu et al. 2004). Stratum 8 contains Late Pleistocene fauna and Upper Paleolithic artifacts, and, according to Wu et al. (2004:84), the parietal can probably be associated with stratum 8. Of the 4 <sup>14</sup>C dates, the one nearest to the suggested provenance of the human bone is a date for the upper part of stratum 8 at ~16,000 BP. Strata below this have older <sup>14</sup>C and U-series dates (Wu et al. 2004: Figure 2; CASS 1991:293; Chen et al. 1984; Table 3).



## 11. Lianhuadong

Excavation of the cave site of Lianhuadong, Zhenjiang County, southwest Jiangsu Province (Figure 1), in 1981, recovered a modern *H. sapiens* fossil (most likely M<sub>2</sub>, rootless) associated with other mammalian fossils (15 species, including *Dicerorhinus* sp., *S. scrofa*) from layer 2 or layer 3 (loam with limestone blocks of 1.0 m and 1.5 m thickness, respectively); fewer fossils were found in layer 2 (see Li et al. 1982). Four layers were recognized including layer 1 (0.2-m-thick surface deposit) and layer 4 (sandy loam, unknown depth). The age of the fossils is considered to be Late Pleistocene (Li et al. 1982; see also Wu and Poirier 1995:221–2). U-series dates of animal teeth from layer 2 would indicate an age range of 104,000–136,000 yr for the human tooth (Pan et al. 2002; Table 3).

## 12. Wuquidong (Jiande)

The cave site of Wuquidong was discovered in 1974 in Jiande County, west Zhejiang Province (Figure 1). Mammalian fossils (11 species, including *R. sinensis*, *Muntiacus* sp.) and a human right upper canine were found in the upper layer (~0.35-m-thick purple clay), considered to be later Late Pleistocene. Mammalian fossils also derive from the lower layer (~1.10-m-thick yellow-red clay) interpreted as early Late Pleistocene (Han and Zhang 1978; Wu and Poirier 1995:228–9). U-series dates of the upper layer bracket the age of the human tooth between ~97,000 and ~108,000 yr (Yuan et al. 1986; Table 3). In a subsequent publication, the U-series dates of the upper layer range from ~90,000–117,000 yr, but it is unclear what the 117,000 yr date is based on (see Chen and Yuan 1988: Table 6 and Appendix A).

## 13. Nanshandong

Mammalian fossils discovered by workers at Nanshandong in Fusui County, south Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region (Figure 1), in 2000, include 2 well-preserved modern *H. sapiens* teeth (left M<sub>3</sub> and right M<sub>2</sub>). These were found in a ~2-m-thick fine sandy clay layer below calcite of this cave. The animal fossils comprise 9 species (including *R. sinensis*, *Equus hemionus*). U-series dating returned dates of ~51,000 and 53,000 yr (Table 3) with a “corrected” 1- and 2- $\sigma$  age range of 33,000–44,000 yr (Wang and Mo 2004: Table 4) or 30,000–40,000 yr (Wang and Mo 2004:135).

## 14. Dangcheng (Heshun)

The cave site of Dangcheng locality 83001 in Heshun County, east Shanxi Province, is one of several cave sites near Dangcheng village (Figure 1). It was excavated in 3 field seasons (1983–85) and yielded 24 mammalian species, including modern *H. sapiens* (2 cranial fragments, unspecified), and 3000+ lithic artifacts from layer 4 (0.60-m-thick sand). Eight layers were identified (layers 8–1, top to bottom), and non-human fossils and artifacts were also found in layer 6. The fauna (including *C. ultima*, *Gazella przewalskyi*) is Late Pleistocene. The <sup>14</sup>C date for layer 6 (Wu and Shun 1989) is ~30,000 BP. Another <sup>14</sup>C date is ~27,000 BP (CASS 1991:52; Table 3).

## 15. Yanjiagang

A heavily weathered posterior fragment of a human right parietal was discovered on the surface of Yanjiagang farm in an eroded sandy part on the eastern side of a site (Zone A) under excavation near Harbin in southwest Heilongjiang Province in 1982 (Figure 1). Excavations were conducted from 1982–85. Four layers were identified in Zone A. Most mammalian fossils were found in the lower part of “layer 2” (loess) and the upper part of “layer 4” (fine sands), the former younger than the latter (Wu and Poirier 1995:180). The main fossil and cultural layer is 3.5 m below the ground surface and 0.8 m thick. Loess, black earth, and “cultivated soil” are situated above this layer (You et al.

1986:99). The Zone A “upper fossil bed” (“layer 2”) fauna comprises 11 species (including *Mammuthus primigenius*, *G. przewalskyi*). Nine lithic artifacts were also found. A  $^{14}\text{C}$  date of ~22,000 BP was published by the Management Committee of Cultural Relics of Heilongjiang Province et al. in 1987 (see Wu and Poirier 1995:180; not included in CASS 1991; Table 3), but it is unknown to this author if the report contains information on the stratigraphic position of the dated sample. Similarly, the stratigraphic provenance of 5  $^{14}\text{C}$  dates from Yanjiagang (from ~26,560 to >41,300 BP) is not clear (see Ives et al. 1994).

#### 16. Xianrendong (Xichou)

The cave site Xianrendong (“Xuanrendong” in Chen and Qi 1978) in Xichou County, southwest Yunnan Province, was first excavated in 1965 and 1970 with the discovery of mammalian fossils (Figure 1). More fossils, including 3 modern human teeth and 2 modern human teeth, were recovered in 1972 and 1973, respectively, the latter from a disturbed depositional context (Chen and Qi 1978). Three layers were identified: an upper layer (0.3–0.5-m-thick limestone) with mammalian fossils; a middle layer (0.8-m-thick hardened sand and clay) with mammalian fossils, including the human teeth; and a lower layer (1.3-m-thick clay) (Chen and Qi 1978). The 5 human teeth are 2 right lower canines, a right  $M_1$  or  $M_2$ , a right  $PM_1$ , and a right  $DM_2$  (Chen and Qi 1978; and see IVPP 1980:152).

The non-human fossils (32 species, including *Stegodon orientalis*, *Megatapirus augustus*) are representative of a Late Pleistocene fauna (Chen and Qi 1978; see also Wu and Poirier 1995:223). U-series dates of 3 animal teeth with “adhered matrix” are argued to derive from the middle layer range from ~67,000–105,000 yr. One tooth, which is perhaps from the upper layer, dates to ~38,000–47,000 yr. The range of 47,000–105,000 yr is considered to date the human fossils, although Zhang et al. (2004) suggest that these may be considerably younger than the true age because speleothem calcites are deemed to be more reliable for U-series dating (Table 3).

#### 17. Ganqian (Tubo)

Excavations in 1981 at Ganqian Cave (locality 81001; “Ganqian Cave” in Li et al. 1984), Tubo district, Liujiang County, north-central Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region (Figure 1), recovered 5 modern *H. sapiens* teeth with 18 species of fragmentary mammalian fossils (including *Hystrix sub-cristata*, *Ailuropoda melanoleuca baconi*) in a clay layer near the base of the cave, ~10 m below the ground surface. Four human teeth are from a drug store and found by collectors in Ganqian Cave (Li et al. 1984; Wu and Poirier 1995:210). Eight human teeth were found in 1997 by local collectors in the Inner Hall of the cave in layer 2 (1.1-m-thick clayey sediment) associated with a large number of mammalian fossils (Wang et al. 1999). The human teeth from the excavations in 1981 (unerrupted left  $I^1$ , left  $M^1$ , 3 right  $M^1$ , right(?)  $M^2$ , left  $M^3$ , right lower  $M$ , and left  $DM_2$ ; Li et al. 1984; Wu and Poirier 1995:210–2) and collections in 1997 (right  $M^1$ , 2 left  $M^1$ , “probably” left  $M^1$ , “probably” right  $M^2$ , “probably” right  $M_2$ , “likely” left  $M^3$  or “possibly a second molar,” left  $M^3$ ; Shen et al. 2002b:81–2; and see Wang et al. 1999) vary in their degree of fossilization (Shen et al. 2002b).

The *Ailuropoda-Stegodon* fauna indicates a late Late Pleistocene age (Li et al. 1984). More recently, U-series dates of the flowstone above and below the fossil layer give an age estimate for the human teeth of ~94,000–220,000 yr. U-series dates of animal teeth from the fossil layer are ~99,000 and ~86,000 yr (Table 3). According to Shen et al. (2001a, 2002b), these would also favor an age estimate of more than ~100,000 yr for the human fossils.

## 18. Huanglongdong [Hubei Province]

Discovered during a survey in 2004, the cave site of Huanglongdong, Yunxi County, north Hubei Province (Figure 1), was excavated in 2004, 2005, and 2006; all specimens were plotted (see Wu 2006:18–9). In 2004–2005, 5 modern *H. sapiens* teeth (upper canine, left M<sup>3</sup> (peglike), right I<sub>2</sub>, left M<sub>3</sub>, and right M<sub>2</sub>) were recovered associated with mammalian fossils (including burnt specimens) and artifacts. In 2006, animal fossils, including 2 modern human teeth (I<sup>1</sup> and I<sub>2</sub>), freshwater crab, snail, fish, 40 mammalian species (including *H. subcristata*, *S. orientalis*), 11 lithic and 6 bone artifacts were found (Wu 2006); 22 lithic artifacts are also mentioned (Wu et al. 2006). Some animal bones are cut-marked (Wu et al. 2006) and charcoal (~62–73% carbon content) was identified in the human fossil layer (Liu et al. 2008). The archaeological specimens are from layer 3 (0.58–1.01 m thick red-brown silt clay) (Wu 2006:11; Wu et al. 2006), or 0.48–1.0 m thick (Wu et al. 2007). The human fossils and artefacts are from the base of layer 3 and most of the fauna is from this layer (Wu et al. 2006). There are a total of 5 layers with a depth of 1.20–4.22 m (Wu et al. 2006). The non-human fossils are a Late Pleistocene fauna (Wu 2006:11; Wu et al. 2007). U-series dating places the hominid layer at ~94,000 yr and the overlying stalagmite layer at ~100,000 yr (Wu 2006:235–6; Table 3). According to Wu et al. (2006:2494, 2497), the human fossils were discovered “in association with the stalagmites” or “at approximately the same horizontal level” as “the human fossils...”, of which the latter statement accords with the position of the specimens as shown in their Figure 2; the stalagmite level is shown to be located about 0.80 m away from the fossils. The single ESR date is ~34,000–44,000 yr (Table 3), and Wu et al. (2006:2497) argue for a likely date of ~100,000 yr for the human fossils dismissing the ESR sample because of possible “complicated absorption and leaching” in the burial environment in contrast to the “pure and dense” U-series samples from “a closed environment.”

## 19. Baojiyandong

After the discovery of mammalian fossils, including a human tooth (right M<sub>2</sub>), by students at Baojiyandong, a cave in Quilin City, northeast Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, in 1979, a survey of this site in 1980 recovered a second human tooth (left M<sub>3</sub>), mammalian fossils, and 12 lithic artifacts (Wang et al. 1982; Figure 1). The major part of this cave had previously been exploited by fertilizer digging. Three layers were recognized in the main chamber (layers I–III, depth of 1.00–1.95 m; layer I, 0.10–0.25 m thick; layer III, 0.70 m thick). The fossils are from layer II (0.20–1.00-m-thick gray-yellow sediment). A Late Pleistocene age estimate is based on the fauna (including *M. augustus*, *R. sinensis*; Wang et al. 1982; see also Wu and Poirier 1995:217–8). Of the 3 <sup>14</sup>C dates, the oldest at ~34,000 BP is at the depth of layer II (i.e. 0.30–1.25 m; CASS 1991:216; Table 3).

## 20. Bailiandong

Discovered in 1956, excavations of Bailiandong, Liuzhou County, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, recovered fragmentary mammalian fossils, including 2 human teeth (right molar and left M<sub>3</sub>) and lithic artifacts, from layer 7 (yellow-brown clay) of the west section of this cave (Zhou 1994a; Figure 1). Lithic artifacts were also found in layer 4 (shallow yellow-brown clay with a calcareous concretion in the upper part) and layer 5 (red-brown clay, with shell). Ten stratigraphic layers have been identified in the west section, with layers 4–7 of Late Pleistocene age, containing some extinct species of the *Ailuropoda-Stegodon* fauna (Zhou 1994a,b). A <sup>14</sup>C date for layer 4 is ~26,000 BP (Chen and Yuan 1988; Yuan et al. 1995). Closer to the human fossil layer, a U-series date for layer 6 is ~28,000 yr (Yuan et al. 1995). A U-series date of flowstone above the human fossil layer is ~160,000 yr, the minimum age for the human fossils (Shen et al. 2001b; Table 3).

## 21. Zhangkoudong

The discovery of Zhangkoudong in 1989, a cave site in Yiliang County, Yunnan Province, led to excavation of the deposits in 1990 by Hu (1995; Figure 1). Eighteen layers, including 9 flowstone layers, were identified and divided into an upper and a lower group. Modern human fossils (40 teeth, unspecified), lithic and bone artifacts, and carbon particles were found in layer 4, belonging to the upper group. This layer reaches a thickness of 1.26 m, and lies 0.36 m below the surface (Hu 1995). However, Shen et al. (2005:359) note, "...because of incomplete excavation notes, the temporal position of the hominid teeth remains unresolved."

$^{14}\text{C}$  dating of carbon particles from layer 6, i.e. 2 layers below the hominid bearing layer, date to ~9000 BP (Hu 1995; Table 3). The  $^{14}\text{C}$  date for layer 14 is  $14,550 \pm 450$  BP (Hu 1995). Shen et al. (1995:358) question "the reliability of conventional  $^{14}\text{C}$  dating of fossil bones..." stating "the carbonate fraction of bones is unsuitable to [sic] dating." (and see Shen et al. 2007:2113 and their reference to Taylor 1992). U-series dates of calcite from the 4th and 5th flowstone layers that lie directly above and below layer 6, respectively, are ~58,000 and 110,000 yr (Shen et al. 2005; Table 3).

## 22. Migongdong, Locality 4

Migongdong site, in Wushan County, east Sichuan Province, was found in 1999 and consists of 5 cave localities (Figure 1). The deposits contain an upper part (0.2-m-thick breccia), a middle part (~1.5-m-thick clay and sandy clay), and a lower part (mostly gravel and sands). Three layers were identified at Locality 4 in the middle part of the deposit, from top to bottom: layer 3 (0.1 m thick), layer 2 (1.2 m thick), and layer 1 (3 m thick). However, the total thickness of the middle deposit of Locality 4 is 4.3 m, more than the ~1.5 m stated for the Migongdong deposits. Modern human fossils (2 mostly complete parietals) were found in layer 1. Animal fossils (4 species, including *Apodemus* sp., *Cervus elaphus*) and lithic artifacts were found lower in layer 1 than the human bones (see Huang et al. 2000: Figure 5).  $^{14}\text{C}$  dates the middle deposit of Locality 1 to ~13,000 BP (Huang et al. 2000; Table 3).

## 23. Gaitoudong (Laibin)

Three modern *H. sapiens* fossils, described as a "skull base" (Wu and Poirier 1995:193), mammalian fossils, shells of extant mollusks, stone artifacts, and evidence of fire, were found in 1956 in the Outer Corridor of a cave on Qilinshan (Qilin hill) in Laibin County, central Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region (Figure 1). Fertilizer digging had removed some parts of the deposits (Chia and Woo 1959). The 2 identified layers in Gaitoudong are a yellowish-gray breccia interbedded with 3 sub-layers of stalagmitic crust and referred to as the upper layer. A red loam below it is called the lower layer. The first sublayer yielded the human fossils, *Cervus* sp. and *Sus* sp. tooth fragments, and 3 lithic artifacts. Mammalian fossils were also found below the human fossil layer. A thin ash layer, including burnt bone and charcoal, is from the upper layer (Chia and Woo 1959). The human fossils (an almost complete hard palate with about 6 teeth and the connecting lower portion of the maxilla, much of the right zygomatic with part of the orbit, and an occipital fragment) are still partly encased in matrix (possibly breccia; see Wu and Poirier 1995: Figure 4.8).

The fossils are considered to be Late Pleistocene (Chia and Woo 1959; Wu and Poirier 1995:193–4). Several U-series dates have been generated recently for Gaitoudong. According to Shen et al. (2007:2113, 2112), because "the hominid specimen was recovered from the deposits in-between, its age can be securely bracketed between 39,000–44,000 yr," with "a weighted mean" for the human fossil of ~44,000 yr. However, the respective samples (QLS-12 and QLS-16) are shown as deriving

from calcite veins about 0.45 m and 0.60 m *below* the human fossil (see Shen et al. 2007: Figure 3). A deer tooth fragment from the human fossil layer is U-series dated to ~11,000 and 15,000 yr, whereas the flowstone capping the human fossil layer is U-series dated to ~44,000 (sample QLS-7) and ~9000 yr (sample QLS-6). The date for the flowstone is considered to be more reliable, because “fossil bones are susceptible to post depositional U migration, leading generally to underestimated dates in a cave setting” (Shen et al. 2007:2113). The Holocene date for the QLS-6 flowstone sample could be due to “recent speleothem formation” (Shen et al. 2007:2112). The origin of another U-series date (sample QLS-11) is a stalagmite positioned on the flowstone layer (Shen et al. 2007: 2111; Figure 3), but also referred to as deriving from the capping flowstone (Shen et al. 2007:2112; Table 3).

#### 24. Site H8601 (Xuetian)

Mammalian fossils and lithic artifacts were excavated from the base of an irrigation channel that had experienced water erosion in 1986. Site H8601 is located near the village of Xuetian, Wuchang County, south Heilongjiang Province (Figure 1). (In the proximity, non-human fossils were recovered from Site H8602. This appears to be the site mentioned by Ives et al. [1994] where animal fossils found 8 m below the surface have been <sup>14</sup>C dated to ~38,000–40,000 BP.) Fossils and 3 lithic and several (possible) bone artifacts were found in layer 2 (a 3.5-m-thick silt) at 2.6 m below the surface (layers 5–1 from top to bottom). The modern human fossils are a left parietal fragment (lower part, in 3 pieces) and a left tibia fragment. The 6 mammalian species (including *M. primigenius*, *C. antiquitatis*) indicate a Late Pleistocene age (Yu 1988; and see Wu and Poirier 1995:179). There is a <sup>14</sup>C date from “Xuetian village” deposits in the same county and province as Site H8601, but no coordinates or further information are given (Hedges et al. 1988:301). The Xuetian village site has yielded “human remains,” and this site is indirectly dated to ~24,000 BP (Hedges et al. 1988:301; Table 3).

#### 25. Chaoyang Xigou (Quwo)

Chaoyang Xigou site, not far from Quwo City, southwest Shanxi Province, is located in a valley (Figure 1). Discovered in 1956 and excavated in 1983, fossils and 514 artifacts were found in layer 2, the “cultural layer” (0.9-m-thick coarse sand and silt with calcareous nodules and some small gravel stones; fossil- and artifact-bearing sediment identified as “clay,” see Liu 1986: Figure 2) of the third terrace of the Fuhe (Fu River). A right upper deciduous modern *H. sapiens* canine was found associated with 8 animal species, including 5 mammals (e.g. *C. antiquitatis*), and plant remains. A Late Pleistocene age estimate by Liu (1986) is with reference to geological, geomorphological, and faunal analyses (and see Wu and Poirier 1995:183–4). A <sup>14</sup>C date is ~33,000 BP; there is no information on the depositional provenance of the dated sample (Hedges et al. 1988:301).

### Undated Human Fossils

#### 1. Maludong (Mengzi)

Maludong in Mengzi County, is a limestone cave site in southeast Yunnan Province found during excavation in 1989 (Figure 1). It has yielded one of the largest collections of modern *H. sapiens* specimens in China, and contains a (possible) cut-marked and drilled individual (“Skull I”) and a perhaps burnt individual (“Skull II”). The cave roof is no longer existent. Three layers were recognized (from top to bottom: layer 1: 4.5-m-thick sandy clay; layer 2: 5.0-m-thick “gray cultural layer,” includes “cemented blocks and thin layer of red clay”; layer 3: unknown depth, limestone blocks). The majority of the human fossils derive from the upper part of layer 2, with most of the mammalian and plant fossils found in the northern area and 89 lithic and 14 antler artifacts in the

southern area of layer 2. Evidence of fire (carbon particles, burnt bones and stones, red burnt clay, and hearths) appears to derive from layer 2 (Wu and Poirier 1995:208–9). The non-human fossils comprise 16 or 17 species (including *Muntiacus muntjak* and the extinct *Axis* cf. *yunnanensis*). The human cranial and post-cranial fossils have an MNI of 3–5 (Skull I: frontal and parietals; Skull II: 2 parietal fragments; “Skull III”: glabellar part of frontal bone and occipital fragment; “Skull IV”: frontal fragment; 2 mandible fragments (2 individuals, including a juvenile with DM<sub>2</sub>); right M<sup>3</sup> and right PM<sup>2</sup>; femur fragment; and a tibia fragment). Only 1 mammalian species is extinct, and the age estimate of the fauna ranges from Late Pleistocene to Early Holocene (Zhang et al. 1991 in Wu and Poirier 1995:207–9).

## 2. Chuandong

Excavations of the cave site of Chuandong in Puding County, west Guizhou Province, from 1978 to 1982, yielded modern human fossils and lithic and bone artifacts (Figure 1). According to Yu (1984 in Wu and Poirier 1995:203), the “deposits were disturbed in recent years.” “Skull I” was found in 1979 and “Skull II” in 1982 (Wu and Poirier 1995:200). One of the “skulls” and “the cultural remains” were found at a 1.50 m depth below the ground surface (Zhang 1980 in Wu and Poirier 1995:203). Higher up in the deposit, at 0.30 m below the ground surface, lithic artifacts, burnt bones, and ashes were discovered in what is referred to as “the cultural layer” (Wu and Poirier 1995:203). More human fossils derive from a disturbed clay layer at the entrance of the cave at 1.20 m depth under the surface (Wu and Poirier 1995:200).

The modern *H. sapiens* fossils represent 2 individuals (Skull I: a calotte with part of the nasal bones and, presumed to be part of the calotte, a right fragment of a maxilla with middle and lateral incisors and canine [Yu 1984 and Huang 1989 in Wu and Poirier 1995:200]; Skull II: a calotte [Wu 1989: Plate V:4]). Three human fossils are from the entrance area (a right median incisor, a mandible fragment with M<sub>1</sub>, M<sub>2</sub>, M<sub>3</sub>, and an isolated M<sub>2</sub>) (Wu and Poirier 1995:200–3).

## 3. Dingmo Cave (Tiandong)

Mammalian fossils, including a human tooth, from Dingmo Cave, Tiandong County, west Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, were discovered about 85 m from the cave entrance at the end of the southern branch of the cave (Figure 1). There are 2 layers, and the fossils were found in the upper layer (~0.50-m-thick sandy clay). Mammalian fossils were also found in the northern branch, and these are considered comparable to the southern branch fossils. A total of 13 species were identified (e.g. *Ailuropoda melanoleuca* and *Palaeoloxodon namadicus*). The human tooth (right M<sup>1</sup> or M<sup>2</sup>) is very worn, rootless, and not heavily fossilized. A provisional Late Pleistocene age estimate is given by Li et al. (1984; see also Wu and Poirier 1995:219–20).

## 4. Cave R5013 (Du’an)

A large number of fossils, including 4 modern human teeth (left M<sup>1</sup> or M<sup>2</sup>, left M<sup>3</sup>, right M<sub>1</sub> or M<sub>2</sub>, and right DM<sub>2</sub>), were discovered in 1977 at Cave R5013 in Du’an County, west Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region (Figure 1). This cave had previously been dug for fertilizer, and the human fossils are from a disturbed area in Chamber II. Investigation indicates that the deposits and fossils had been washed into the cave. The upper part of the fossiliferous sandy clay (0.70 m thick) is inferred to identify the human fossil layer. This layer is overlain by a 0.3–0.5-m-thick travertine; a mollusk-containing 0.12-m-thick loam layer; a 0.02-m-thick travertine; and a 0.20-m-thick clay layer. The 38 animal fossil taxa include 35 mammalian taxa (including *H. subcristata* and 14 carnivore sp.; mainly rootless teeth). They are referred to a Late Pleistocene time period (Zhao et al. 1981 in Wu and Poirier 1995:213–5).

## 5. Guoshandong (Zhaotong)

Fossils and very small pieces of carbon were found during a survey of the limestone cave of Guoshandong in Zhaotong municipality, north Yunnan Province, in 1982 (Zheng 1985; Figure 1). The fossils were recovered from layer 5, the lowest layer (~0.40-m-thick yellow coarse and cemented sandy clay). This layer lies about 0.80–0.90 m below the disturbed cave surface (layer 1, ~0.20 m thick). The human fossil is a left  $M_2$  lacking most of its root. The Late Pleistocene age estimate is based on the associated mammalian fauna (5 species, including *Stegodon* sp.) (Zheng 1985; see also Wu and Poirier 1995:225).

## 6. Huanglong [Shaanxi Province]

Close to the edge of the southern slope of Xujiafenshan, Huanglong County, north Shaanxi Province, human cranial fragments were found in the course of reservoir construction in 1975 (Figure 1). There are 5 layers (layers 5 to 1, top to bottom). The human remains and a *Pseudaxis* sp. antler were located at the boundary of layer 5 (red clay) and layer 4 (yellow clay), both 6 m thick and with calcified concretions. Layer 5 is a secondary deposit; pottery was found on the surface (Wang and Li 1983; see also Wu and Poirier 1995:176). Fragmentary mammalian fossils were found in layer 2 (8-m-thick clay). The modern human parietal and frontal fragments were reconstructed to form a partial skullcap (see Wang and Li 1983: Plate 1), with a geological Late Pleistocene age estimate (Li and Wang 1983).

## 7. Niujiagou (Jinchuan)

Human fossils found in 1976 at the gully site of Niujiagou (“Jingchuan” in Li and Wu 2007), Jinchuan County, south Gansu, were discovered in a sandy clay layer with mammalian fossils and 88 lithic artifacts (Figure 1). The fossil layer is capped by Malan Loess and lies above Lishi Loess (Liu et al. 1984). The human fossils are a partial cranium (a right part of the frontal squama fragment, much of the right parietal, a left parietal fragment, a right temporal, and much of the occipital, see Liu et al. 1984: Plate I:1) and diagnosed as modern *H. sapiens* (Li and Wu 2007; Wu and Poirier 1995:176). The age estimate is based on the associated cultural remains and the mammalian fossils (5 species, including *Equus* sp.), particularly *Myospalax fontanieri*, with a suggested age of either ~50,000–37,000 or ~28,000 yr with reference to the Salawusu and Shiyu dates, respectively (Liu et al. 1984).

## 8. Hulidong (Qingliu)

A human fossil tooth (left  $M_1$ ) discovered in 1988 at Hulidong, Qingliu County, west Fujian Province, was found in layer 3 (0.60–0.80-m-thick sandy soil and fine gravel) with mammalian fossils (6 species, including *M. augustus* and *S. scrofa*) (You et al. 1989; see also Wu and Poirier 1995:228; Figure 1). Six layers (top to bottom: layers 6–1) were recognized. The cave surface is disturbed. Close to where the human tooth and some of the other fauna were found, the intrusive silt layer 6 was identified (see You et al. 1989). In 1989, 5 modern *H. sapiens* fossil teeth (right inner upper incisor; right upper canine; left inner lower incisor; left  $M_1$ ; right  $M_2$ ) and 17 species of fauna were recovered from layer 3 (Dong and Fan 1996). The age of the modern *H. sapiens* fossils is estimated to be late Late Pleistocene with reference to the fauna (You et al. 1989; Dong and Fan 1996).

## 9. Wuzhutai (Xintai)

After the discovery of a human left lower molar fossil by farmers in 1966 near Wuzhutai village in Xintai County, central Shandong Province, reportedly in a limestone fissure, Wu Xinzhi (IVPP) and Shandong Provincial Museum discovered mammalian fossils in the same fissure (6 species, including *C. antiquitatis* and *Sus* sp.) (Wu and Zong 1973 in Wu and Poirier 1995:185; Figure 1).

## 10. Nalai

The only fossil-bearing layer of Nalai Cave, discovered in 1984, in Longlin County, west Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region (Figure 1), is layer 1 (0.10–0.30-m-thick clay), the undisturbed surface layer of the posterior chamber. Five layers were identified with the base not reached (known depth of cave deposit is 0.28–0.50 m). Two human teeth (left M<sup>2</sup>, left M<sub>2</sub>) were found. There are 14 species of mammalian fossils (including *H. subcristata* and *R. sinensis*) on which basis a Late Pleistocene age is indicated (Peng et al. 1987 in Wu and Poirier 1995:215–7).

## 11. Taohua

In 1983, excavation of Taohua Cave in Linzhi (or Guiyang) County, central Guizhou Province, discovered mammalian fossils, including a human femur, and lithic, bone, and shell artifacts (Figure 1). These were found at the bottom of a black clay horizon and in the top part of a yellow clay horizon with a depth of 0.70–1.50 m. Also found was an ash layer (0.40–0.70 m thick) with burnt bones, stones, and small carbon fragments. The Late Pleistocene fauna comprises more than 5 species (including *Megatapirus* sp. and *Bison* sp.) (Cao 1984 in Wu and Poirier 1995:210).

## 12. Dongzhongyan

Mammalian fossils, including 2 modern human teeth (right PM<sup>2</sup>, right M<sub>3</sub>), one of which was found during a survey in 1978 (Qiu et al. 1986) and the other excavated in 1989, are from the cave site of Dongzhongyan, Fengkai County, east Guangdong Province (Song et al. 1991 in Wu and Poirier 1995:226–7; Figure 1). Six layers were identified (layers 1–6, top to bottom, total thickness 0.76–1.53 m, no depth information is available for the lowest layer) with the fossils recovered from layer 5 (0.30–0.70-m-thick clay). The animal fossils (24 species, including *H. subcristata* and *S. orientalis*) indicate an early Late Pleistocene (Qiu et al. 1986) or Late Pleistocene age (Song et al. 1991 in Wu and Poirier 1995:225–7).

## 13. Shuiyan Dongdong (Lipu)

A human tooth (left PM<sub>2</sub>) and 5 mammalian species (e.g. *Hystrix* cf. *subcristata*, *A. melanoleuca fovealis*) were found in an undisturbed part of Shuiyan Dongdong, Lipu County, northeast Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region (Figure 1). Most of the cave's deposits had been disturbed previous to the discovery except for the fossil layer. There are few details on the stratigraphy. A sandy clay layer situated below "stalactic columns" is the fossil layer. The fauna points to a Late Pleistocene age (Wu et al. 1962 in Wu and Poirier 1995:220).

Table 4 Potential materials for AMS <sup>14</sup>C dating of some Chinese early modern *H. sapiens* sites without radiometric dates.

Site	Materials	Other materials
Maludong	Human bones and/or teeth	Non-human fossils, carbon, but stratigraphic relationship to human fossils unclear and fossil layer 5 m thick
Chuangdong	Human bones and/or teeth	None
Dingmo Cave	Human tooth	Non-human fossils
Guoshandong	Human tooth	Non-human fossils; enough carbon?
Huanglong (Shaanxi)	Human bone	<i>Pseudaxis</i> sp. antler
Jinchuan	Human bone	Non-human fossils
Hulidong	Human tooth	Non-human fossils
Baojiyan	Human teeth	Non-human fossils



*Unknown Locational or Stratigraphic Context: Dated Human Fossil Site*

Discovered in 1974 and excavated in 1975, the cave site of Maomaodong, Xingyi County, south Guizhou Province, yielded 10 fossil mammalian species, including modern *H. sapiens*, associated with 1121 lithic artifacts and 14 bone and antler tools (Figure 1). The unstudied human remains comprise 7 elements (2 mandibles, right mandible fragment, anterior mandible fragment, and 3 femoral fragments (Cao 1982 in Wu and Poirier 1995:209–10). The site was dated by U-series to  $14,600 \pm 1200$  yr (Zhang 1983 in Wu and Poirier 1995:209).

*Unknown Locational or Stratigraphic Context: Undated Human Fossil Sites*

## 1. Longlin

A cave in the vicinity of De'e town in Longlin County, northwest Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region (Figure 1), had been emptied of most of its deposits for fertilizer prior to the discovery and excavation in 1979 of a modern human skull (not found were the mandibular ramus, a small portion of the mandible's front part, and both  $M_1$ s) and post-cranial bones (a rib, vertebrae, limb bones). Also found were particles of carbon, ashes, burnt clay, and animal bone, the latter too fragmented to establish their taxonomy. Breccia was also found. A "deep-brown hard deposit" was located on the cave wall and on the human specimens (Zhang and Li 1982 in Wu and Poirier 1995:199–200).

## 2. Antu

A modern human premolar fossil, discovered in 1964, was reportedly found in a large limestone cave exploited as a quarry (the Shimenshan quarry) close to the town of Mingyue in Antu County, east Jilin Province (Figure 1). There is no stratigraphic information, and the cave is no longer existent due to quarrying. The report by Jiang (1982) suggests that the tooth could be from a similar gray loam horizon, layer 3, identified in a smaller cave discovered in 1973 and ~9 m distance from the large cave; the small cave has 4 layers, all with fossils (Jiang 1982 in Wu and Poirier 1995:185–6).

## 3. Changwu

A rootless modern human tooth (most likely an erupting left  $M^2$ ) and other fossils found amongst mammalian fossils for sale by resident farmers in 1972 are presumed to derive from Yaergou (Duck Gully), one of 2 Late Pleistocene fossil sites near Changwu City, east-central Shaanxi Province (Figure 1). This site contains 8 layers (layers 8–1 top to base, total depth of 36 m) with 3 fossil layers: layer 5 (2 m of sandy clay); layer 4 (10 m of sandy clay); and layer 3 (2 m of fine sandy clay). Lithic artifacts were found in layer 5 (Huang and Zheng 1982). The fragmentary fauna of 7 species (including *Myospalax* sp., *Coelodonta* sp.) is of Late Pleistocene age (Huang and Zheng 1982; and see Wu and Poirier 1995:184–5).

## 4. Mujiyajiao (Lijiang)

During construction of an irrigation canal near Mujiyajiao village, Lijiang County, north Yunnan Province, a modern human cranium was discovered by a farmer in 1964 (Wu and Poirier 1995:203–5; Figure 1). Examination of the locality identified 5 layers (~4.2 m thick) and excavation of the canal banks recovered mammalian fossils (6 species, including *Stegodon* sp., *Bibos gaurus*) and 6 lithic artifacts (Lin and Zhang 1978, reprinted in Yunnan Provincial Museum 1991; Wu and Poirier 1995:205). The cranium lacks part of the face and parts of the left temporal (mastoid and tympanic) and occipital (basal and lateral). Some coarse sand attached to the human cranium may indicate its derivation from the Late Pleistocene 1-m-thick gravel layer 4 (Yunnan Provincial Museum 1977 in Wu and Poirier 1995:205).

## 5. Jianpin

A right humeral shaft without ends was identified by Sun Shuodao of the Liaoning Provincial Museum in a collection of bones at Jianpin Cooperative in west Liaoning Province in 1957 and transferred to the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology in Beijing (Figure 1). Wu and Poirier (1995:180–1) mention collections of mammalian fossils (5 species, including *C. antiquitatis*) made earlier in the same year by the Liaoning Provincial Museum, and appear to suggest a possible connection between the *H. sapiens* femur and the mammalian fossils, the latter interpreted as of Late Pleistocene origin.

### *Directly Dated and Formerly Presumed Pleistocene Modern Human Fossil: Xarus (Ordos)*

Mammalian fossils, including modern *H. sapiens*, and lithic artifacts were discovered in 1922 and 1923 and 1956 to 1980 at several localities in the Xarus Valley (formerly known as Salawusu and Sjara-osso-gol), southeast Ordos Plateau, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region (e.g. Licent and Teilhard de Chardin 1925; Licent et al. 1927; Huang and Wei 1981; Figure 1). Most of the 23 human cranial and post-cranial bones are surface collections and from recent fluvial deposits (Huang and Wei 1981). A series of <sup>14</sup>C and U-series dates generated for several localities in the Ordos place the modern human specimens and artifacts between ~30,000–50,000 yr old (CASS 1991:63; Chen and Yuan 1988; Yuan et al. 1983; Table 3). The low fluorine content (0.38%) of a partial human femur (PA 62) found on the surface during a survey in 1923 (Licent et al. 1927; Wei 2005) compared to mammalian fossil bone (1.10%), indicated a younger age for the femur (Chiu 1955). Direct AMS <sup>14</sup>C dating produced very recent dates of 220 ± 30 BP (AA-55454) and post-bomb (AA-55453) (Keates et al. 2007) and 275 ± 25 BP (KIA-23614) and 210 ± 25 BP (KIA-23614) (Shang et al. 2006).

### *Questionable Homo sp. Fossil*

Excavation in 1982 at Longtanshan Site 2, Chenggong County, central-west Yunnan Province (Figure 1), recovered mammalian fossils, including a human tooth (left DM<sub>2</sub>), and 107 lithic artifacts from layers 2 and 4, and burnt bones from layer 4. There are 4 layers at this site (4.3 m thickness, including a 1-m-thick surface deposit) with layers 2 and 4 (1- and 2-m-thick sandy clay, respectively) separated by the 0.3-m-thick layer 3 travertine; layers 2 and 4 are considered to be of similar age. Four mammalian species were found (e.g. *R. sinensis*) (Qiu et al. 1985). However, according to Wu and Poirier (1995:231), who list the human tooth in their anatomically modern human chapter, its “very atypical...morphology...” (see Qiu et al. 1985: Plate I:1) precludes definite attribution to *Homo* sp. Another opinion, based on the published photograph, is that the tooth has an atypical morphology (Marquez-Grant, personal communication, 2010). A <sup>14</sup>C determination dates layer 4 (Qiu et al. 1985) to ~29,000 BP (Qiu et al. 1985; CASS 1991:240; Table 3).

## KOREA

This section is based on Norton’s (2000) review of Korean paleoanthropology. Nine sites with hominid fossils have been identified on the Korean Peninsula. Of these, most are modern human sites (Norton 2000: Table 3), amounting to 7 sites, including Ryonggok Cave (see below). The majority are located in South Korea. All are indirectly dated sites.

In North Korea, 2 modern human sites have been identified. The Ryonggok Cave site, located near Pyongyang, has yielded the largest set of hominid fossils in Korea (Figure 1). Hominids (MNI 5) were found in layers 9–12 (top to bottom), referred to as cultural layers: layer 9 (a cranium and 3 mandibles); layer 10 (a cranium, 2 mandibles, and a femur); layer 11 (several skull fragments and 16 post-cranial bones); layer 12 (a maxilla). The morphology of the partially reconstructed Ryonggok

cranium No. 7 (layer 9), classified as *Homo cf. sapiens* by Sohn (1992, in Norton 2000, and see references cited therein), identifies it as a modern *H. sapiens* (see Norton 2000: Figure 2), as I pointed out in my review of Norton's (2000) manuscript. Norton (2000:814) argues that until more complete analysis of the specimen and a mandible is carried out, "...an archaic *H. cf. sapiens* designation is more applicable." The most reliable age estimate for the Ryonggok site is a ~46,000–48,000 yr U-series date for layer 9. At the Kumchon Cave site, human fossils (mandible, tooth, 5 vertebrae) are thought to be about 30,000–35,000 yr old based on the fauna (Norton 2000; Figure 1).

In South Korea, 5 modern human sites have been found. The Mandalli site (cranial fragment, mandible, partial humerus) has a Late Pleistocene age estimate. The Sangsi Rockshelter (4 cranial fragments, teeth, and 3 post-cranial bones) was dated by U-series to ~30 ka. The faunal age estimate of 40,000–50,000 yr for the Hungsugul (Turubong Cave Complex) site human (an almost complete skeleton) is subject to debate (see Norton 2000:813). At the Chommal Cave site, human fossils (several post-cranial bones) are from level IV (0.50 m thick) or from the overlying level V(?), and have a ~40,000 yr U-series age for level IV. The Kunanggul site (3 post-cranial bones) has a Late Pleistocene faunal age estimate (Norton 2000; Figure 1).

## JAPAN

There are about 16 sites in Japan where hominids of Late Pleistocene age have been discovered. Of these, 8 sites are in the Ryukyu Islands, 1 on Kyushu Island, and 7 on Honshu Island. The majority of sites are limestone caves and fissures, and these are most common in the Ryukyu Islands (Matsu'ura 1996; Ono et al. 1999). However, over 50% of the "Pleistocene" hominid sites are thought to be from later time periods, including the Mesolithic (Kondo and Matsu'ura 2005:155 and references therein). Bones are often not well preserved in Japanese sites and Pleistocene sites are small (e.g. Serizawa 1979).

### *Directly Dated Human Fossils*

At the Negata limestone quarry site (also known as Hamakita site), Hamakita City, east central Honshu island, human bones were found in fissure fillings from 1960 to 1962 (Figure 1). The provenance within the fillings cannot be reconstructed. The human bones were assigned to different chronological groups, the Upper Layer (cranial fragments; right M<sub>3</sub>; right clavicle, right ulna, and right ilium fragments; and partial right humerus) and the Lower Layer (right tibia fragment), with reference to fluorine analysis, degree of mineralization, color, and geological environment. Based on the large quantities of mammalian fossils found in the "*Homo* bed" and the older "*Felis* bed," it was inferred that the human fossils could originate from these horizons (Kondo and Matsu'ura 2005: 155). The fluorine contents of 4 human bones from the Upper Layer (0.437–0.569%) and the *Homo* bed non-human bones (0.461–0.498%) are similar. The human bone from the Lower Layer (0.997%) is within the range of the *Felis* bed non-human mammals (0.771–1.075) (Kondo and Matsu'ura 2005).

The different ages indicated by the fluorine analysis was to some extent confirmed by AMS <sup>14</sup>C dating. The 3 human bones selected from the Upper Layer gave <sup>14</sup>C dates of ~13,000–14,000 BP. The human bone from the Lower Layer contained insufficient gelatin for <sup>14</sup>C dating (Kondo and Matsu'ura 2005; see Table 5). The similar fluorine contents of the Lower Layer human bone (0.997%) and *Panthera cf. pardus* (0.902%) from the *Felis* bed, leads Kondo and Matsu'ura (2005) to argue that the <sup>14</sup>C date for the latter (17,910 ± 70 BP, Beta-94983, sample HK-B-8) likely approximates that for the human bone. Previous age estimates for the Upper and Lower Layer were of ~15,000 and ~18,000 BP, respectively (Matsu'ura and Kondo 2000 in Matsu'ura and Kondo 2001: 286; Ono et al. 1999).

Table 5 Direct AMS  $^{14}\text{C}$  dates for modern *H. sapiens* from the Negata and Shiraho-Saonetabaru Cave sites, Japan.

Locality, layer	Sample	Age	Lab nr	Reference
Negata, Upper Layer	HKH-U-PR (parietal)	14,050 $\pm$ 50	Beta-160571	Kondo and Matsu'ura (2005)
Negata, Upper Layer	HKH-U-OC (occipital)	14,200 $\pm$ 50	Beta-160572	Kondo and Matsu'ura (2005)
Negata, Upper Layer	HKH-U-HM (humerus)	13,860 $\pm$ 50	Beta-160570	Kondo and Matsu'ura (2005)
Shiraho-Saonetabaru Cave	No. 2 (right parietal)	20,416 $\pm$ 113	MTC-12820	Nakagawa et al. (2010)
Shiraho-Saonetabaru Cave	No. 4 (metatarsal)	18,752 $\pm$ 100	MTC-13228	Nakagawa et al. (2010)
Shiraho-Saonetabaru Cave	No. 8 (right fibula)	15,751 $\pm$ 421	MTC-12818	Nakagawa et al. (2010)

*Indirectly Dated Human Fossils*

## 1. Minatogawa

Modern human fossils from the Minatogawa limestone quarry, a fissure site close to the southern coast of Okinawa Island, southern Japan, were first discovered in 1966 with excavations conducted in 1968, 1970, and 1974 (Suzuki and Tanabe 1982; Figure 1 and see below). All the human fossils found in 1970–71 are adults (M I (Minatogawa 1), almost complete skeleton; M II and M III, partial crania; M III, “skull” (lost); M A, B, C, and D, mandible fragments; MNI is 5–9 (Suzuki 1982) and about 178 post-cranial bones (see Baba and Endo 1982: Figures 4.1–4.5).

Fluorine analyses of 8 of the human fossils and a comparative sample of mammalian bones from the same site showed a fluorine content of the human specimens (0.87–1.65%) similar to the deer fossils (0.98–1.68%) with an indicated age of terminal Pleistocene, with the human fossils belonging to mammalian Phase a or transitional Phase a-b (Matsu'ura 1982).  $^{14}\text{C}$  dates of charcoal fragments found in the lower deposit are 18,250  $\pm$  650 BP (TK-141) and 16,600  $\pm$  300 BP (TK-142), but the depositional relationship of the dated samples to the human fossils is not known (Matsu'ura 1982; and see Suzuki and Tanabe 1982). A U-series date (non-destructive gamma-ray) of one of the human crania is 19,200  $\pm$  1800 yr ago (Yokoyama 1992 in Matsu'ura 1996:183, 185).

## 2. Upper Minatogawa

Found in 1968, before the first excavation in 1968, 9 postcranial bones (MNI is 3) were discovered at the Minatogawa limestone quarry and are thought to have their origin in the upper horizons. The fluorine content of these bones partly corresponds with those of the Minatogawa human fossils, with indications that the former may be somewhat younger (late Phase a to early Phase b). Dates of (animal) bones by aspartic acid racemization may point to an age of at least 12,000 yr (late Phase b) for the human fossils (Matsu'ura 1996; Figure 1).

## 3. Yamashita-cho Cave I

Two modern human subadult fossils were excavated from a cave in Naha-shi (Naha City), southwest Okinawa, in 1968 (Figure 1). Four Pleistocene layers (III–VI) were identified, and the human bones (femur and tibia, most of) were found near the top of layer IV with deer fossils. Deer fossils, lithic and deer bone artifacts, and charcoal are from level III (Trinkaus and Ruff 1996 and references

therein). According to the excavators (Takamiya et al. 1975 in Matsu'ura 1996:186), the human bones are from the top of layer VI and were located immediately below the "charcoal lens intercalations" of layers III and V. The charcoal lenses are believed to "belong to the same layer" (Takamiya et al. 1975 in Matsu'ura 1996:186). A  $^{14}\text{C}$  date on the charcoal is  $32,100 \pm 1000$  BP (TK-78), which would date the human bones to  $>32,000$  yr (Trinkaus and Ruff 1996 and references therein).

#### 4. Pinza-abu

Modern human fossils (parietal, occipital, teeth, and postcranial fragments) from Pinza-abu, Miyako island, were discovered from 1979–83 (Figure 1). The human fossils from this cave site were associated with locally extinct animal fossils in a clay and gravel layer, partly covered by calcareous flowstone. Charcoal fragments were also found in the fossil layer. The fluorine contents of the "human skull" and deer bones are similar, while  $^{14}\text{C}$  dates on charcoal yielded dates of  $25,800 \pm 900$  BP (TK-535) and  $26,800 \pm 1300$  BP (TK-605). An aspartic amino-acid racemization date of deer bones is  $\sim 20,000$  yr old (Matsu'ura 1996:187; and see Ono et al. 1999).

#### 5. Shimojibaru Cave

A partial modern human infant skeleton, recovered in 1982–83 and 1986 with non-extant deer fossils and other mammals, is from a clay layer located below a calcareous layer at Shimojibaru Cave on Kume Island (Figure 1). A  $^{14}\text{C}$  date on crab fossils, also from the clay layer, is  $15,200 \pm 100$  BP, and racemization study of a cervid bone, would indicate an estimated age of 15,000–16,000 yr (Matsu'ura 1996).

#### 6. Ushikawa

At the Ushikawa limestone fissure site in Toyohashi City, Aichi Prefecture, Honshu Island (Figure 1), a left humerus shaft fragment and a left femoral head and fauna were discovered in 1957 and 1959, respectively. However, the humerus has now been shown to be non-human (e.g. Matsu'ura 1996:189). The fauna is of Late Pleistocene age (Matsu'ura 1996; Ono et al. 1999). In initial  $^{14}\text{C}$  dating [and fluorine studies?], the date of the human fossil is more than 16,000 BP (Matsu'ura 1996).

### *Human Fossils That May Date to the Late Late Pleistocene*

#### 1. Ryukyu Islands: Ie island

At Kadabaru Cave, parietal fragments were found in 1962 (Matsu'ura 1996; Figure 1). In the lower branch of Gohezu Cave, a left mandible fragment (and perhaps other human fragments, see Ono et al. 1999) were discovered in 1976. The bone is "well-fossilised" and was apparently found with cervid fossils (Matsu'ura 1996; Figure 1).

#### 2. Honshu Island

A right human mandible discovered in 1969 on Yomigahama beach, Sakaiminato City, Tottori Prefecture, derives from an approximately 6-m-thick marine sand layer (Matsu'ura 1996; Ono et al. 1999; Figure 1). A number of archaic characteristics are thought to be indicative of an early Jomon time period age (Hanihara 1995 in Matsu'ura 1996:188).

#### 3. Kyushu Island

At Hijiridake Cave, Oita Prefecture, a modern human parieto-occipital fragment ("Man 1") was excavated in 1962 from the upper part of layer 3 (Serizawa 1979:343; Matsu'ura 1996; Figure 1); layer 3 (<0.25-m-thick clay) also contained lithic artifacts on the upper surface (Serizawa 1979:

343). A human left talus bone has also been reported from layer 3 (Ono et al. 1999), but this bone was collected from the surface according to Matsu'ura (1996). More "skull fragments" ("Man 2") may derive from layer 3 (see Matsu'ura 1996:188). The estimated age is 13,000–14,000 yr with reference to the artifacts (Ono et al. 1999). The fluorine contents of the Man 1 and Man 2 bones (0.56% and 0.55%, respectively) are higher than the layer 1 medieval human bone (0.20%).

*Human Fossils That May Date to the Late Late Pleistocene or Holocene*

1. Ryukyu Islands

A calotte was discovered at the Tobaru Cave, Chatan village, in 1966 (Matsu'ura 1996; Figure 1).

2. Honshu Island

In the course of road construction in 1967, a human cranium was found at Tomari Cave, Himi City, Toyama Prefecture, followed by a human rib fragment discovery in 1972. The fluorine content indicates either an Early Holocene or late Late Pleistocene age for the human bones, while morphological analysis compares the cranium to Initial/Early Jomon skulls (Matsu'ura 1996; Ono et al. 1999; Figure 1).

*Human Fossils That May Date to the Late Pleistocene*

In 1964, a right mandible fragment found by non-professionals at Oyama Cave, Ginowan City, Ryukyu Islands, "probably" dates to the Pleistocene based on its geological context, the extent of fossilization, and fluorine content; this specimen is considered to be older than either Kadebaru or Tobaru (Matsu'ura 1996:186; Figure 1).

*Human Fossils That May Date to the Early Late Pleistocene*

Four modern human bones have been found at the Kuzuü town sites in Aso-gun, Tochigi Prefecture, Honshu Island: a left femur fragment at the Maegawara Lower Cave and a right femur fragment from near the Maegawara Lower and Upper Caves, both discovered in 1951. A metacarpal fragment was found in 1984 near the Maegawara Lower and Upper Caves. A right ulna fragment was retrieved from a collection and may derive from the Upper Kuzuü Formation fossiliferous fissure sediments. These sediments are located below a 10-m-thick breccia, which is overlain by the Kanuma Pumice Bed. Fission-track dates on hornblende from the pumice are  $32,000 \pm 4000$  and  $31,000 \pm 8000$  yr with the fissure sediments estimated to date to the early Late Pleistocene. However, Matsu'ura (1996) is not convinced of the reliability of these dates given difficulties with the method of dating (Figure 1).

*Directly Dated and Formerly Presumed Pleistocene Modern Humans: Mikkabi*

Five human cranial fragments, a partial right pelvis, and a right femur shaft (Matsu'ura 1996) from the Tadaki Quarry at the site of Mikkabi, Shizuoka Prefecture, Honshu Island, found in 1959 and 1961 (Figure 1), were previously considered to date to the Late Pleistocene with reference to extinct mammalian species and biostratigraphic comparison (*Palaeoloxodon naumanni*, *Sinomegaceros* sp.) from the same site (Suzuki 1962; Takai 1962 in Matsu'ura and Kondo 2001). U-series dating of 2 or 3 of the human bones (see Matsu'ura and Kondo 2001:278) returned ages of ~9100, ~13,400,  $17,300 \pm 1500$ , and 20,900 yr (Yokoyama 1992 in Matsu'ura and Kondo 2001). Results of fluorine analysis of 3 of the human bones (No. 1 frontal, No. 6 pelvis, and No. 7 femur) by Matsu'ura and Kondo (2001), found that these were generally comparable to previous fluorine values (Tanabe 1962, in Matsu'ura and Kondo 2001). All of the 4 direct AMS  $^{14}\text{C}$  dates of the 3 human bones (see

above) are within the Early Holocene [frontal (MBH-1):  $9330 \pm 40$  BP (Beta-135470); pelvis (MBH-6 (1) and MBH-6 (2):  $7500 \pm 50$  BP (Beta-155913) and  $7450 \pm 40$  BP (Beta-156757); femur (MBH-7):  $9540 \pm 60$  BP (Beta-142912)] (Matsu'ura and Kondo 2001).

## DISCUSSION

The only directly dated Pleistocene modern human fossils in East Asia are from Tianyuandong in China with an age of ~34,000 BP and from Negata in Japan with a (minimum) age of ~14,000 BP. Modern human fossils discovered recently in the Shiraho-Saonetabaru Cave, Ishigaki Island, Okinawa, in Japan, have been directly dated with the oldest date of ~20,000 BP (Nakagawa et al. 2010; Table 5).

Considering the fact that  $^{14}\text{C}$  dating has been in operation in Chinese laboratories since 1965, it would have seemed a useful method to date many more Pleistocene sites than is actually the case. One explanation why human bones and teeth have not been directly dated is because human fossils of Pleistocene or presumed Pleistocene age are treated as too precious for conventional  $^{14}\text{C}$  dating, requiring a relatively large amount of material. Now that AMS  $^{14}\text{C}$  dating has become available, requiring very small amounts of material (about 0.5–1 g, see Higham et al. 2006), Chinese workers may be more willing to submit human material for direct dating. Even so, the reluctance to directly date human specimens may also stem from a certain apprehension in that direct dates might not confirm an accepted old age (middle to late Late Pleistocene) for early modern humans in China. There is certainly no lack of human fossils that could be dated with an approximate MNI of 65 (Keates, unpublished data, and see above). The 9 modern human sites on the Korean Peninsula are all indirectly dated based on U-series and faunal age estimates to the later Late Pleistocene. The majority of the 16 sites in Japan are also indirectly dated based on  $^{14}\text{C}$ , U-series, and fission-track dates, and fluorine, geological, and faunal studies.

Although some regard fluorine analysis as an outmoded tool for dating (Shen Guanjun, personal communication, 2005), direct AMS  $^{14}\text{C}$  dating of the Xarus femur confirmed a young age previously inferred from its low fluorine content. The low fluorine content of the Huangshanxi (Ziyang) cranium would also seem to indicate, together with the Holocene  $^{14}\text{C}$  dates of the fossil fauna, that Huangshanxi is not of Pleistocene origin. Negata is a case in point of current attempts in Japan to ascertain the age of human specimens using fluorine analysis followed by  $^{14}\text{C}$  dating.

The uncertain stratigraphic context of the Tongtiantyan (Liujiang) human fossils prevents acceptance of the dates so far done (Chen and Zhang 1991; Brown 1998; Liu et al. 2006). The depositional context of the human specimens and the dated sample(s) of those specimens known to derive from a specific layer should take the thickness of a layer into account. For example, the Shiyu human occipital fragment is from an 0.9–1.5-m-thick layer of fluvial sands and gravel; there are no data where in this thick layer the human and the dated sample were found. Furthermore, the rate of soil accumulation has not been studied, and, therefore, the significance and relevance of the only dated sample from Shiyu with respect to the human specimen is unknown. A recent listing of  $^{14}\text{C}$  dates for Chinese sites does not consider these factors (see Barton et al. 2007).

Table 4 (see above) lists several Chinese sites without absolute dates, suggesting samples for dating with preference given to the human samples. However, all of the sites lacking direct  $^{14}\text{C}$  dates of human specimens should be dated in East Asia, not only those where a dated layer is very thick and the relationship of the dated sample to the human fossil(s) is not known, or not published. For the human specimens from the Ordos area, direct  $^{14}\text{C}$  dating of the human specimens recovered *in situ* is now called for to establish their age (Keates et al. 2007).

Because of their uncertain locational (Changwu, Jianpin) or stratigraphic (Antu, Mujiayao, Yanjiagang) context, the age of these specimens is unknown.  $^{14}\text{C}$  dating might establish the layer provenance and age of the Antu tooth by dating the latter and samples of fossils from the 4 layers in the small cave.

The application of U-series dating to Chinese human fossil sites has resulted in very early ages, most of which are early Late Pleistocene, for the first appearance of modern humans in China. Some of these dates would make some late archaic humans chronologically equivalent to early modern humans, including Xujiayao. The current application of U-series to date human specimens indirectly must consider the problems involved with this method, including the leaching of uranium from bones (e.g. Aitken 1994:130–1; Matsu'ura 1996).

The great discrepancy between the  $^{14}\text{C}$  and U-series dates at Zhangkoudong begs the question of what should be dated: human presence as inferred by the dated charcoal or the presence of flowstone, a natural phenomenon? Or was the charcoal intrusive, i.e. moved from younger layers to layer 6? Similarly, can the discrepancy between the younger U-series dates of a deer tooth and the older flowstone U-series date (i.e. ~44,000 yr) from Gaitoudong (Laibin) be reasonably explained by U migration of fossil bones, as argued by Shen et al. (2007)? And, furthermore, can the younger flowstone date (i.e. ~9000 yr) refer to a recent formation of this part of the flowstone layer? At Huanglongdong, Wu et al.'s (2006) argument of possible absorption and leaching of the single dated ESR sample would equally apply to the U-series dates. Considering the high carbon content of the charcoal, it would seem reasonable to conduct  $^{14}\text{C}$  dating, also in view of the relatively young ESR date.

The unstudied human fossils in China (Shiyu MNI is 1, Laishui MNI is 1, Maomaodong MNI is 4) need to be examined to ascertain their morphology in detail. The identification of archaic morphological features on some of the modern humans from China is considered to be relevant to their chronology. Woo's (1959) study of Tongtianyan identified several features he considered as indicative of an earlier age (e.g. more posterior bregma position, relatively large supraorbitals) compared to later modern humans, including Shandingdong and Huangshanxi. A number of other researchers "dated" Tongtianyan to ~20,000 yr by comparing it to the similar morphology of Minatogawa (e.g. Brown 1998; Wu 1988). Another detailed study by Liu et al. (2006) found that the Tongtianyan cranium is similar to the modern Chinese morphology. This, and questions about its exact provenance within the cave, do not lend credibility to the early date of ~67,000 yr (Liu et al. 2006). Kamminga and Wright (1988) refer the Shandingdong (Upper Cave) human fossils to the Holocene, also by morphological comparison with contemporary south Chinese and Southeast Asians. While the Laishui cranium is representative of a modern human morphology, some features (low frontal bone, strong browridge) are archaic (Etlar 1996; Keates 2003). The modern human from Huanglong also combines mostly modern with a few archaic features, for example, thick cranial bones (Wang and Li 1983; Wu and Poirier 1995:175). Wang and Bräuer (1984; see also Wu and Poirier 1995:175) concluded that Huanglong is more similar to Paleolithic crania from Europe and more archaic compared to modern Chinese. The Huanglong frontal squama thickness (central squama, 10.3 mm) is greater than the thickness measured on 2 archaic *H. sapiens* crania (Dali: 9.0 mm; Jinniushan: 5.0 mm) and the Hexian *H. erectus* cranium (7.0 mm) (for measurements, see Wu and Poirier 1995). Wang and Li (1983) discount the hypothesis of a transitional or hybrid human population based on the modern and archaic characteristics because of a lack of evidence of other human subspecies during the Chinese Late Pleistocene. Wu et al.'s (2004) study of the Shuidonggou parietal identified 2 archaic features not normally found in modern humans (including a more heavily muscled *temporalis*). A few archaic features have also been identified at Maludong (for instance, a projecting browridge; Wu and Poirier 1995:207).



But are these so-called archaic traits indicative of an earlier age than indicated in some cases by the absolute dates or are these retentions? A case in point is the recent direct  $^{14}\text{C}$  dating of some human material in Europe. This has shown that an archaic morphology, or one with some archaic features, does not necessarily indicate an old age. For example, the morphology of Hahnöfersand 1 (northern Germany) indicated a Late Pleistocene age for this calotte (Bräuer 1989:136), but direct dating produced a Holocene age (Street and Terberger 2004).

## CONCLUSION

As long as human fossils are not directly dated, their chronology is uncertain. U-series dates are no substitute for direct dating of human fossils. Therefore, to end the uncertainty about the age of most early modern humans in China, Korea, and Japan, direct dating should be attempted, preferentially by AMS  $^{14}\text{C}$ , because of the small samples required. Without direct dating of the human fossils themselves, I would argue that the chronology of Pleistocene modern humans will remain little more than guesswork, lacking scientific credibility. Direct dating of undated human fossil sites could also potentially contribute to a better chronology of the associated non-human fauna.

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