



Karst landscape and Paleolithic settlement in Zagros Mountains of Iran

S. Heydari

Department of Early Prehistory and Quaternary Ecology, University of Tübingen.
(saman.heydari-uni.tuebingen.de)

Karst landscape and Paleolithic settlement system in Zagros Mountains of Iran

Saman Heydari

11% of Iranian terrain consists of karst landscape. The majority of it occurred in Zagros Mountain that stretches along the western and southern sides of Iran around 1200 km., forming a continuous range with numerous peaks over 3000 and 4000 meters above sea level. They are structurally young mountains with spectacular relief and form a part of a larger system which extends from the Alps to the Himalayas. Around 90 percent of the Paleolithic sites (caves and rockshelters) are located in the karstic landscape of Zagros Mountain. In this article, I'll try to show the relationship between the Paleolithic settlement system in this vast region and the landscape of karst during the late Pleistocene and early Holocene.