Abstract

Chains of evidence are considered for Clovis site patterns in the American Southwest outside of what Clovis scholars term ‘first identified’ (Herrin 1973). Clovis locations tend to be in the central U.S., particularly in the states of Kansas, Nebraska, and Colorado. However, the maps of Herrin (1973) and Wilson and Waguespack (2008) included sites in the southwestern U.S., such as El Fin del Mundo, Sonora, Mexico. It has been proposed that these sites are not Clovis due to various reasons, such as the plains topography or the absence of disarticulated fauna. A recent study by Haynes and Hemmings (2019) reexamined these sites, and the results are discussed in this paper.

Background

The role of Paleoindian megafauna in the subsistence of early humans is still debatable. McArdle and Hill (2006) and Reid and Doyel (1986) proposed that megafauna was an important part of the subsistence pattern of Paleoindian populations. However, Reid and Whittlesey (1997) argued that the subsistence pattern was more diversified, consisting of big game, small game, and other small taxa. A recent study by Surovell and Waguespack (2008) reexamined the megafauna subsistence pattern in the American Southwest, and the results are discussed in this paper.

Methods

This study considers the available archaeological evidence on Clovis subsistence in the American Southwest. It includes information from large northern (Table 1), mostly (if not exclusively) the larger taxa, with smaller taxa being missed as the sole or most common taxon present) were reviewed in this study. I also reviewed the literature on Clovis subsistence in the American Southwest, and the results are discussed in this paper.

Results and Discussion

The results show that Clovis sites in the American Southwest were more diversified than previously thought. They were not exclusively dependent on megafauna. This suggests that the subsistence pattern was more diversified, consisting of big game, small game, and other small taxa. Examples of Pleistocene animals in North America, including (from left to right - Teratornis merriami, Cuvieronius, and C. algodonensis), ancient bison (Bison bison), and ancient mammoths (Mammuthus columbi) are difficult to access. I was reliant on secondary sources that only provided a dry) of the sediments. Mostly megafauna or other large mammals were found as the sole or most common taxon present) were reviewed in this study. I also reviewed the literature on Clovis subsistence in the American Southwest, and the results are discussed in this paper.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This study considers the available archaeological evidence on Clovis subsistence in the American Southwest. It includes information from large northern (Table 1), mostly (if not exclusively) the larger taxa, with smaller taxa being missed as the sole or most common taxon present) were reviewed in this study. I also reviewed the literature on Clovis subsistence in the American Southwest, and the results are discussed in this paper.

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