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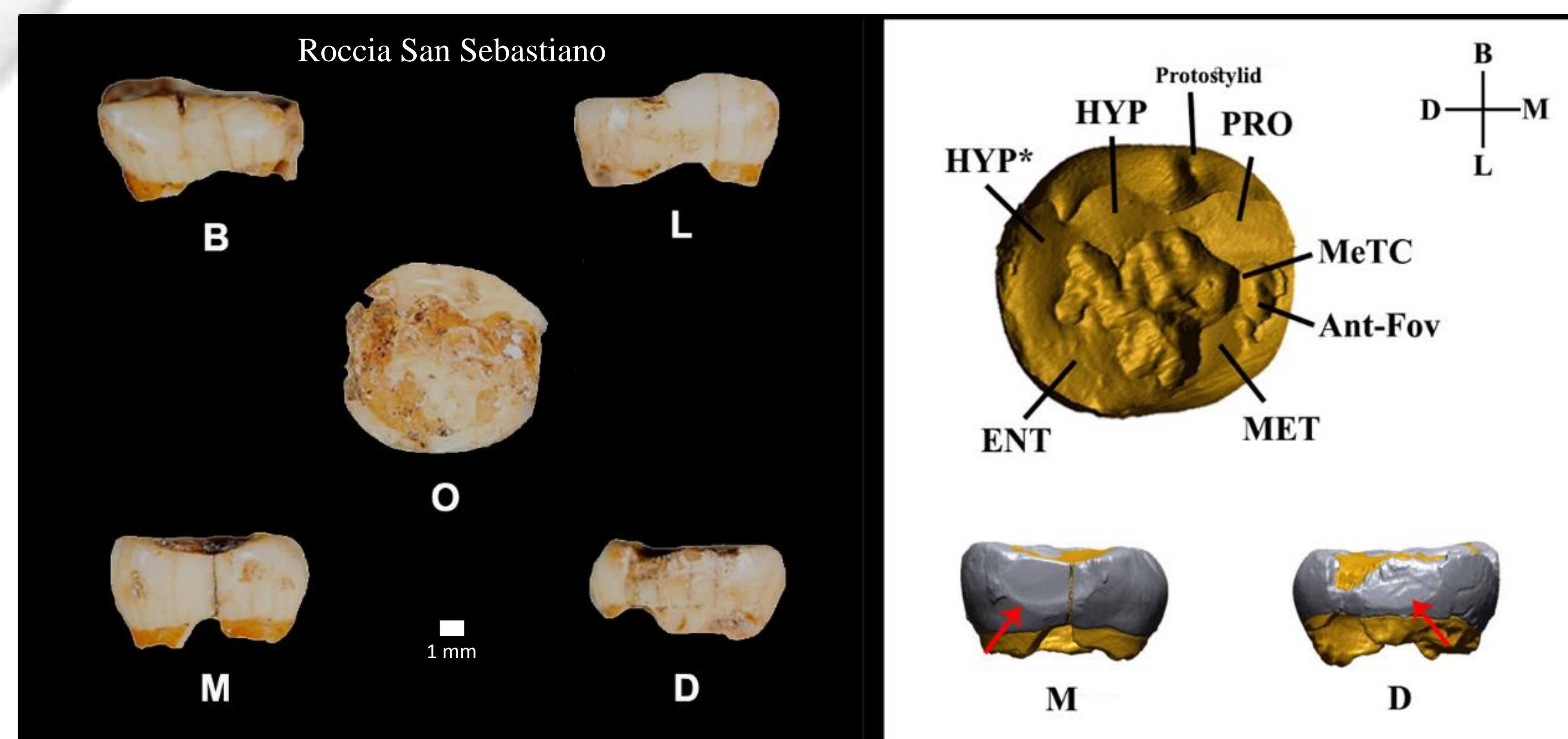
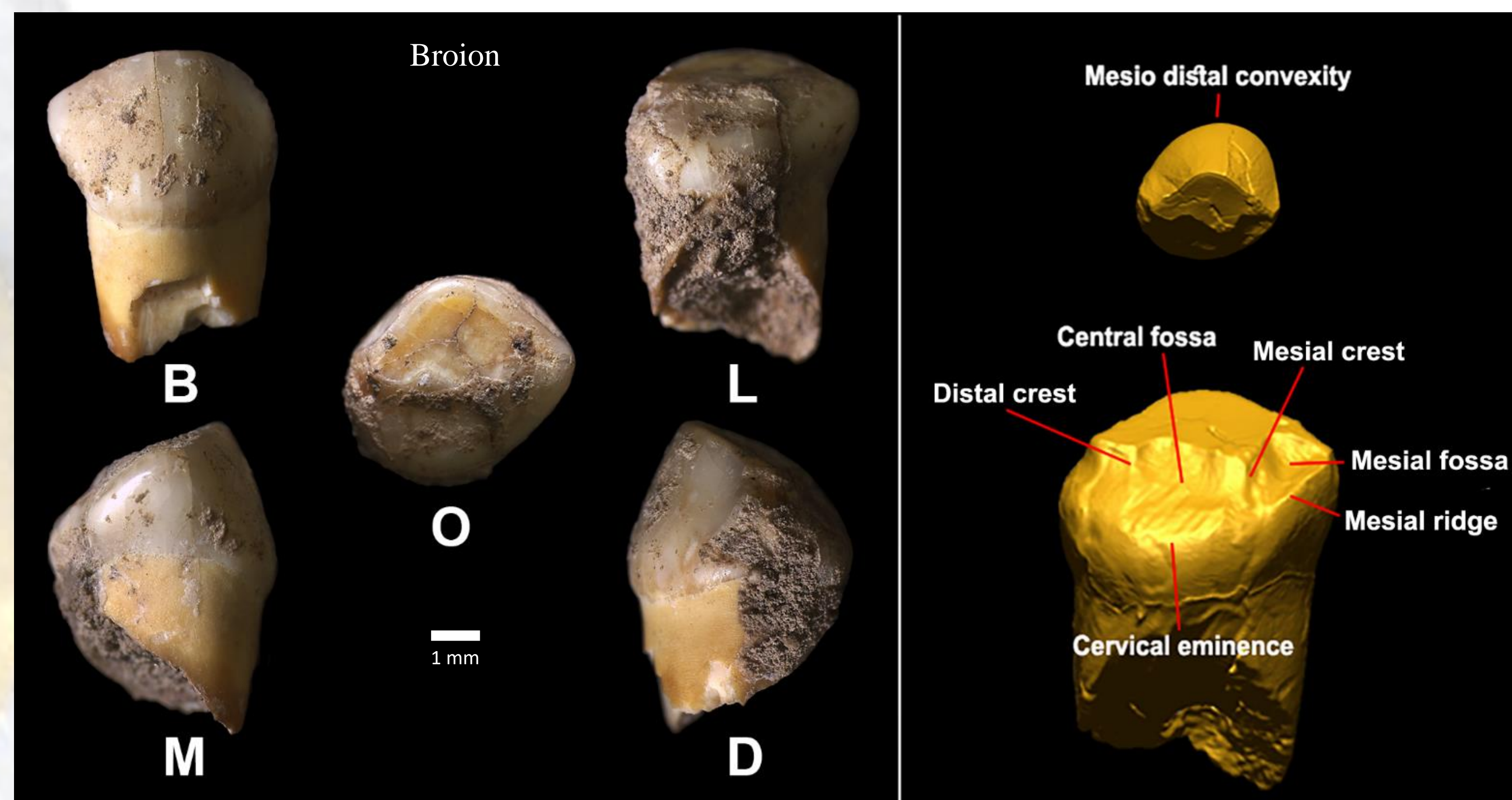
Introduction

Italy plays an important role in understanding the biocultural processes that characterized the disappearance of the Neanderthal and the success of the newcomers modern humans. Only seven human teeth have been discovered dated between 50-40 thousands years ago (kyr): one Neanderthal and two modern human teeth respectively from the final Mousterian and the Uluzzian deposits of Grotta del Cavallo (Lecce); one modern human tooth from Riparo Bombrini (Ventimiglia) and finally, one Neanderthal and two modern human teeth from Grotta di Fumane (Verona). In this study we present microCT virtual reconstruction of two new human deciduous teeth retrieved from the deposits of Riparo Broion (Longare, Vicenza) and Grotta di Roccia San Sebastiano (Mondragone, Caserta) for which a morphological analysis was performed.



Results

Broion is an upper right deciduous canine with a strong buccal bulging of the crown and a concave lingual side with a cervical eminence besides a complex topography of the EDJ.



Roccia San Sebastiano tooth is a lower left second deciduous molar characterized by an enlargement of the bucco-distal side of the crown, and an anterior fovea bordered distally by a mid-trigonid crest clearly visible on the EDJ. Overall, the complexity of the topographic morphologies together with the asymmetry of the crowns align both teeth to Neanderthal [3, 4].

Materials and Methods

Broion tooth (Rdc'), was retrieved from layer 11 top, square AA3a. This layer was attributed to a final Mousterian and it lie 30 cm below the Uluzzian layer 1g, recently dated about ~40 kyr BP [1]. Radiocarbon dating on the tooth context is in progress.

Roccia San Sebastiano tooth (Ldm2) comes from layer 34, sector E14-E15. Preliminary evidence based on the archaeological sequence and lithic assemblages, suggests that layer 34 includes a final Mousterian lithic production [2]. Radiocarbon dating on the tooth is in progress.

Conclusions

Archaeological information and paleoanthropological analysis align both teeth to Neanderthal. These results point out that the Broion and Roccia San Sebastiano teeth represent, along with the deciduous tooth Cavallo D (from the final Mousterian deposit of Grotta del Cavallo) [5], the most recent Neanderthal remains in Italy currently known.

References

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