Amud 9 is shown to be a Neandertal woman weighing 60 kg who lived in the Late Pleistocene

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humans, both fossil and recent.

"Most of these traits are related to the typical, exceptional robustness of the postcranial skeleton, that is, from the neck down, observed in the majority of Neandertals," explains Pablos.

Sex, weight and height

Sex, weight, and height estimates in fossil populations are normally based on the dimensions of the large leg bones. However, in the case of Amud 9, only a fragment of tibia, the talus or ankle bone, one metatarsal or instep bone, and several phalanges are conserved.

As no long leg bones have been found, the researchers applied different mathematical estimates based upon the foot bones, thus obtaining an approximation to important paleobiological parameters.

"Knowing parameters such as the body size and sex of this individual helps us learn a bit more about what the Neandertals were like," he says.


Provided by CENIEH