

This work presents the first detailed morphological and metrical study of the human fossil Biache-Saint-Vaast 1. This individual of post puberty age is represented by an incomplete rear skull, fragments of the maxillae, eleven upper teeth and two ear bones. It is an important specimen for understanding the emergence of Neandertal characteristics since it provides new data on the morphometrics of the individuals inhabiting north-western Europe during isotope stage 7. A comparative study of the features described on Biache 1 has also been completed. It is based on various samples and the author's observation of a large number of original fossils. When comparing the rear skull and teeth, results show that this Preneandertal had already acquired the traits that characterize the Wurmian specimens. Biache 1 takes part to a complex accretion scheme of the Neandertal characteristics throughout time and sheds light on its variability. However, our perception of the precise modalities of this evolution that took place in Europe still needs to be refined.