



*Supplementary Figure 1.* In a previous ERP study manipulating spatial frequencies of visual stimuli (Goffaux, Gauthier & Rossion, 2003, *Cognitive Brain Research*, 16, 416-424), pictures of faces and cars (A) were used, as in Thierry et al.'s main experiment. Contrary to the author's claim in this study the cars and faces were presented from the same viewpoint and had an equal interstimulus pixel-wise correlation ( $p > 0.2$ ). Yet, as shown on B, the N170 was much larger in amplitude for pictures of faces than cars, illustrated here on a right occipito-temporal site. Note the much larger negative N170 component observed as compared to Thierry et al.'s report, and the absence of P1 difference among categories. C. Averaged stimuli, showing the high degree of visual similarity between different face and car exemplars, unlike Thierry et al.'s study (see supplementary figure 4).