

Conclusion

Our aim in 2006 was to identify the characteristics of the chipped stone industry of Area IST and then ask questions of that material. In 2006 the material was analysed technologically, with single platform blade industries seen to dominate in the same way that they had in 2005. We think that the chronology of this technology will be comprehended by further studies, i.e. to map the duration of these traditions throughout the Neolithic sequence. When we look at the material from the typological point of view, we see that points, retouched blades, scrapers, splintered pieces, carving tools and polishing tools were found, as they were in 2005.

One of the important points noted relates to the use of different raw materials. It is understood that different raw materials were supplied from Nenezi and Göllü Dağ sources in Cappadocia. However Eastern Anatolian obsidian was also used in IST Area. It has yet to be seen in other current excavations material (although a very small amount has been noted in the 1960's South Area collections).

It is our desire to develop the preliminary results by asking the following questions:

- Is there a difference in chipped stone between the IST Area and the other excavation areas?
- Can we understand the chaînes opératoires of the blade production?
- The recovery of ready-made tools of East Anatolian obsidians – will we have associated production debris in the future?
- Was there a preference of the raw material, depending on the layers and technical differences?

In the following years the studies are planned to be executed in this direction.

The TP AREA - Marcin Waş

Stratigraphic position of the lithic artifacts

The chipped stone from the 2006 TP Area excavations derived from 66 units. Most of this season's material comes from deposits related to Building 61 and Building 62, together with midden-like layers both underneath and around these two structures. While Building 61 is dated to Level II according to the Mellaart relative chronology, the layers directly underneath should be linked with the mound occupation in Level III.

Materials

The chipped stone assemblage from the 2006 excavations in the TP Area consists of 1377 artefacts. Out of this number, 1353 (98,3%) items are made of obsidian while remaining 56 pieces (1,7%) are manufactured of different types of flint. A general structure of the assemblage is presented in Table 5.

Products	N	%
Flakes	236	17,2
Blades	646	47,0
Chunks	39	2,8
Core tablets	1	0,1
Rejuvenation flakes	17	1,2
Crested blades	2	0,1
Chips	18	1,2
Splintered pieces	43	3,2
Splintered flakes	324	23,6
Tools	48	3,6
Sum total	1377	100

Table 59: Frequency of chipped stone types from the TP area in 2006

Technology

The assemblage is composed of elements of three technologies implemented for blank production: (1) blade technology, (2) flake technology and (3) splintering.

1. Blade technology can be reconstructed mainly on the basis of the blade macro- and micro-morphological analyses. Blades in the studied assemblage are preserved fragmentarily. In particular, medial segments of the blanks dominate while completely preserved forms are absent. From the technological point of view, one can distinguish two groups of blades: (a) pressure blades and (b) percussion blades. This division is based upon morphological features of blades as well as the micro-morphology of their proximal parts. Prismatic blades with punctiform butts are classified as pressure-flaked (Fig. 161) the remaining blades with irregular edges, different thickness and curved profile belong to the percussion blade category. A large number of blades of the latter group have faceted butts.

Another group of products connected with blade technology comprises flakes from the core platform preparation, which have a form of core tablets and rejuvenation flakes. Their presence is indicative of the on-site reduction of blade cores. Unfortunately, core tablets and rejuvenation flakes discovered in the TP area belong to a number of different production sequences and cannot be correlated with manufacture of particular blades in the studied assemblage. Despite a lack of blade cores in the assemblage, these can be reconstructed based upon preserved fragments originating from their destruction by splintering. Furthermore, we have also found a few flakes originating from the preparation of blade core tips.

A composition of forms in the assemblage is indicative of a local blade production. A relationship between these two technical groups in terms of their technology and changes over time will be analyzed in the future.

2. Flake technology is represented by a highly differentiated group of products. In particular, these comprise blanks removed from indefinite types of cores in addition to flakes from the bifacial tools and projectiles re-sharpening. Some of the flakes are characterized by peculiar micro-morphological scars on their proximal part, which imply hard hammer percussion.

3. Splintering is the third technology identified in the assemblage. The origin of splintered pieces (*pièces esquillées*) remains largely unidentified. Most of them appear to be exhausted/broken versions of bigger forms such as tools (i.e. damaged projectiles), big blanks, or exhausted cores. Similar observations are made as regards a group of splintered flakes. We may be relatively confident that splintering comprises a supplementary way of a blank or tool (*pièce esquillée*) production.

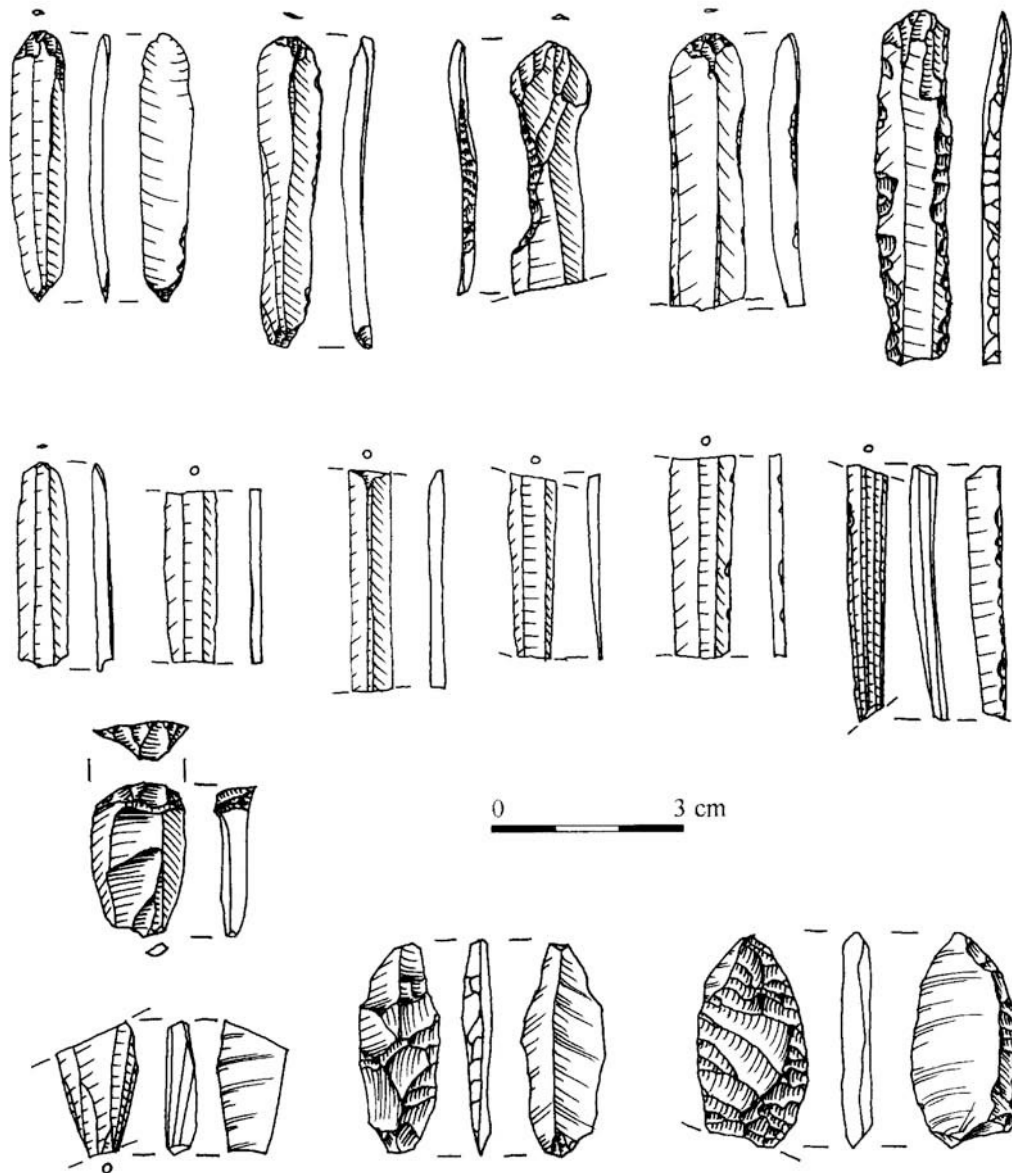


Figure 161: Selection of prismatic blades with punctiform butts classified as pressure-flaked from TP Area.

Typology

In total, only 48 artefacts can be described as formal tool types (Table 60). All of them but one end-scraper are made of obsidian. Broken fragments of blades with different types of retouch dominate the blade tool category. Other types of tools such as end-scrapers, borers, notched tools and truncated blades are represented by only individual pieces. Interestingly, a group of projectiles of different types, mainly barbed and tanged objects, is relatively well represented (Fig. 162).

Tool type	N
Retouched blade	30
Retouched flake	4
End-scraper	1
Truncation	1
Borer	1
Notched	1
Atypical	1
Projectile	9
Sum total	48

Table 60: Frequency of the lithic tools from the TP area in 2006

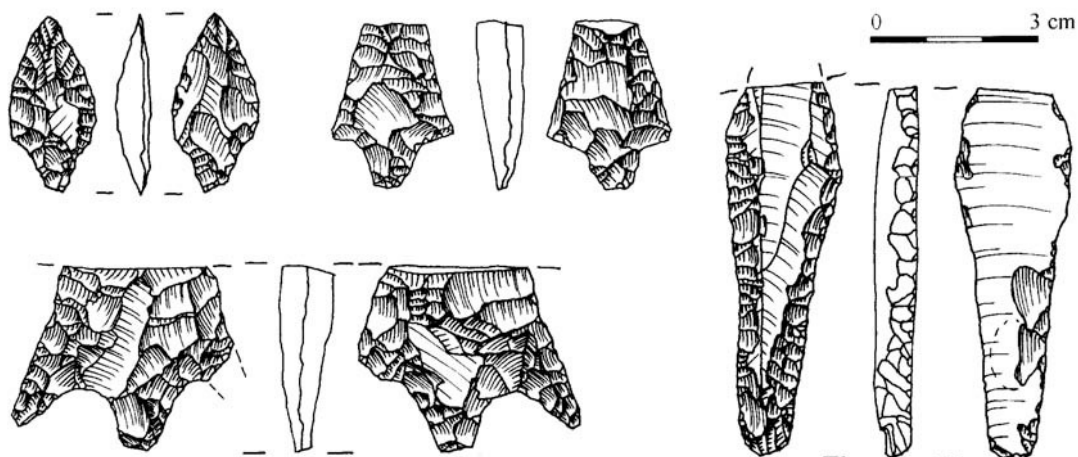


Figure 162: Selection of projectiles of different types, mainly barbed and tanged from TP Area

Conclusions

This preliminary analysis of a lithic assemblage from the 2006 excavations in the TP Area represents an introduction to a broader and more detailed study to be completed later. This can only be achieved within a framework provided by a comprehensive chronological and functional analysis of all excavated contexts.

In general, the quality and structure of the lithic assemblage reflects its “stratigraphic position”, mainly in the form floors and related layers. Absence of typical midden layers in the excavated area is well corroborated by a very small number of tools.

The Non-Obsidian Chipped Stone (NOCS) study – Chris Doherty and Marina Milić

It has long been on the team’s agenda to work on the description and sourcing of the varied raw materials that comprise the non-obsidian chipped stone [NOCS] component of the Çatalhöyük assemblage. Our knowledge of this material stands in stark contrast to the detailed characterization work undertaken on our obsidian (Carter et al 2006 inter alia), an imbalance that arguably reflects a larger Anatolian / Near Eastern research bias towards obsidian sourcing studies (though see Borrell Tena 2005). Throughout this and other reports we have often referred to this material generically as ‘flint’, a term we use as short-hand to refer to what appear to be a range