

THE FLINT ARTIFACTS FROM TEL ḤANAN

VLADIMIR ZBINOVICH

Ninety-five flint artifacts were retrieved from unclear contexts at Tel Ḥanan (see Nagorsky and Israeli, this volume), including 22 tools and two hammerstones. The raw material used was mainly Eocene flint, which is common in the region. This flint is of medium quality, light gray in color with lime inclusions. The tools were made from good-quality Eocene flint, usually used in the Canaanite industry of the Early Bronze Age (Rosen 1997). The waste material was dominated by flakes, comprising 42.3% of the entire assemblage, while blades and bladelets are less frequent and most of them are fragments. All cores (n = 10) are of small size and probably overly exploited.

The majority of the tools are ad hoc, consisting of 11 retouched flakes, 5 notches, 3 scrapers and 1 retouched blade; the formal tools comprise 2 sickle blades (Fig. 1:1, 2), one complete and the other broken. Both display a rectangular shape with a semi-abrupt back and two truncations. The working edge of both specimens were shaped by deep denticulation, and both tools resemble Late Pottery Neolithic–Wadi Rabah sickle blades (Gopher and Gophna 1993; Barkai and Gopher 1999; Khalaily and Nagorsky 2013). The scraper in Fig. 1:3 has a double end; it was fashioned on a wide blade blank, with no cortex on its dorsal

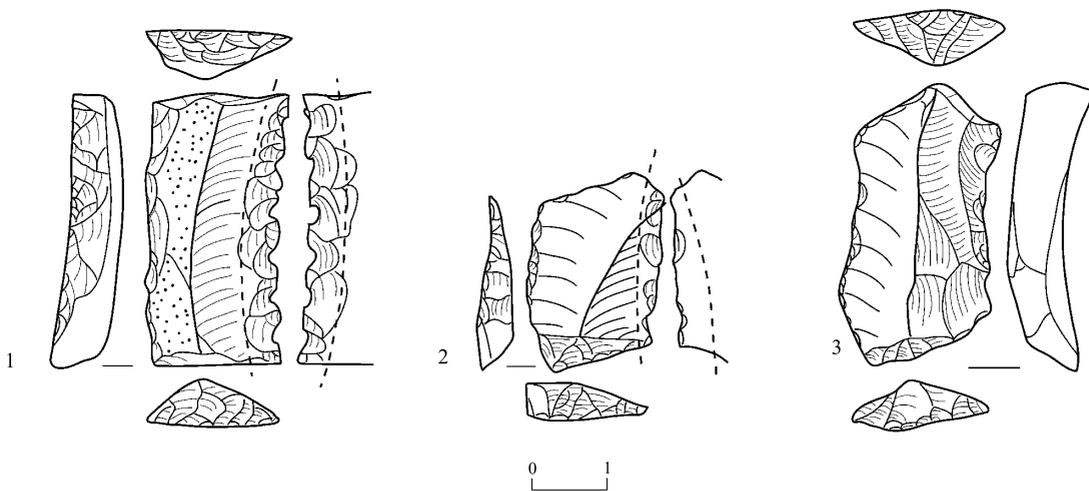


Fig. 1. Sickle blades (1, 2) and scraper (3).

face. Both working edges are shaped with a semi-steep retouch and a regular retouch on its left lateral side. This type is less frequent in the ad hoc category.

It is clear that the flint tools were not *in situ* and most probably originated in an earlier Pottery Neolithic occupation (see Khalaily and Nagorsky 2013).

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