

A Late Neolithic Site near Ashkelon

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ONE season of excavations was conducted in the Neolithic site of Ashkelon during June–July 1955, directed by J. Perrot with the assistance of the Ashkelon Municipality. J. Hévesy and H. Hagolani assisted in the field. Excavations were on behalf of the French Centre for Prehistoric Research in Jerusalem. An early report was published by Perrot;¹ this paper is the final report prepared by the authors in 1990/1991 after studying all the finds anew.²

The Neolithic site of Ashkelon lies some one hundred metres from the shore, on a *kurkar* ridge, 15–20 m. above sea level (grid ref. 10825 12125; Fig. 1). Flint artifacts were scattered over two small hills (Fig. 2:1, 2), which cover an area of *c.* 20,000 sq.m. An area of approximately 100 sq.m. was excavated (Fig. 3), establishing the existence of a sub-surface Neolithic occupation *in situ*. The features exposed are described as dwelling pits (*fonds de cabanes*), silos and shallow basins (Fig. 4).

Eight dwelling pits were excavated (Loci 1, 2, 3, 7–8, 10, 17, 19; see Figs. 4, 5); these were mostly circular or oval (diameter: 1.5–3 m.; depth: up to 0.9 m.). Access was from the north-west or the south-east, with some kind of ramp, built or excavated to reach the floor level. No indication of roofing methods was found.

Five silos were also exposed (Loci 12, 13, 14, 16, 18; Figs. 4, 5); these were bell shaped (max. diameter: 1.5 m.; diameter of opening: 0.5–0.6 m.; average depth: *c.* 0.9 m.). In addition, four shallow basins (diameter: up to 1.0 m.; depth: up to 0.5 m.) were excavated (Loci 5, 6, 9, 15; Figs. 4, 5).

1 J. Perrot: Ashkelon, Notes and News, *IEJ* 5 (1955), pp. 270–271.

2 F. le Morte (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique) contributed the section on Human Remains; P. Ducos (Paris) on Fauna and the late G. Haas (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem) on Mollusca. We would like to thank E. Orrelle (Tel Aviv University) for her help, and D. Ladiray (Centre de Recherches Préhistoriques Français de Jérusalem) for the graphics.



Fig. 1. The Ashkelon sea-shore site.

STRATIGRAPHY

The fill of the various features consisted of packed, dark grey sand, which was easy to distinguish from the surrounding grey sandy sediment which was poor in finds (Loci 3, 6, 7-8, 10, 15, 19). The surface layer consists of yellow sand from recent dunes, and includes flint artifacts and pottery sherds from Hellenistic, Roman and Arab periods. The site is continually being eroded on the western side of

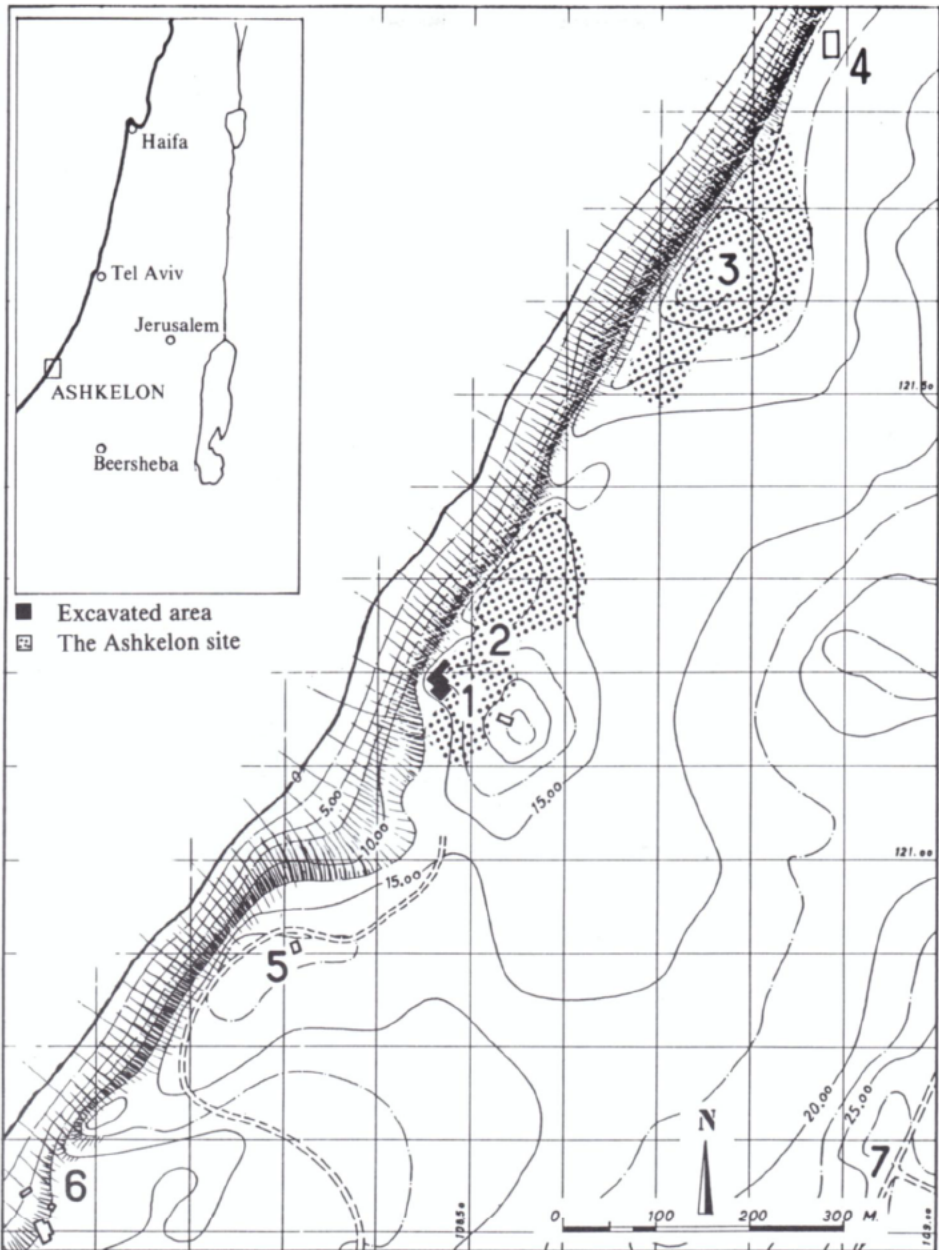


Fig. 2. Site location and topography.

the ridge towards the sea, from antiquity until the present. This erosion has caused the partial destruction of Loci 4 and 10, to the west of Loci 1-2, and probably of a large part of the ancient settlement.



Fig. 3. The Ashkelon site during excavations.

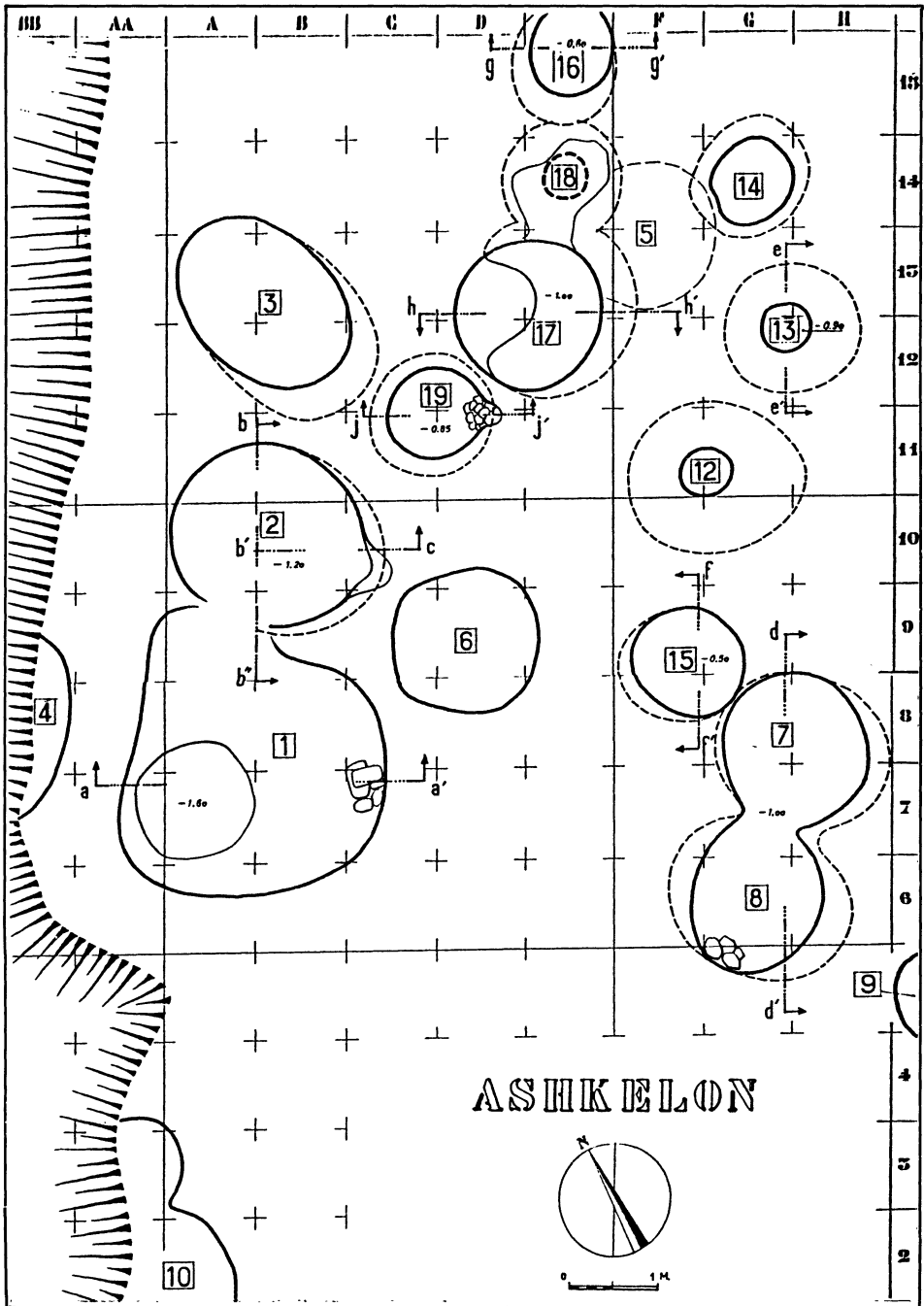


Fig. 4. Plan of excavated area.

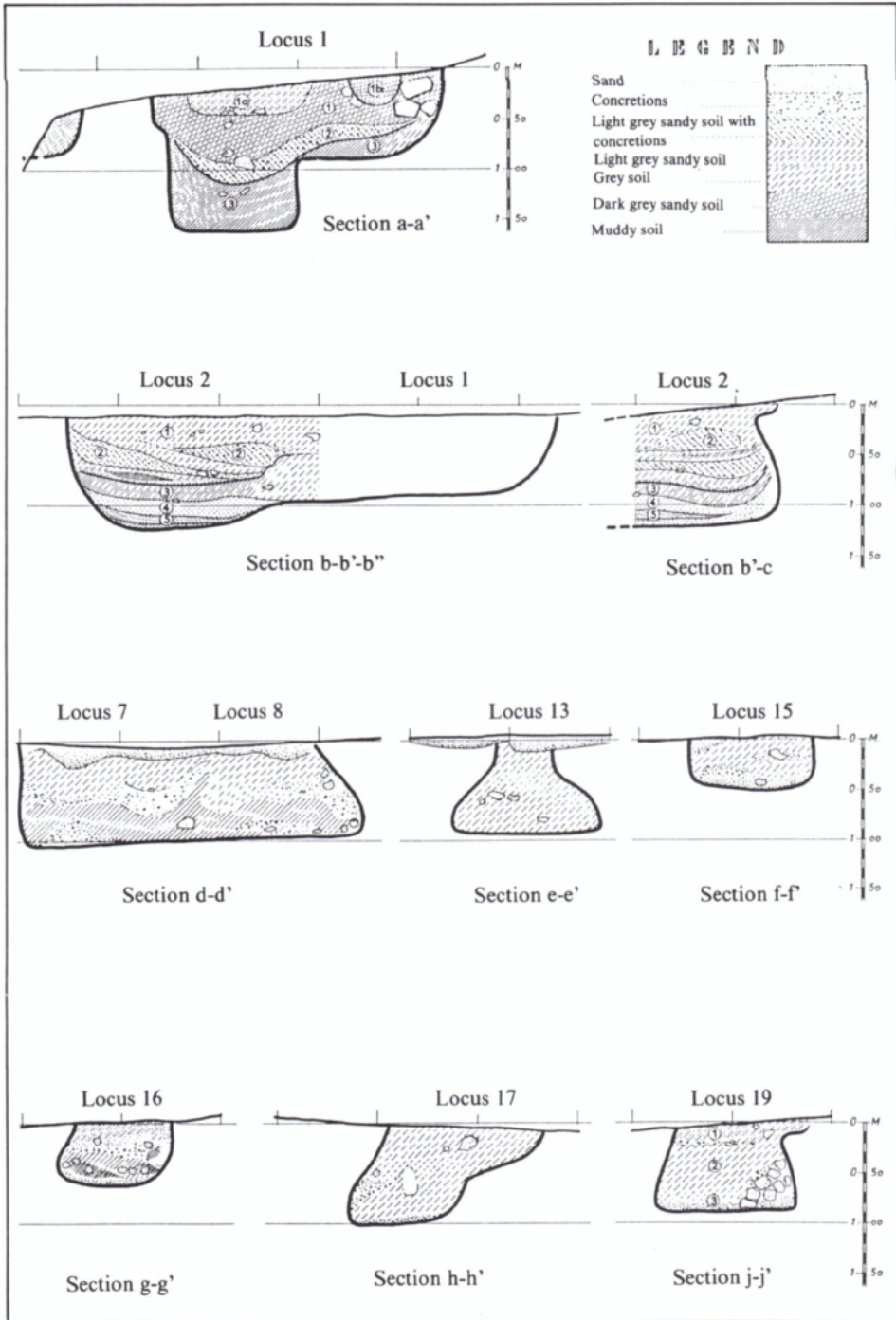


Fig. 5. Sections of loci.

FINDS

The finds include flint tools from almost every locus; cores and debitage products from most loci; one obsidian blade from Locus 13; grinding slabs and grinding stones from Loci 1, 10, 12, 14 and 17-18; stone implements, such as bowls, perforated disks, bracelets and hammerstones, from Loci 1, 2, 7-8 and 17-18; bone tools from Loci 2, 3 and 10; pendants from Loci 7-8 and 17-18; perforated sea shells from Loci 1, 2 and 17-18; animal bones (see below, p. 163), land and sea shells (p. 163) and some human remains from Locus 1 (p. 163). The only surface sherds found were late.

THE FLINT INDUSTRY

The Ashkelon assemblage includes flints collected on the surface of the excavated area and its immediate surroundings and excavated items from the various features and installations. Both groups are presented together in this paper, since no technological difference was observed between them (Table 1). The flint is grey-beige, sometimes dark grey, or tending towards white. Local flint nodules of good quality, mostly collected from nearby *wadi* beds, were used; they are small and show a high rate of exhaustion (Fig. 6:1-3). Cores have one or two striking platforms, but none is a bidirectional opposed platform naviform core. Core trimming elements appear in abundance (Fig. 6:4-6). Flakes dominate the debitage, while blades are rare. Bulbs of percussion are generally prominent, and bases sometimes have prepared facets. A deep white patina appears on some of the pieces found on the surface; some of the excavated ones tend to show a light white patina, perhaps from their exposure at the time the site was abandoned, before sand dunes covered it. Bifacial knives were made on tabular flint which was not found locally and was probably imported from the Negev. One unretouched obsidian blade was found in Locus 13. The excavated

Table 1. Debitage counts from Ashkelon.

Cores	36	Primary flakes	116
Core trimming elements	60	Flakes	339
Ridge blades	26	Blades	124
Plunging flake	3	Bladelets	23
Core tablet	5	Chips	36
Others	26	Chunks	187
Burin spalls	10	Tabular flint	3
Axe spalls	1	Broken nodules	3
Other spalls	2	Double patinated	11
		Micro-burin technique	4
		Obsidian	1

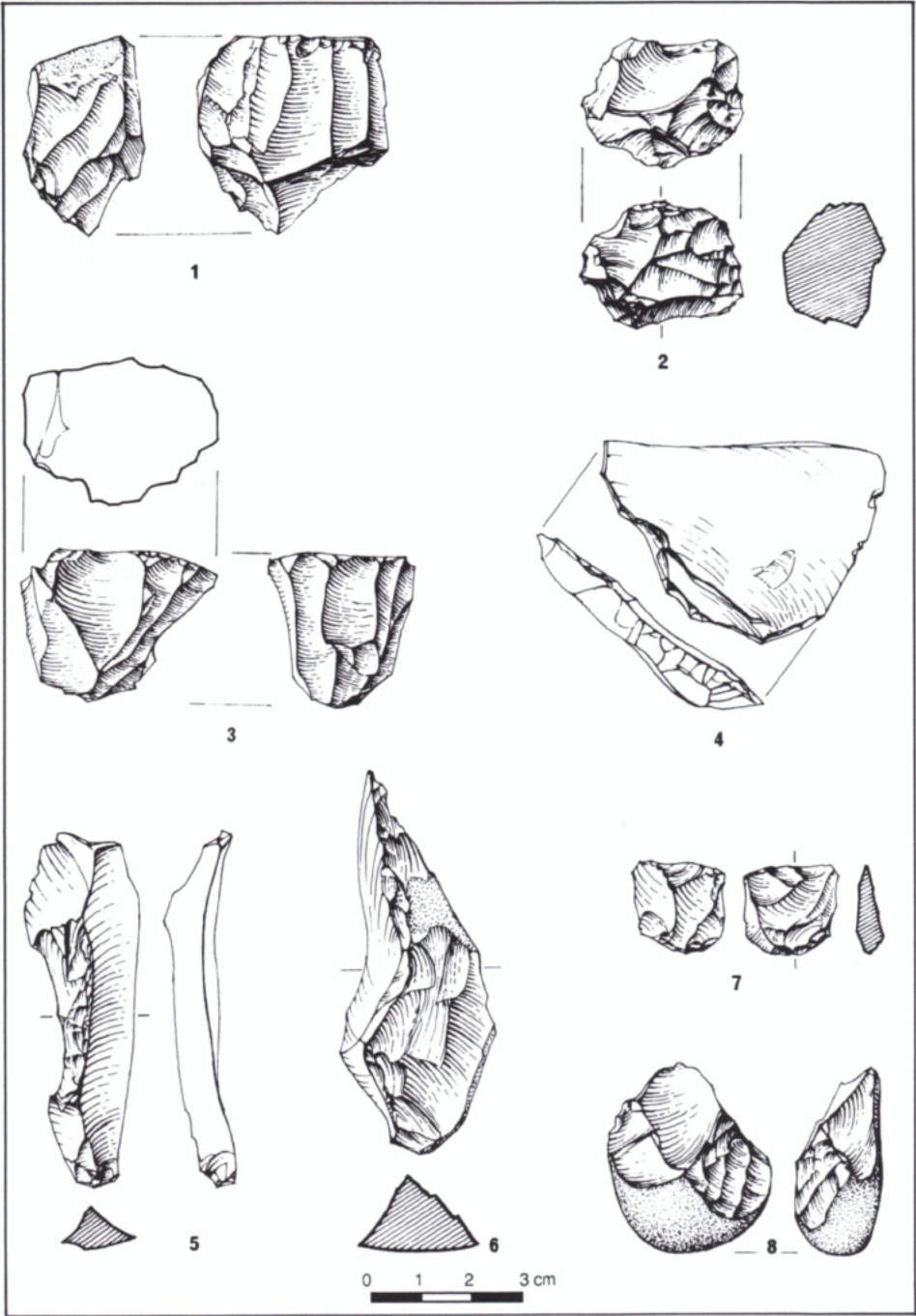


Fig. 6. Flint items. Nos. 1-3) cores; 4) core tablet; 5-6) ridge blades; 7) *pièces esquillées*; 8) chopper.

Table 2. Typology of flint tools from Ashkelon.

Type	Excavation		Surface	
	%	Number	%	Number
Arrowheads	—	—	4.08	6
Sickle blades	13.21	23	12.92	19
Tabular bifacial knives	8.04	14	2.04	3
Bifacial knives	0.57	1	0.68	1
Axes	2.87	5	0.68	1
End scrapers	4.02	7	4.76	7
Side scrapers	0.57	1	—	—
Rabbot	1.72	3	0.68	1
Awls	4.02	7	2.04	3
Burins	4.59	8	6.80	10
Denticulated items	1.72	3	3.40	5
Notched items	12.64	22	12.24	18
Truncations	2.29	4	5.44	8
Backed knife	—	—	0.68	1
Retouched flakes	10.91	19	6.80	10
Retouched blades	9.19	16	18.36	27
<i>Pièces esquillées</i>	6.89	12	2.04	3
Chopping tools	—	—	2.04	3
Double tools	0.57	1	—	—
Miscellaneous	14.36	25	8.16	12
Microliths	1.72	3	6.12	
Total	99.90	174	99.96	147

and surface tools were analysed and presented separately (Table 2). Although some differences in composition are observable — mainly the absence of arrowheads from the excavated assemblage — the two assemblages exhibit great similarities in raw material, technology, typology and stylistic traits.

Of special interest for comparative studies are arrowheads, sickle blades and bifacial tools.

Arrowheads (Fig. 7:1–4)

Only six arrowheads were found, all from the surface. They are all broken items, with one exception (Fig. 7:3). Two may be classified as 'Amuq points';³ one of these is pressure flaked with a finely denticulated tang (Fig. 7:1), and the other is a pressure flaked fragment. Two others may be classified as Herzliya points. One is a Byblos/Nizzanim point with a triangular tang, pressure-flaked over its entire dorsal face (Fig. 7:2); one item, most probably an arrowhead tip (Fig. 7:4), could not be classified.

Sickle Blades (Fig. 7:5–12)

This is the most common type in both surface and excavated assemblages, and it is most homogeneous. Out of 42 sickle blades, 32 were assigned to Type A by Crowfoot Payne⁴ and Gopher⁵ (e.g. Fig. 7:5–10), one (Fig. 7:12) to Type B;⁶ the remainder were sickle blades on wide blades (four), a Canaanite blade (one) and plain or nibbled glossed pieces (four) (Fig. 7:11).

The Type A sickle blades (Fig. 7:5–10) were studied according to a set of attributes used for the study of sickle blades from Munhata.⁷

1. Ten of the 32 items were complete; only one of the broken items was broken down its length.
2. The average thickness of these items is 0.44 cm. (N = 30); their average width 13.80 cm. (N = 30); and their average length 36.50 cm. (N = 10).
3. Ten items had a double working edge, while 22 had a single working edge. Observations could thus be made on 42 working edges.
4. Working edge shapes were straight in 26 cases; concave in one case; convex in five; irregular in seven; and unclassifiable in three cases, which were too fragmented.
5. Working edges were shaped by flat bifacial retouch in 39 cases; simple retouch in two; and plain in only one instance.
6. The denticulation type in most cases was coarse and deep (N = 37), and in three cases coarse and widely spaced. One item was nibbled; another was plain.

3 A. Gopher: *Neolithic Arrowheads of the Levant: Results and Implications of a Multi-dimensional Seriation Analysis*, in O. Aurench *et al.* (eds.): *Préhistoire du Levant*, 2, Paris, 1989, pp. 365–378.

4 J. Crowfoot Payne: Appendix C: The Flint Industries of Jericho, in K.M. Kenyon and T.A. Holland: *Excavations at Jericho*, V, London, 1983, pp. 622–759.

5 A. Gopher: *The Flint Assemblages of Munhata — Final Report (Les Cahiers du Centre de Recherches Préhistoriques Français de Jérusalem 4)*, Paris, 1989.

6 *Ibid.*, pp. 95–108.

7 *Ibid.*

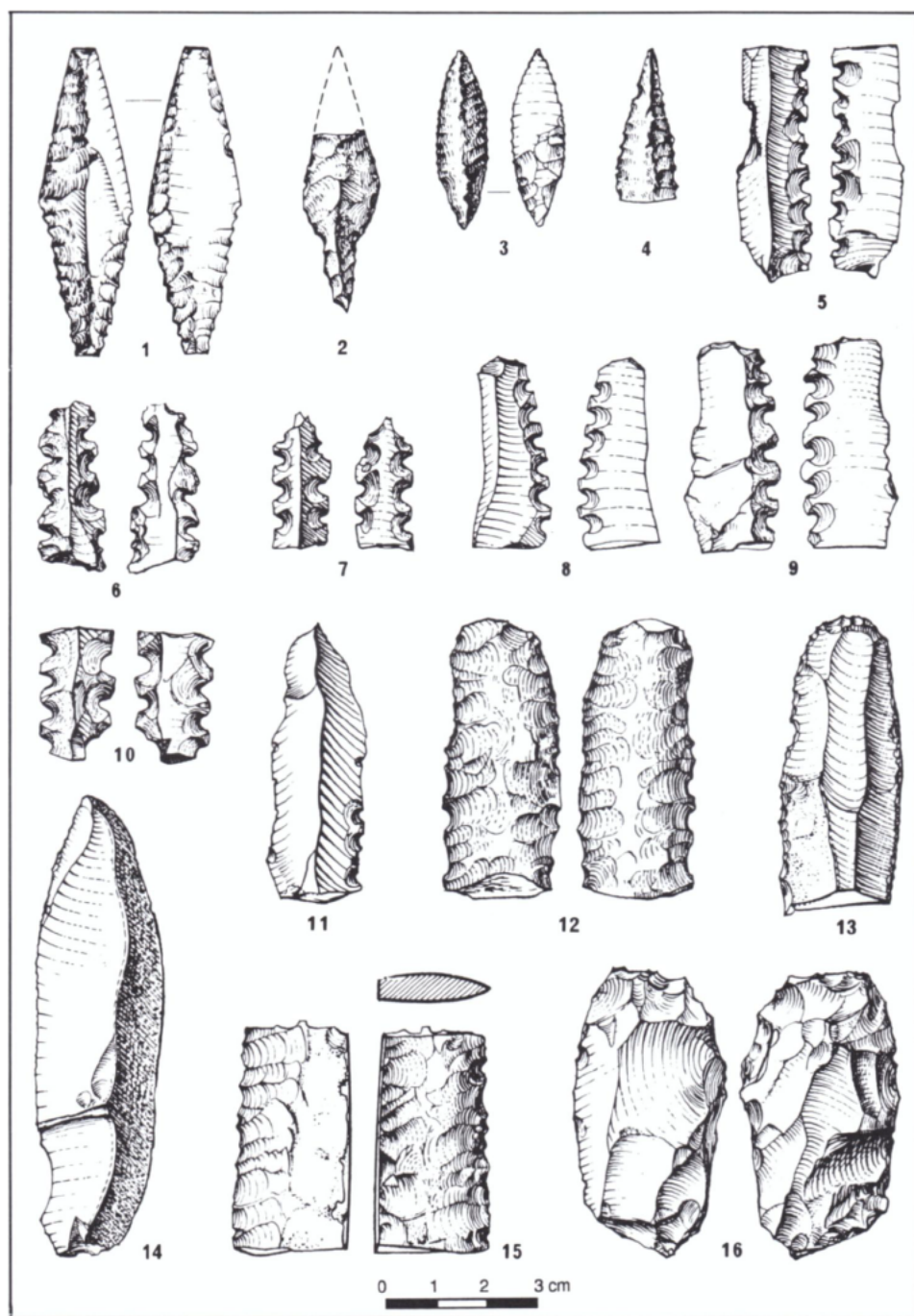


Fig. 7. Flint items. Nos. 1-4) arrowheads; 5-12) sickle blades; 13) end scraper; 14) *lame a dos naturel*; 15) tabular knife; 16) axe.

7. The back was straight in eight cases and irregular in eight; concave in one case and convex in five (only 22 observations could be made since double-sided sickle blades have no back).
8. In 18 instances out of 22, the back was plain and unshaped; partially retouched in two cases; partially backed in one case; and partially cortical in one case.
9. End truncations were observed in 20 instances. These consist of four oblique truncations; three concave; two convex; eight straight; and three irregular truncations.
10. Truncations were shaped by abrupt retouch in 14 out of 20 cases; four by semi-abrupt retouch; one by regular retouch; and one on a break.
11. The bulb of percussion area was removed by retouch in only one case; in six other instances it was untouched; and missing in 25 instances (mostly broken pieces).
12. Quantity of surface retouch was in most cases minimal, not extending over a third of either the dorsal or ventral surface area. Only in narrow sickle blades and in those bearing two working edges did it extend over a greater part of the surface area.
13. The blanks had triangular cross sections, symmetrical in four cases and asymmetrical in 11 instances; trapezoidal sections in eight cases, one of them symmetrical; a multi-ridged cross-section in six instances; and three unidentifiable sections.

Bifacial Tools (Figs. 7:16; 8:1, 2)

The single item of this type from the surface collection is a kind of bifacially-flaked pick, with a side scraper-like appearance. It may be a bifacial in secondary use. Five axes were found in the excavation: two are symmetrical, trapezoidal with slight signs of polish (e.g. Fig. 8:1); two are elongated ovals, one with a convex polished working edge (e.g. Fig. 8:2); and one is small and semi-rectangular (Fig. 7:16).

Tabular bifacial knives. Three such knives were found on the surface, and 14 in the excavation. These are elongated items with cortex on their surfaces. Some have one bifacially-flaked edge, while the opposite edge is actually a break (Fig. 9:1, 5); others are bifacially flaked on both sides (Figs. 7:15; 9:3, 4, 6). All artifacts in this group are broken.

Bifacial knives. This group contains two items: one found on the surface and one from the excavation. These long thick blades bear full pressure flaking on both sides over most of their surfaces (Fig. 9:2).

Other tool types include: *lame a dos naturel* (Fig. 7:14); awls (Fig. 10:5-7); burins (Figs. 8:7-10; 10:3); end scrapers (Figs. 7:13; 8:5-6); a side scraper; notched pieces, mostly flakes (Figs. 8:3; 10:1); denticulated pieces, mostly blades (Figs. 8:4; 10:2). The surface retouched blades include eight Canaanian blades; the excavated retouched blades (Fig. 10:8) include two Canaanian blades (Fig. 10:9); retouched flakes; *pièces esquillées* (Fig. 6:7); choppers (Fig. 6:8); a double tool; and a relatively large group of varia, including a patinated Mousterian point (Fig. 10:10) and a fork-like item on a Canaanian blade (Fig. 10:4).

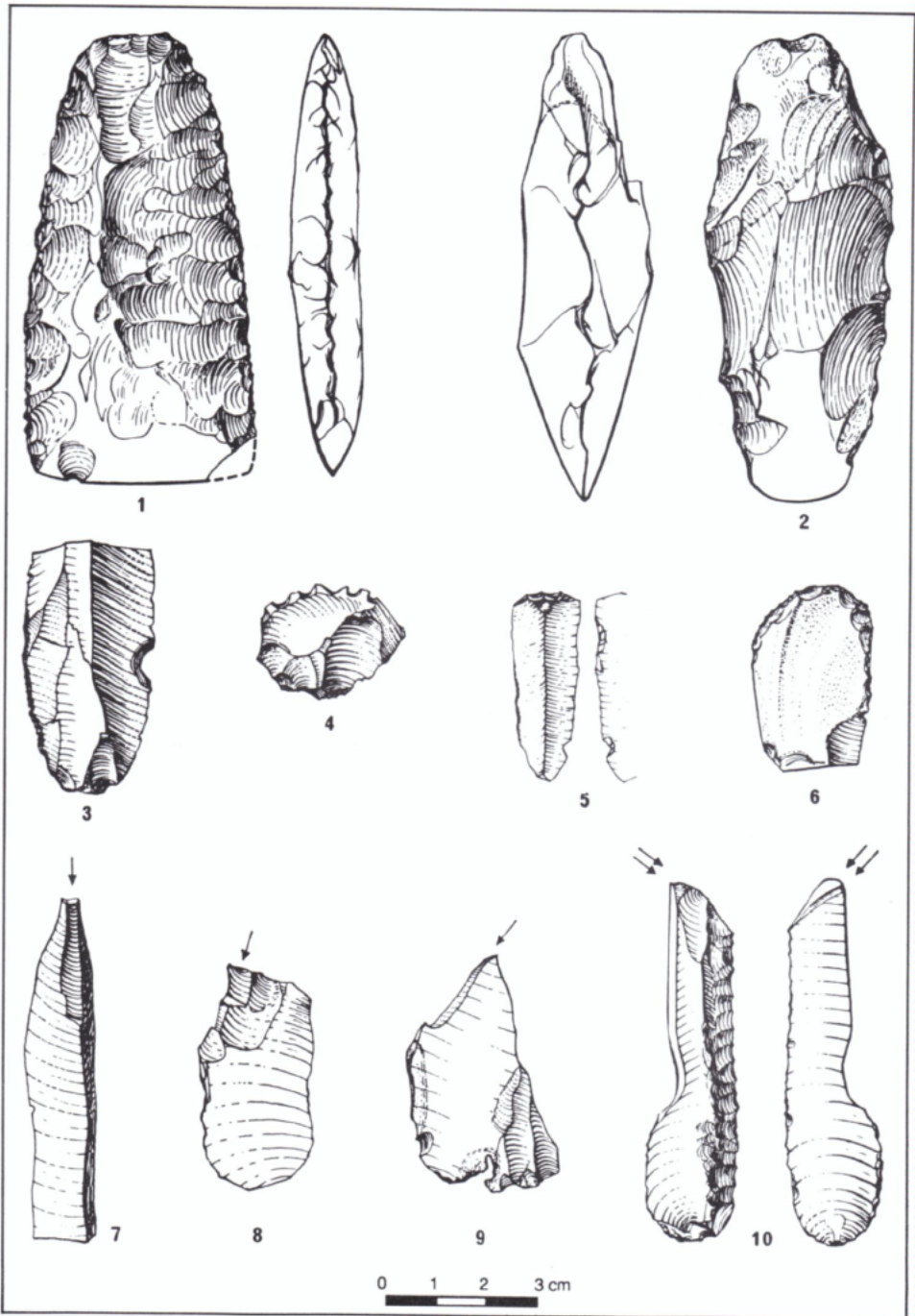


Fig. 8 . Flint items. Nos. 1-2) axes; 3) notch on blade; 4) denticulated flake; 5-6) end scrapers; 7-10) burins.

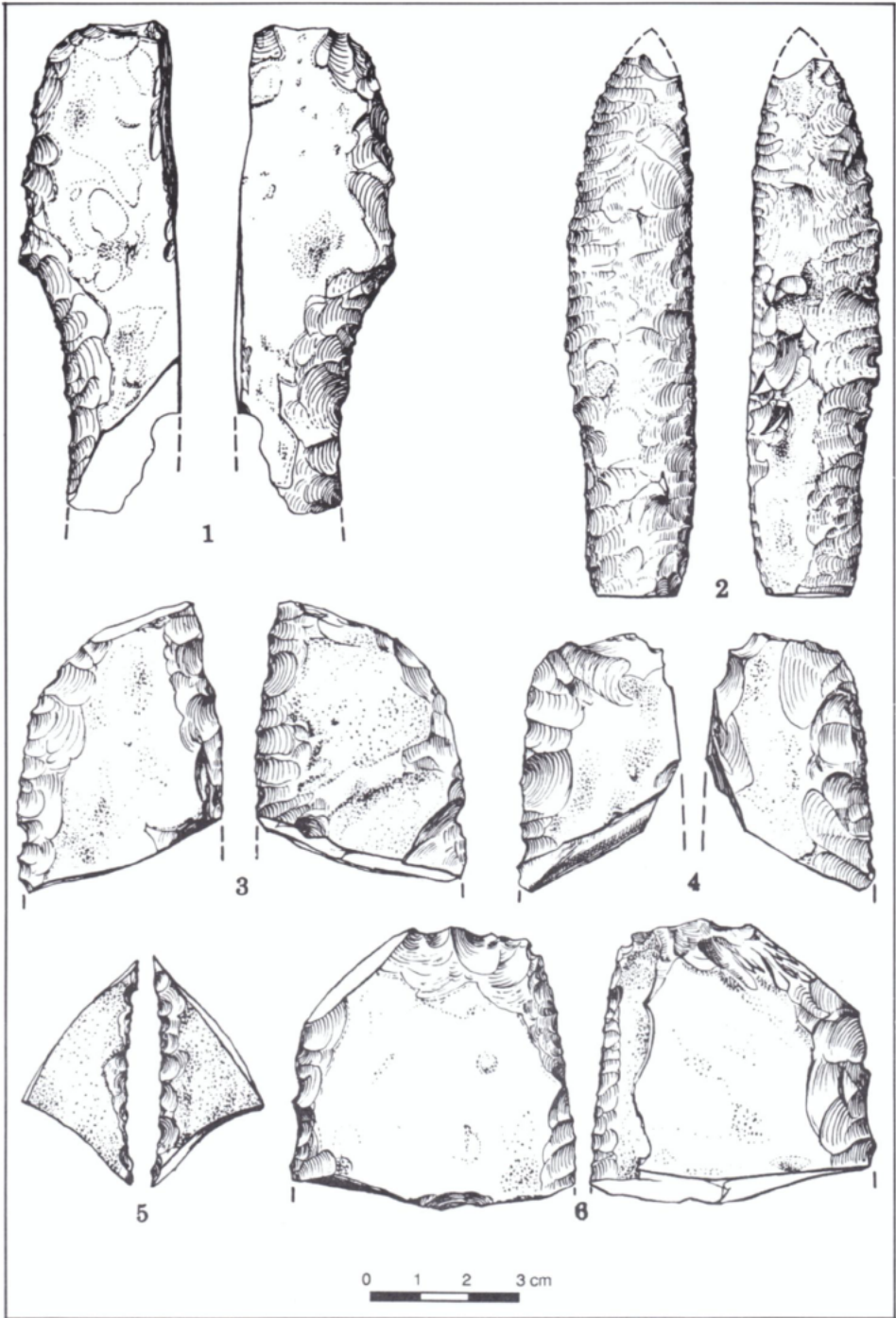


Fig. 9. Flint items. 1, 3-6) tabular knives; 2) bifacial knife.

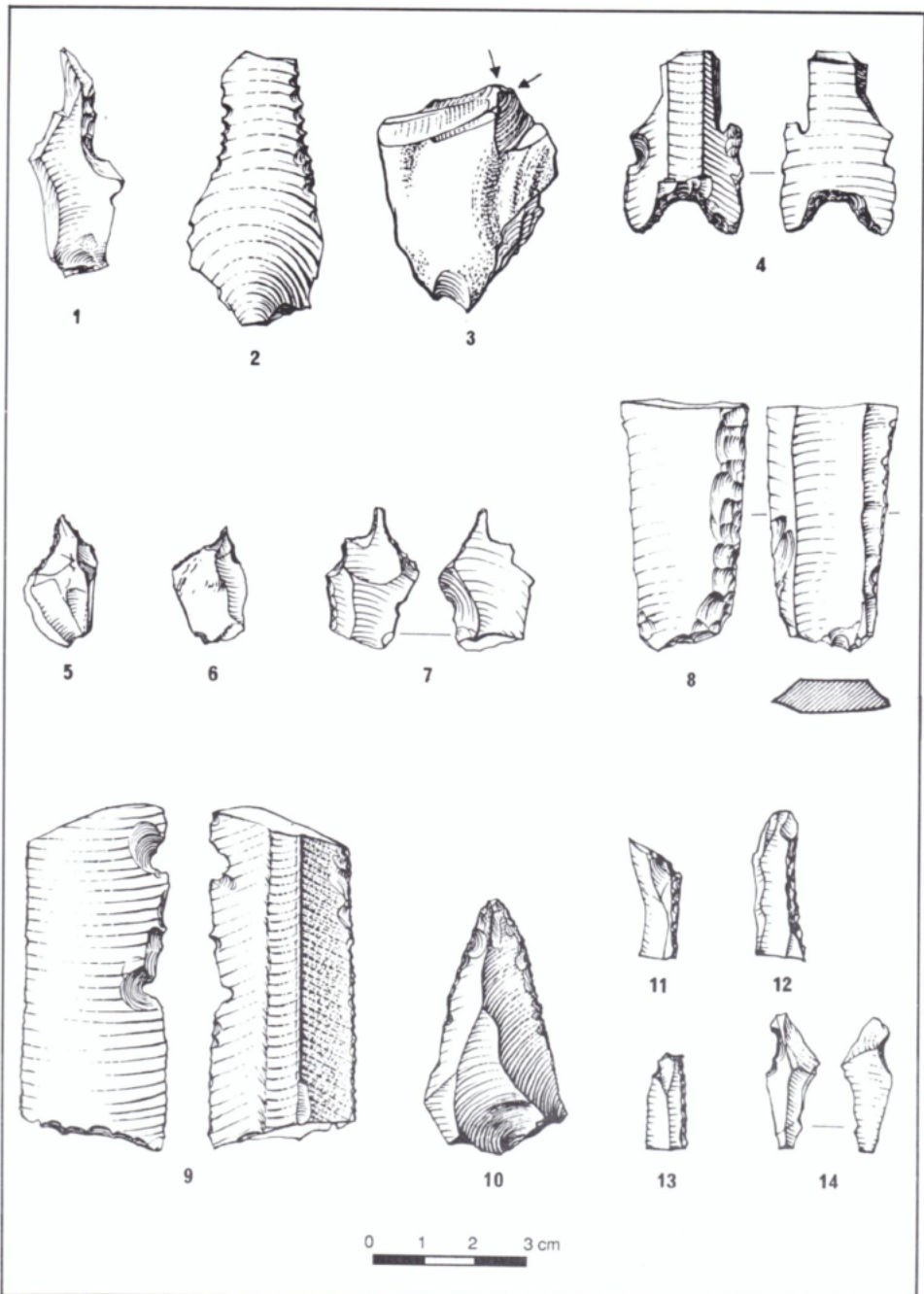


Fig. 10. Flint items. 1) notch on blade; 2) denticulated blade; 3) burin; 4) 'forked' item; 5-7) awls; 8) retouched blade; 9) retouched Canaanean blade; 10) Mousterian point; 11-13) microliths; 14) microburin.

Of note are twelve microliths, nine of which are from the surface and three from the upper layers of the excavation. They are made on white-beige flint and include seven bladelets with fine retouch and five backed bladelets (Fig. 10:11–13), one of which was obliquely truncated (Fig. 10:11), one a broken rectangle and one with concave backing (Fig. 10:12). Also noteworthy is the presence of four microburins in the debitage (Fig. 10:14), which join well with the microliths.

Stone Tools

The assemblage includes 41 items (Table 3), from both the excavation and the surface. Two grinding slabs were found, both made of limestone: a 25 cm. long flat-topped grinding slab (Fig. 11:9) and a massive 45 cm. long saddle-shaped one. Processors (grinding stones) are mostly made of basalt, pumice and *kurkar* stone, are oval or circular and have a biplano, plano-convex or irregular cross-section (Figs. 11:4–8, 10–13; 12:9). Bowls have a curved inner volume and are made of limestone (Fig. 11:1–3). A special bowl made of black stone with a disk-like base is shown in Fig. 12:8.

Perforated items include limestone and sandstone disks (Fig. 12:11, 13). The two bracelets, both made of yellowish-pinkish limestone (Fig. 12:10, 12), are also included here. Pallets — thin wafer-like items, oval or circular in shape — are made of *kurkar* or sandstone, both with worked perimeters.

Hammerstones/pounders are made of flint and are generally globular with battering signs.

Miscellaneous items are: chunks of worked limestone; soft, marly chalk items; pumice pieces; an elongated, boat-shaped soft chalk item with a drilled V-shaped depression (Fig. 12:7); and shaped, unclassifiable, broken stone items. Of note is the use of ferogenous sandstone, probably originating from the lower cretaceous Kurnub formation, which has the nearest exposures in the Wadi Far'ah–Maliḥ area in the middle Jordan Valley, the Dead Sea region and the Negev craters. Similar sandstone appears in the Timna–Elat area and in Sinai.

Bone Tools

Eight bone tools were found: six points, of which three were polished (e.g. Fig. 12:1, 2); a polished fragment made on a bovid's rib; and a kind of grater made on half a mandible of a pig worn in some fashion on the upper part.

Table 3. Stone finds from Ashkelon.

Bowls	4
Processors	5
Pallets	2
Perforated disks	3
Perforated item	1
Bracelets	2
Miscellaneous	10
Grinding slabs	2
Hammerstones/pounders	12
Total	41

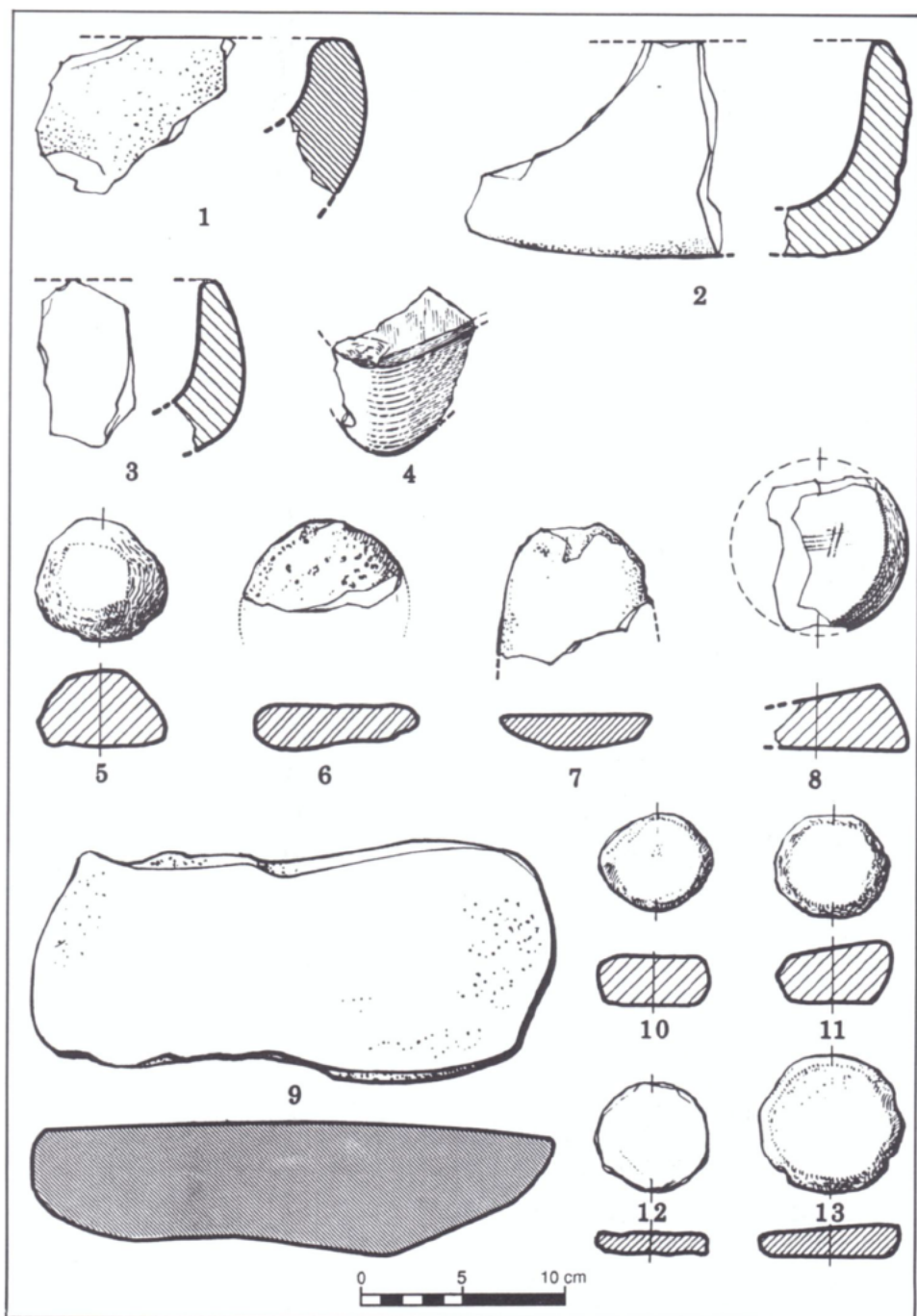


Fig. 11. Stone items. 1-3) bowls; 4-8, 10-13) processors (active grinding stones); 9) grinding slab.

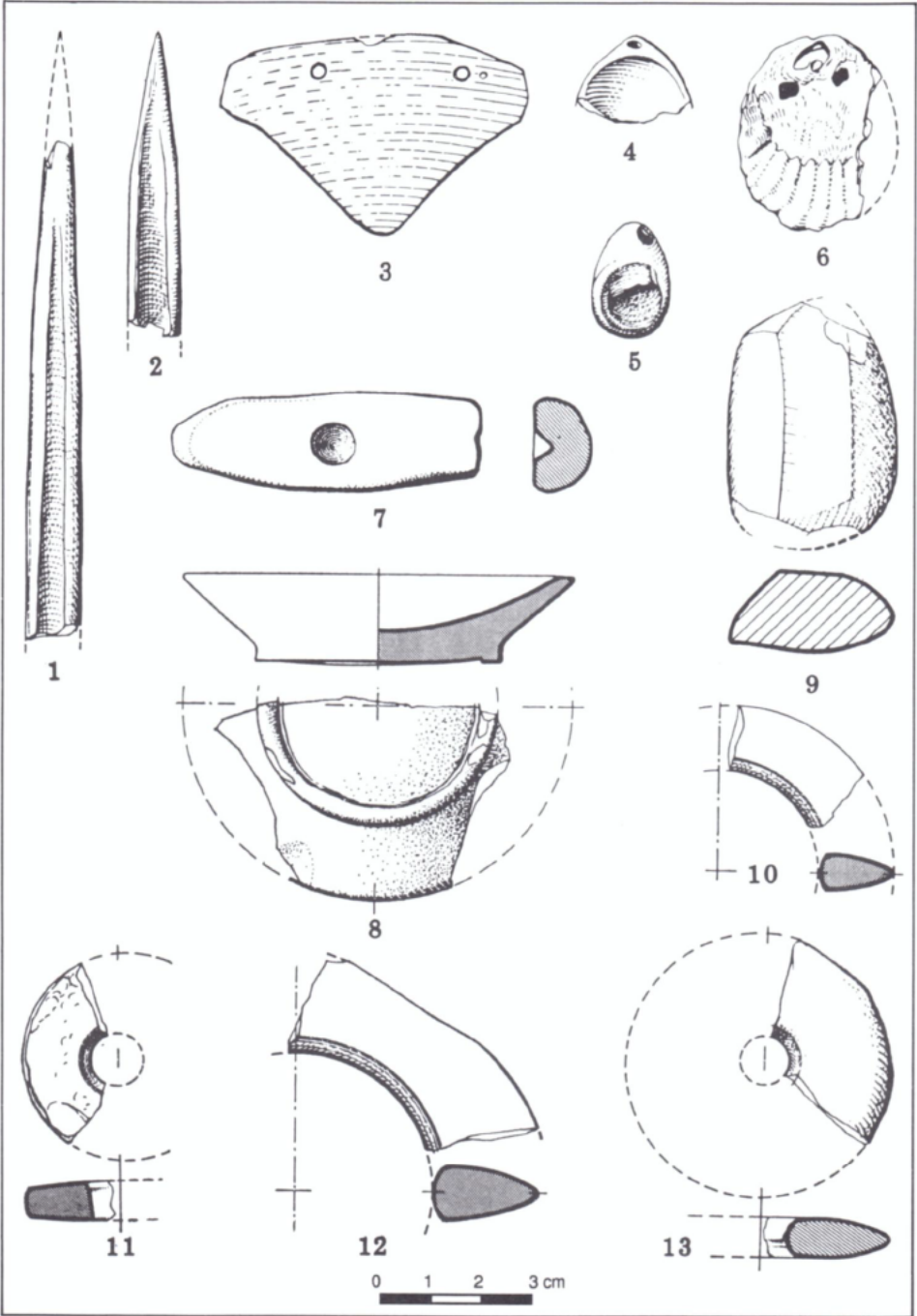


Fig. 12. 1-2) bone points; 3) shaped and perforated sea shells; 4-6) perforated sea shells; 7) drilled stone; 8) bowl; 9) processor; 10, 12) bracelets; 11, 13) perforated stone items.

HUMAN REMAINS

A few human remains, found in the upper layer of Locus 1, close to the surface, include fragmentary cranial and post-cranial bones. They were examined by F. le Morte, and were found to belong to at least three individuals: a child (a mandible fragment), an adolescent of about 15 years old (an incomplete mandible) and an adult (first metatarsal, epiphyses of two long bones). Other pieces may belong to adolescent or adult (pieces of calva, epiphyses of femur, tibia, humerus, fibula). A morphological study is not possible, due to their fragmentary condition.

FAUNA

The faunal remains were initially identified by G. Haas in 1955. These were later studied by P. Ducos, in the 1960s,⁸ who recently reexamined them. Species identified are: *Hyaena striata*, *Equus* sp., *Sus* sp., *Bos* sp. (wild or domesticated?), *Gazella* sp., *Ovis aries* and *Ovis/Capra*. In his recent study of the collection, Ducos has noted the presence of domesticated sheep, well attested by a humerus, which was attributed in the 1960s to *Capra*. More recent studies, however, permit a clear attribution to *Ovis*.⁹ The distal part of a metacarp was also found. These clearly belong to domesticated sheep, which were introduced in the Southern Levant towards the end of the PPNB.

MOLLUSCA

The study of mollusca was carried out in 1955 by G. Haas. It is not clear what role, if any, mollusca played in the diet. Large amounts of cardium on the surface of the northern hill are probably of a later post-Neolithic date.

Mediterranean species: *Cardium tuberculatum*; *Cardium edule*; *Douax trunculus*; *Pectunculus glycymeris violascescus*; *Ostrea stentina*; *Mactera carollina*; *Cassia sulcata*; *Murex brandaris*; *Symatium partheopaeum*; and *Arcularia gibbosa*.

Red Sea species: *multelidees* and *nerite* fragments. Fossilized *Thais haemotoma* was also found.

Many naturally perforated shells were used. A few other mollusca were intentionally perforated, as were one *nerite* and one *cardium* (Fig. 12:4–6). A triangular fragment cut in a *multelidees* valve (Fig. 12:3) shows biconical perforation and may have been used as a pendant.

8 P. Ducos: *L'origine des animaux domestiques en Palestine (Publications de l'Institut de Préhistoire de l'Université de Bordeaux Mémoire 6)*, Bordeaux, 1968.

9 *Idem*, Proto-élevage et élevage au Levant sud au VII^e millénaire B.C. Les données de la Damascène, *Paléorient* 19 (1993), pp. 153–174.

DISCUSSION

Despite the absence of pottery, it seems that the Ashkelon assemblage is to be dated to the Pottery Neolithic (PN) period. In the absence of C¹⁴ dates, this is based mainly on the analysis and comparative study of the flint assemblage. It should be noted that potential intrusive material, including Levallois pieces, microliths and mbt items, may have been brought to the site by the Neolithic inhabitants. However, Canaanean and proto-Canaanean blades, appearing mostly on the surface, but also in excavated contexts, are considered by one of the authors (A. Gopher) to be an indication of post-Neolithic use of the site's area. The excavator, J. Perrot, on the other hand, considers these items to be integral to the Neolithic assemblage.¹⁰

Although the small sample of arrowheads cannot allow for any significant chronological evaluation, it is noteworthy that no typical PPNB types (Helwan, Jericho and Byblos points) are present. In comparison to other PN arrowhead assemblages, such as Munḥata 2B¹¹ and Sha'ar ha-Golan,¹² the Ashkelon sample, although very small, seems to be later, primarily on the basis of its larger component of small (Herzliya, Nizzanim) arrowheads.¹³ The second half of the sixth millennium B.C.E. would be a feasible dating here.

The sample of sickle blades is more representative and consists mainly of Type A items.¹⁴ Type A dominance is known at sites such as Sha'ar ha-Golan, Byblos Neolithique Ancien and Ziqim, while Type B¹⁵ frequencies are higher in assemblages from Naḥal Qanah,¹⁶ Giv'at ha-Parsa, Nizzanim and Lod.¹⁷ Since neither type appears in PPNB or Wadi Rabah lithic assemblages, we must consider a chronological range in the sixth or the very beginning of the fifth millennium B.C.E. Taking into account similarities with Sha'ar ha-Golan, Munḥata 2B and Ziqim, and having established a firm date for the Naḥal Qanah Yarmukian (the very end of the sixth millennium B.C.E.), a date in the second half of the sixth millennium B.C.E. is feasible for Ashkelon. Axes and tabular bifacial knives, as well as perforated stone disks and bracelets, may also contribute to dating Ashkelon, although these are weaker chronological indicators.

10 This cannot be resolved, but one should note that Neolithic sites surveyed along the coastal plain of Israel had mixed surface collections (personal observation of A. Gopher and personal communication by E. Friedman).

11 Gopher (above, n. 5).

12 M. Stekelis: *The Yarmukian Culture of the Neolithic Period*, Jerusalem, 1972.

13 For detailed discussion, see Gopher (above, n. 5), pp. 144–145.

14 *Ibid.*

15 *Ibid.*

16 A. Gopher: The Neolithic Assemblages, in A. Gopher and T. Tsuk (eds.): *The Naḥal Qanah Cave, Earliest Gold in the Southern Levant (The Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archaeology Monograph Series 12)*, Tel Aviv, 1996, Ch. 3.

17 Personal observation by A. Gopher.

In sum, the Ashkelon lithics tend to suggest a 'Yarmukian' date, sometime in the second half of the sixth millennium B.C.E.

SUMMARY

The site of Ashkelon may be grouped with a number of Neolithic sites located on the *kurkar* ridges along the Mediterranean coast and in the trough basins between them.¹⁸ The coastal region receives a fair amount of annual precipitation on a descending gradient from north to south, but it falls within the Mediterranean vegetational zone as far south as Gaza. During the sixth millennium B.C.E. the sea level was rising¹⁹ and the coastal plain was progressively narrowing, leaving less space to be exploited towards the west. The area does, however, offer rich resources, both marine and from sweet, undrained water swamp basins. Grazing pastures are available, both on the ridges and in well-drained basins, which, in some regions, also offer good agricultural land. The evidence from Ashkelon, as well as that from other coastal sites, would indicate exploitation of cereals and probably (based on the new identification by Ducos) the management of sheep. Hunting was practiced as well, as indicated by *Equus* and *Gazella* bones. It is not clear whether *Bos* and *Sus* species were domesticated, but this possibility should be borne in mind, since it is of significance in the reconstruction of the nature of the site.

It is still unclear whether coastal plain settlements of the sixth millennium B.C.E. were permanent or temporary within a larger settlement system. We tend to believe that these sites were not occupied perennially, but rather that they were settled on a seasonal basis. The settlers herded sheep (goat?) or even cattle, and were also engaged in agricultural activities and hunting.

The transitory character of the habitations, the flint tool kit and the groundstone implements all favour the above reconstruction. The presence of a bone industry, stone bracelets, pendants, a fancy bowl, worked sea shell, materials of relatively distant origins (sandstone, tabular flint and Red Sea shells), as well as burials, may indicate that the site was occupied seasonally for a considerable period.

The appearance of the domesticated sheep from Ashkelon complements the evidence from Nizzanim,²⁰ and suggests that sheep were introduced into the coastal

18 A. Gopher: Sixth-Fifth Millennia B.C. Settlements in the Coastal Plain, Israel, *Paléorient* 19 (1993), pp. 55-63.

19 E. Galili: A late Pre-Pottery Neolithic B Site on the Sea Floor at Atlit, *Mitekufat Haeven* 20 (1987), pp. 50*-71*; E. Galili and M. Weinstein-Evron: Prehistory and Paleoenvironments of Submerged Sites along the Carmel Coast of Israel, *Paléorient* 11 (1985), pp. 37-52; E. Galili *et al.*: Atlit-Yam: A Prehistoric Site on the Sea Floor off the Israeli Coast, *Journal of Field Archaeology* 20 (1993), pp. 133-157.

20 E. Yeivin and Y. Olami: Nizzanim, A Neolithic site at Naḥal Evtah: Excavations of 1968-70, *Tel Aviv* 6 (1979), pp. 99-135.

area sometime in the mid-sixth millennium B.C.E. 'Atlit Yam, dated to 6100–5600 B.C.E., shows no such evidence yet.²¹

On a more general level, the site of Ashkelon should be assigned to the *senso lato* Yarmukian by virtue of its lithics and economy. However, it lacks the most significant Yarmukian finds: pottery and imagery items. The presence of a full Yarmukian manifestation in the Tel Aviv area²² indicates the exploitation of coastal environments. Although our body of data on the period is growing from both sides of the Jordan,²³ a full reconstruction of Yarmukian chronology and site distribution is premature.

21 L.K. Horwitz and E. Tchernov: Faunal Remains from the PPNB Submerged Site of Atlit, *Mitekufat Haeven* 20 (1987), pp. 72–78.

22 For Habashan Street, see J. Kaplan: The Neolithic and Chalcolithic Settlement in Tel Aviv and Neighbourhood (unpublished Ph.D. diss., The Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Jerusalem, 1958 (Hebrew); Tel Aviv (Habashan Street), in *NEAEHL* 4 (1992), pp. 1577–1578 (Hebrew).

23 E.g. Z. Kafafi: The Yarmoukians in Jordan, *Paléorient* 19 (1993), pp. 101–114; Y. Garfinkel: The Yarmukian Culture in Israel, *Paléorient* 19 (1993), pp. 115–133; A. Gopher and R. Gopher: The Cultures of the Eighth and Seventh Millennia B.P. in the Southern Levant — A Review for the 1990s, *Journal of World Prehistory* 7 (1993), pp. 297–353; G. Rollefson: The Origins of the Yarmoukian at 'Ain Ghazal, *Paléorient* 19 (1993), pp. 91–100.