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THE 'EPIPALAEOLITHIC' SITE HONT-TEMPLOMDOMB OF NORTHERN HUNGARY REVISITED

Kristóf István, Szegedi* – Tibor, Marton** – György, Lengyel***

This paper presents the results of the typological revision of Hont-Templomdomb site originally published in 1956 as Epipalaeolithic. Our observations contradict the Epipalaeolithic cultural and chronological position of the lithic material, which rather can be affiliated with the Late Gravettian of Eastern Central Europe. Current archaeological data allowed us to conclude that the term 'Epipalaeolithic' currently is inappropriate in the Palaeolithic chronological sequence of the Carpathian Basin. This led to considering the possibility of a human population hiatus during GI-1 interstadial and GS-1 stadial phases.

Jelen tanulmányban a Hont-Templomdomb lelőhelyen előkerült pattintott kő leletanyag újraértékelésének eredményeit mutatjuk be. A leletanyagot 1956-ban közölték először, azóta az epipaleolitikus lelőhelyek között tartották számon. Főként tipológiai megfigyeléseken alapuló eredményeink alapján a leletek nem köthetők az epipaleolitikumhoz, hanem a közép-kelet-európai késő Gravettien leletekhez állnak közel. A legkésőbbi paleolitikus leletanyagokat áttekintve jelen eredményeink alapján az „epipaleolitikum" kifejezés a Kárpát-medence kronológiai sorrendjében nem alkalmazható, a Kárpát-medencét a vadász-gyűjtögető embercsoportok csak ritkán látogathatták a GI-1 insterstadiális és GS-1 stadiális alatt.

Keywords: *Late Gravettian, Epipalaeolithic, lithic tool typology, Carpathian Basin*

Kulcsszavak: *késő Gravettien, epipaleolitikum, kőeszköz-tipológia, Kárpát-medence*

Introduction

In a broader archaeological perspective, the term 'Epipalaeolithic' is commonly used in Near Eastern and North African archaeology (Tixier 1963; Bar-Yosef 1970). In Levantine archaeology, the Epipalaeolithic is dated between roughly the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) and the Younger Dryas (24–11,8 ka calBP) and distinguished by microlithic tool production in its early phase (e.g. Kebaran) and geometric microliths in the later phase (e.g. Geometric Kebaran, Natufian) (Belfer-Cohen, Goring-Morris 2021). In European archaeology, the term Epipalaeolithic rarely applied was meant to indicate the production of the last Upper Palaeolithic (UP) type lithics under the disappearing Pleistocene environment (Clark 1980, 36). In Eastern Central Europe (ECE) and the Balkans, the Epipalaeolithic was seen as the descendant of the Epigravettian or the forerunner of the Mesolithic, distinguished by geometric tools, occasionally by arch-backed or tanged points (Păunescu 1970; Boroneanţ 2000; Kozłowski 2001, 261; Kertész 2002; Mihailović 2009; Kaminská 2014, 297–317; Kaczanowska, Kozłowski 2018).

The term Epipalaeolithic in the Hungarian archaeological research was introduced in 1956 by the publication of Miklós Gábori (1956) on Hont-Templomdomb site located in the northern region of Hungary (*Fig. 1*). Gábori (1956) laid the chronological position of the assemblage on site stratigraphy. The finds, solely lithics, were found embedded in a sandy layer that was supposed to mark the begin-

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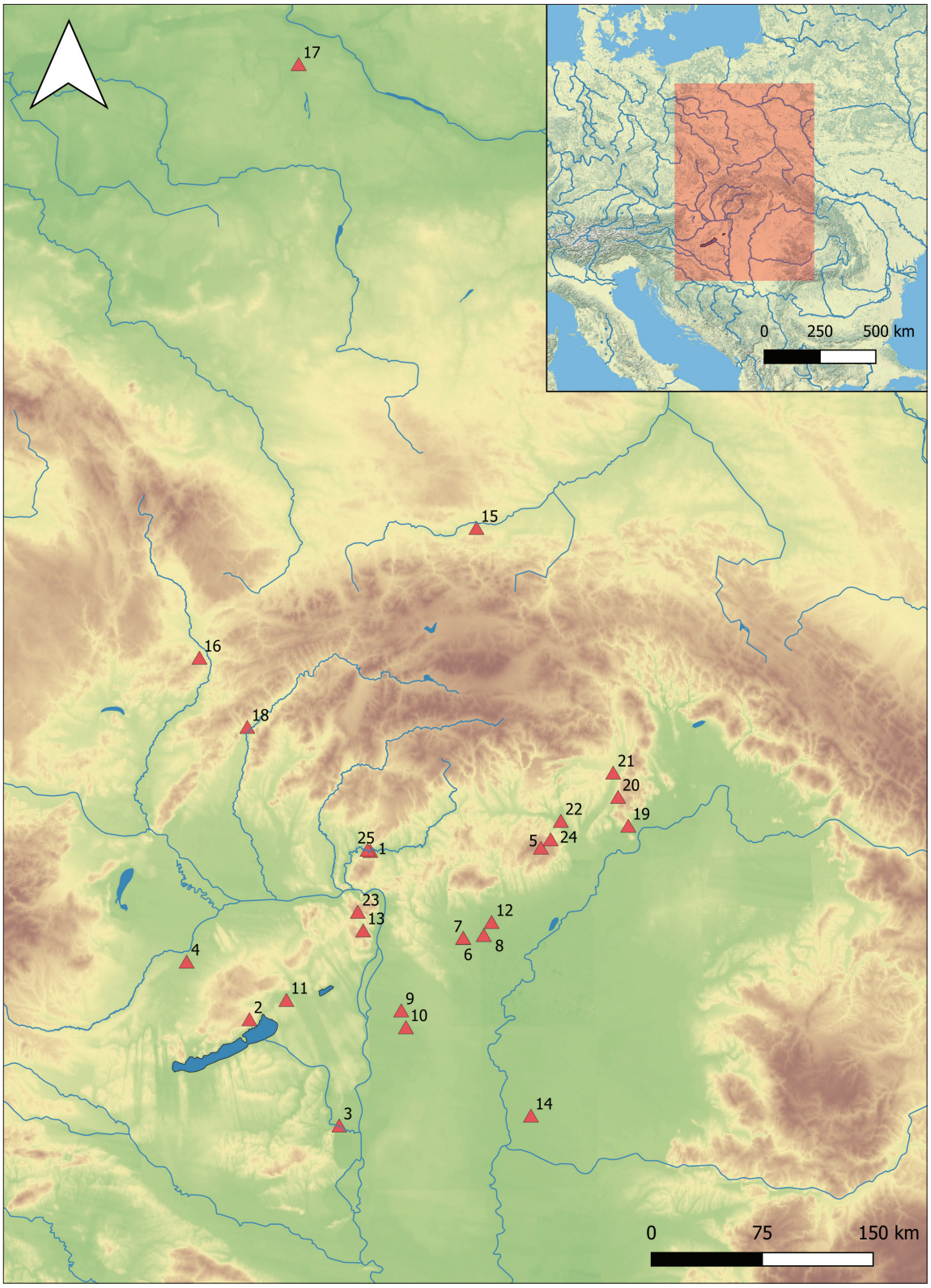

Fig. 1. Location of Hont-Templomdomb and sites mentioned in the text.
1. kép. Hont-Templomdomb elhelyezkedése és a szövegben említett lelőhelyek.
1: Hont-Templomdomb; 2: Lovas; 3: Szekszárd-Palánk; 4: Mezőlak; 5: Rejtek I rockshelter; 6: Jászfelsőszentgyörgy-Szúnyogos; 7: Jászfelsőszentgyörgy-Székesdűlő; 8: Jászberény-Nevada-tanya; 9: Kunpeszér; 10: Kunadacs; 11: Nádasdladány; 12: Erk 1.; 13: Remete-Felső Cave; 14: Hódmezővásárhely-Gorzsa V; 15: Kraków Spadzista; 16: Lubná VI; 17: Milovice; 18: Trenčianske Bohuslavice; 19: Bodrogkeresztúr; 20: Arka; 21: Hidasnémeti; 22: Sajószentpéter; 23: Pilisszántó I rock shelter; 24: Szeleta-cave; 25: Hont–Parassa III

ning of the Holocene or the end of the Pleistocene in the Hungarian quaternary geochronology. Gábori (1956) found the lithics similar to the Swiderian culture of north-eastern Europe. In spite of this cultural affiliation, Gábori also pointed out that Gravettian typological features of ECE also appeared on the lithic tools, such as the Gravette point and the backed bladelet. This led Gábori to classify the lithic assemblage Swiderian with Gravettian influence. His definition for the Epipalaeolithic meant to cover the period between the end of the Palaeolithic and the Mesolithic, within which hunter-gatherer populations subsisted in the Holocene environment with UP type lithic tools. As no absolute chronological data were obtained, the precise age of the site is still unknown. The term 'Epipalaeolithic' reappears rarely in the research of the Hungarian UP, but its definition has not been adjusted to current knowledge (Kertész 1997; Dobosi 1999; Dobosi 2001; Mester et al. 2015; Péntek, Zandler 2016).

To address this question, we reassessed the Epipalaeolithic with the first assemblage ever described in Hungary, Hont-Templomdomb (HTD). We aim at establishing the relative chronology of the site with lithic tool typology and to provide an alternative interpretation of the site and its place in the Late Glacial archaeological record.

Fig. 2. Scar of soft stone hammer percussion on the ventral side of an endscraper
2. kép. Lágy kőütős pattintási technika stigmája egy vakaró hátlapján

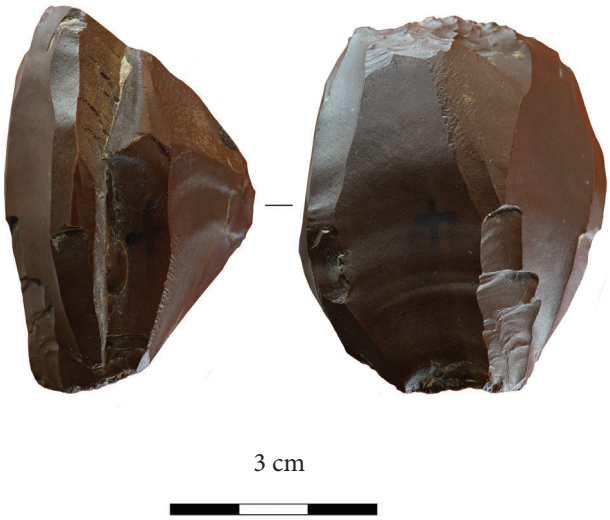

Fig. 3. Core with tow oppossed striking platforms
3. kép. Magkő két leütési felszínnel

Materials

HTD is located on the western side of the North Hungarian Range, in Ipoly valley. During the Pleistocene, this area was formed by fluvial sediments, solifluction, loess and Aeolian sand (Dövényi et al. 2010). Latter is originating from fluvial depositions and the Aeolian processes dated to the Pleistocene and early Holocene as well (Peja 1938; Mike 1969; Gábris 2003).

The archaeological excavation of the site took place in 1955 at the eastern fence of the village's church (Gábori 1956). Based on the interpretation of Gábori, the lithics were embedded 60–70 centimetres below surface in aeolian sand layers divided by reddish-brown illuviation horizons. At the time of the first excavation, approximately 600 lithics were found in a 19 m^2 area. Faunal remains, hearths or other settlement features were not reported. Gábori assumed that the loess below the archaeological artefacts and the continuous sand layers were formed in the Late Glacial period (Gábori 1956, 135). A test trench was excavated in 2011 to revise the site's stratigraphy. This fieldwork found a few knapped lithics also in a sandy layer (Mordovin, Zandler 2018).

The archaeological material solely consists of knapped lithics. The collection consists of 524 pieces housed at the Forgách-Lipthay Castle Museum, Szécsény. The lithic collection we studied includes only those 472 pieces acquired by the excavation in 1955 and excluded items gathered by field surveys nearby.

Methods

The assemblage was divided into eight technological categories (Lengyel 2018): flakes, blades, debris, platform rejuvenating flakes of blade cores, crested blades, neo-crested blades, blade cores, and flake cores.

The lithic typological analysis followed the schema applied in the revision of the Middle and Late Upper Palaeolithic of Hungary (Lengyel 2016). Tool types were divided into two groups: domestic tools and armatures. Domestic tools consist of end-scrapers, burins, edge-retouched tools, splintered tools, borers, truncations and combined tools. The armature category was further subdivided into retouched points, backed points, backed blades, rectangles, curved-backed points, arch-backed points, Gravette/micrograve, fléchette, Vachons points, and shouldered points. Typological classification followed

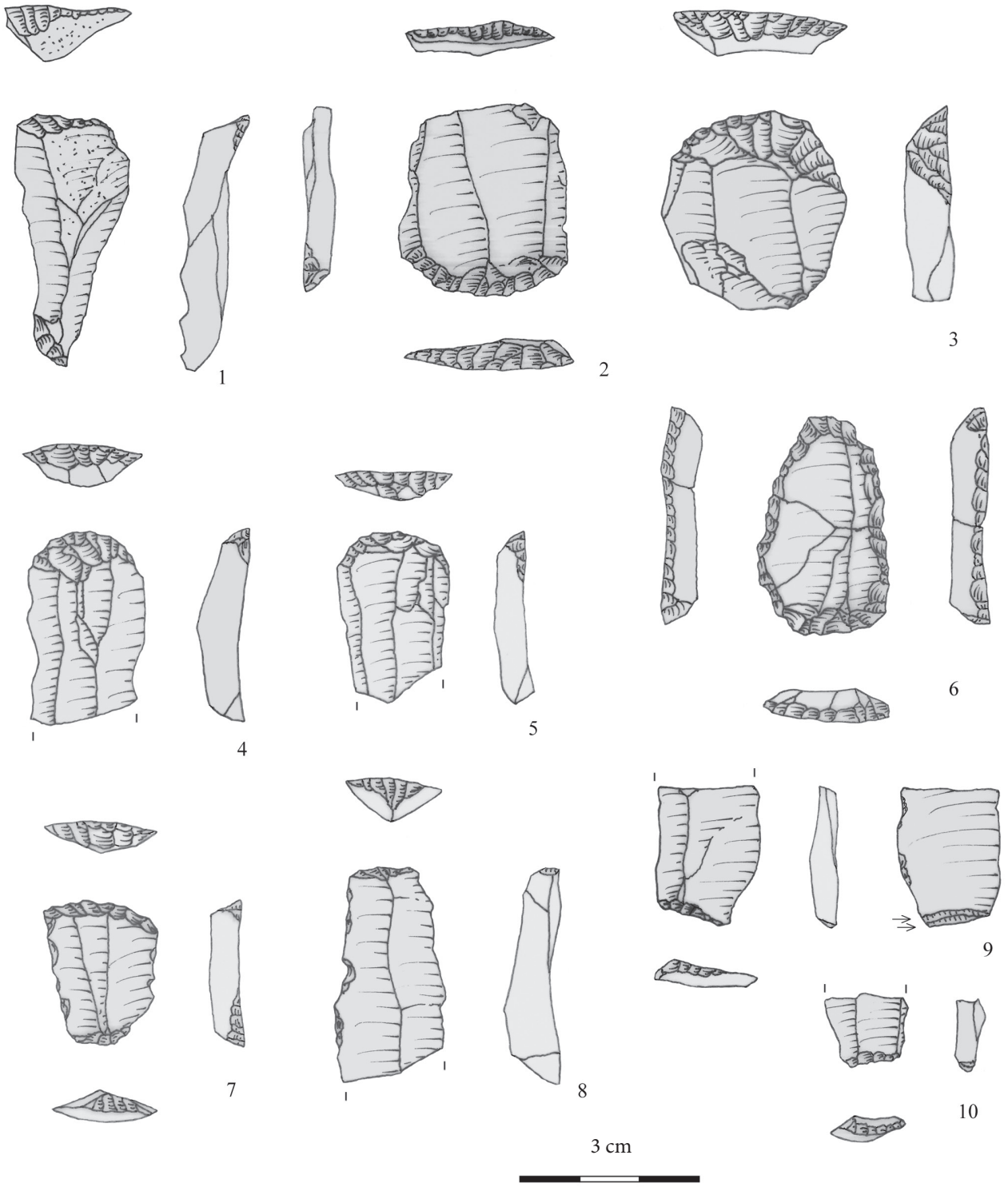

Fig. 4. Tools of the studied site: 1: pièces esquillées; 2–7: endscrapers; 8–10: truncated blades
4. kép. Kőeszközök a lelőhelyről: 1: pièces esquillées; 2–7: vakarók; 8–10: csonkított pengék

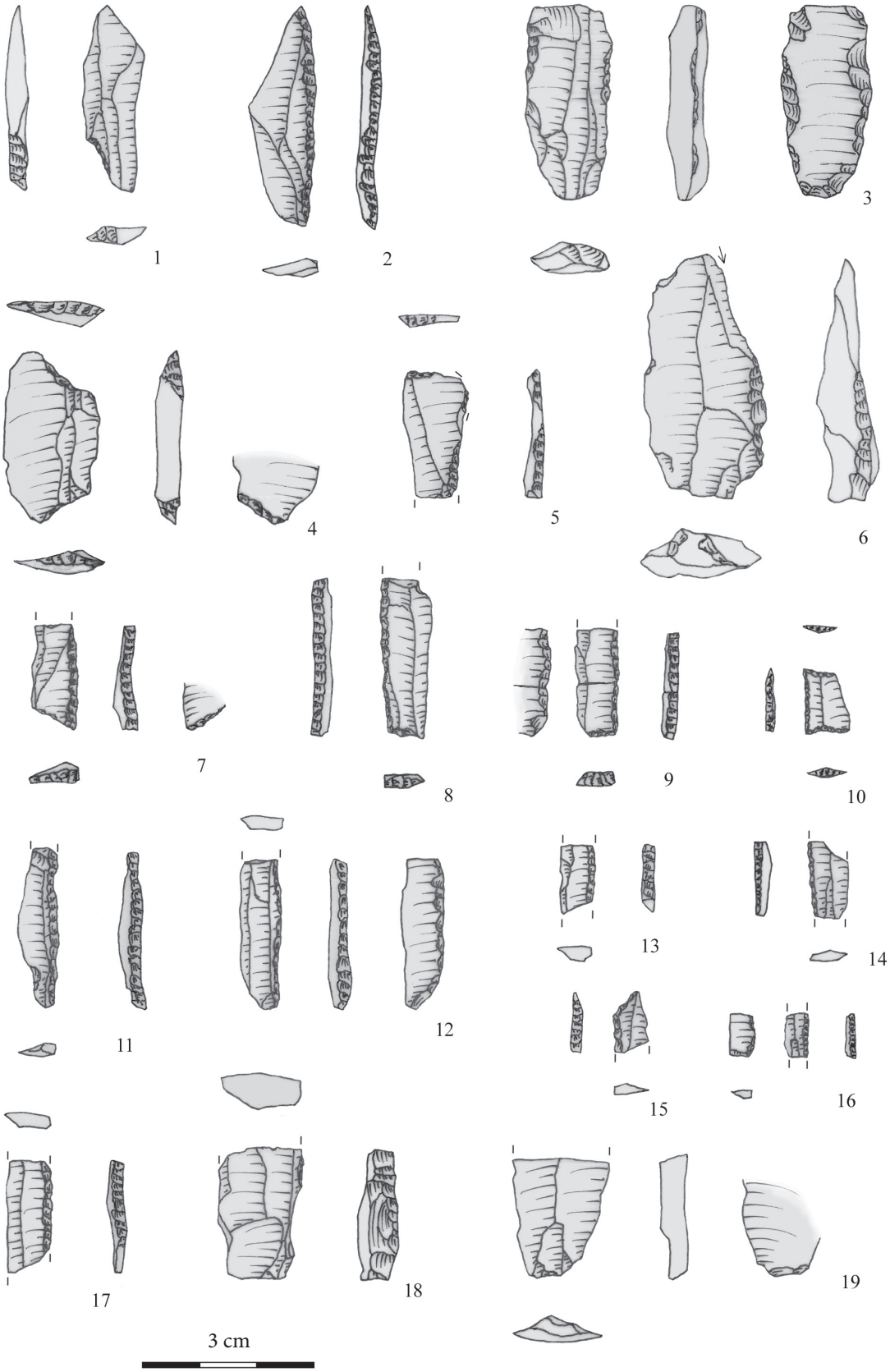

Fig. 5. Tools of the studied site: 1: shouldered point; 2: backed point; 3, 10: rectangle; 4: trapeze; 5, 7– 9: truncated backed blades; 6: burin; 11, 13–15, 17–18: backed blades; 12, 16: Gravette-points; 19: Kostienki-knife
5. kép. Kőeszközök a lelőhelyről: 1: vállas hegy; 2: tompított hegy; 3, 10: rectangle; 4: trapéz; 5, 7– 9: csonkított, tompított pengék; 6: véső; 11, 13–15, 17–18: tompított pengék; 12, 16: Gravette-hegyek; 19: Kostienki-kés

Demars and Laurent (1989). Lithic raw materials were identified macroscopically compared to the Lithic Reference Collection of the Institute of Archaeological Sciences Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest (Mester 2013).

We compared the retouched tool assemblage with other UP sites of Hungary (Lengyel 2016) via hierarchical cluster analysis using the average linkage between groups with squared Euclidean distance interval applying IBM SPSS 26.0.

The mentioned radiocarbon dates in the text were calibrated with Oxcal 4.4. against IntCal 2020 (Reimer et al. 2020).

Results

We identified six types of lithic raw materials: radiolarite, limnic silicite, quartzite, flint, obsidian, and cherts. The obsidian derived from Prešov-Tokaj Mountains in Slovakia (Přichystal, Škrdla 2014; Bačo et al. 2017). Flints (1%) originated in Poland or Moravia.

The vast majority of the raw materials is radiolarite (n = 407; 86%) of different colours (red, reddish brown, brown, and grey). The physical appearance of the radiolarites is closest to those found in the Pieniny Klippen Belt of the Carpathians (Přichystal 2013, 120). The pebble cortex in radiolarite artifacts indicate they were collected from river gravels. The same holds for the quartzite (n = 2; 1%) that was rarely used and no tools were manufactured out of it.

The second most abundant raw material type is the limnic silicite (n = 39; 8%) that might have been collected from the eroded sediments of tertiary volcanic formations from the North Hungarian Range (Přichystal 2013, 132; Mester, Faragó 2016). These pieces are often patinated. We grouped all the uncertainly classifiable siliceous rocks as chert (n = 18; 4%).

The lithic technology is UP aiming at producing blades of different sizes. Direct percussion was applied, occasionally with soft stone hammer technique, which is indicated by bulb scars (Pelegrin 2000, 80) (*Fig. 2*). Blades are the most numerous artefacts within the technological categories (n = 218; 46%). Their mean length is 31.13 millimetres, which closely fits the average length of the blade cores (31.23 millimetres). Both bidirectional and unidirectional cores were found, besides which a discoidal core was also identified (*Fig. 3*). Core tablets were not found, which might suggest that the rejuvenation of the striking platform was not part of the operational chain at the site.

The retouched toolkit is dominated by blades (n = 65; 75%). Flake tools are secondary (n = 21; 24%) (*Table 2*). Blades were the main blanks of domestic tools 73% (n = 48). A total of 30% of blades are tools, while the tool frequency in the category of flakes is lower, 19%.

Altogether blades and flakes, the majority of tools are domestic types (n = 70; 80%), and armatures make up only 20% (n = 17). End-scrapers made on flakes or blades are the most common tools (*Fig. 4. 2–7*), which is followed by edge-retouched tools, burins (*Fig. 5. 6*), combined tools, truncated blades (*Fig. 4. 10*), splintered pieces (*Fig. 4. 1*), a borer, a scraper and a Kostienki-knife (*Fig. 5. 19*). The armature class is composed of backed blades (*Fig. 5. 11, 5. 13–15*), truncated backed blades (*Fig. 5. 5, 5. 7–9*), rectangles (*Fig. 5. 3, 5. 10*), Gravette-points (*Fig. 5. 12, 5. 16*), a backed point (*Fig. 5. 2*), a shouldered point (*Fig. 5. 1*), and a trapeze (*Fig. 5. 4*). The trapeze was manufactured from limnic silicite that is uncommon in the assemblage. Best analogies are found in Holocene prehistoric sites (Csongrádiné Balogh 2000). One of the rectangles has an inversely truncated proximal part and retouched edges, similar to a Late Gravettian rectangle (Wilczyński et al. 2015), but it is thicker than the typical specimens, therefore we consider it an atypical Late Gravettian rectangle. Both Gravette points are proximal fragments, thus the basal inverse retouch opposed to the backed edge is visible. A sole Kostienki-knife was manufactured on a blade's proximal part. The butt is removed and this modified end served as a striking platform for removals on the dorsal surface.

Discussion and conclusion

According to the original definition of Gábori (1956), the Epipalaeolithic should cover the period located between the end of the Palaeolithic and the beginning of the Mesolithic related with Holocene biome. Paleoenvironmental research found that Holocene flora started occupying the Carpathian Basin at the beginning of Greenland Interstadial 1 (GI-1) at 14.7 calBP (Magyari et al. 2019) parallel with the disappearance of the Pleistocene megafauna (Magyari et al. 2022). This pulls the start of the Holocene biome shift millennia earlier.

Current archaeological data indicates that the last definable UP culture of Hungary was the Late

Table 1. Absolute chronological data of final palaeolithic and mesolithic sites mentioned in the text
1. táblázat. A szövegben említett végső paleolitikus és mezolitikus lelőhelyek abszolút koradatai

Site	Lab Code	Date	±	Cal Bp 95.4%		Sample	Method	Reference
Late Glacial								
Lovas	MAMS-21718	11 941	44	14 022	13 610	bone	AMS	Sajó et al. 2015
Lovas	MAMS-21719	11 918	41	14 009	13 606	bone	AMS	Sajó et al. 2015
Lovas	ETH-15119	11 740	100	13 799	13 361	bone	AMS	Sajó et al. 2015
Lovas	MAMS-21720	11 852	41	13 791	13 602	bone	AMS	Sajó et al. 2015
Lovas	MAMS-21722	11 728	46	13 747	13 484	bone	AMS	Sajó et al. 2015
Lovas	MAMS-21721	11 469	40	13 454	13 242	bone	AMS	Sajó et al. 2015
Mezőlak	DeA-4878	11 745	60	13 758	13 490	antler	AMS	Horváth, Ilon 2017
Rejtek I Rockshelter (220 – 220)	no code	11 676	71	13 566	13 439	bone	AMS	Magyari et al. 2022
Rejtek I Rockshelter (180 – 200)	no code	11 527	71	13 433	13 302	bone	AMS	Magyari et al. 2022
Rejtek I Rockshelter (220 – 220)	no code	11 496	72	13 420	13 278	bone	AMS	Magyari et al. 2022
Rejtek I Rockshelter (160 – 180)	no code	10 392	62	12 397	12 146	bone	AMS	Magyari et al. 2022
Rejtek I Rockshelter (180 – 200)	no code	10 342	61	12 240	12 063	bone	AMS	Magyari et al. 2022
Rejtek I Rockshelter (140 – 160)	no code	10 243	65	12 090	11 915	bone	AMS	Magyari et al. 2022
Late Glacial/Early Holocene boundary								
Szekszárd-Palánk	H408C+B371	10 350	500	13 240	10 692	charcoal	decay counting	Vértes 1962
Rejtek I Rockshelter (160 – 180)	no code	10 125	60	11 840	11 616	bone	AMS	Magyari et al. 2022
Early Holocene/Preboreal								
Rejtek I Rockshelter (160 – 180)	no code	9790	40	11 263	11 171	Moll	AMS	Sümegi et al. 2012
Rejtek I Rockshelter (140 – 160)	no code	9727	50	11 219	11 129	bone	AMS	Magyari et al. 2022
Rejtek I Rockshelter (140 – 160)	no code	9594	53	10 973	10 788	bone	AMS	Magyari et al. 2022
Rejtek I Rockshelter (140 – 160)	no code	8970	50	10 236	9909	Moll	AMS	Sümegi et al. 2012
Nádasdladány	Poz-25427	9520	60	11 000	10 590	bone	AMS	Marton et al. 2021
Erk 1.	DeA-7424	9171	46	10 491	10 237	tooth	AMS	Gutay, Kerékgyártó 2019
Boreal								
Hódmezővásárhely-Gorzsa V sand mine	Poz-39458	n.a.	n.a.	9630*	9453*	bone	AMS	Horváth, Ilon. 2017.
Jászberény I	Deb-1666	8030	250	9522	8400	moll	decay counting	Kertész et al. 1994
Remete-Felső Cave	OxA-33849	8145	40	9265	8999	bone	AMS	Hopkins 2018

* This date was counted from the calibrated BC date by adding 1950 years. Uncalibrated ^{14}C date was not published only the calibrated age 7608–7503 BC (Horváth, Ilon 2017: 168)

Epigravettian (Lengyel 2016, 2018; Béres et al. 2021; Lengyel et al. 2021). Radiocarbon chronology and lithic tool typology attest a disappearance of the Late Epigravettian sites from the Carpathian Basin by the beginning of GI-1, most likely related to the displacement of the Pleistocene flora and megafauna to Northern Europe (Magyari et al. 2019, 2022; Béres et al. 2021; Lengyel et al. 2021) (*Table 1*). During GI-1 and the subsequent Greenland Stadial 1 12.9–11.7 calBP (GS-1) (Late Glacial), the archaeological evidence of human occupations in the territory of Hungary is few and currently there is a lack of integrity in the archaeological cultural classification of this period.

Concerning the Late Glacial, Lovas ochre mine (Mészáros, Vértes 1955) is the only site where all the radiocarbon dates correspond with this period (Sajó et al. 2015). However, an archaeozoology study (Pathou-Mathis 2002) pointed out the assemblage was formed as an admixture of different human occupations. Szekszárd-Palánk site (Vértes 1962) that represented for decades the end of the Palaeolithic in Hungary was dated to between the end of GI-1b and the Holocene and the revision of the lithics moved the site to the Early Mesolithic (Kertész, Demeter 2020). The directly dated stray harpoon find of Mezőlak made of antler (Horvát, Ilon 2017) typologically could represent also the Late Glacial (Zagorska 2006; Maier 2015), but it lacks archaeological context. Rejtek I rock-shelter that yielded radiocarbon dates on rodents from Late Glacial to Early Holocene (Magyari et al. 2022) contained an uncharacteristic archaeological material except for an unpublished trapeze arrowhead in the mixed Late Glacial-Early Holocene layer 2 that yielded also Neolithic and Bronze Age shards (Jánossy 1961). Furthermore, there is no convincing data on the the Epipalaeolithic absolute or relative chronological position of Jászfelsőszentgyörgy-Szúnyogos upper layer, Jászfelsőszentgyörgy-Székesdűlő upper layer, Jászberény-Nevada-tanya, Kunpeszér and Kunadacs. Besides the chronology, the cultural affiliation is also undefined (Kertész 1997; Dobosi 1999; Dobosi 2001).

The Early Holocene/Preboreal (11.7–10.2 ka calBP) (Babinszki et al. 2023) human population of Hungary also seemed to be sparse on the basis of radiocarbon dated sites and artifacts. The Nádasd-

Table 2. The typological composition of the assemblage
2. táblázat. A lelőhely eszközkészletének összetétele

Tool type	**Blank**						**Total**	
	Flake		**Blade**		**Debris**		**No.**	**% within assemblage**
	No.	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**		
Endscraper	14	16.1	22	25.3			36	41.4
Edge retouched tool	2	2.3	10	11.5			12	13.8
Burin	1	1.2	5	5.7			6	6.9
Combined tool	3	3.5	3	3.5			6	6.9
Truncation			5	5.7			5	5.7
Splintered piece			2	2.3			2	2.3
Borer					1	1.2	1	1.1
Scraper	1	1.2					1	1.1
Kostienki knife			1	1.2			1	1.1
Domestic total	**21**	**24.3**	**48**	**55.2**	**1**	**1.2**	**70**	**80**
Backed blade			7	8			7	8.0
Truncated backed blade			3	3.5			3	3.5
Rectangle			2	2.3			2	2.3
Gravette point			2	2.3			2	2.3
Shouldered point			1	1.2			1	1.1
Backed point			1	1.1			1	1.1
Trapeze			1	1.1			1	1.1
Armature total			**17**	**19.5**			**17**	**20**
Tool total	**21**	**24.3**	**65**	**74.7**	**1**	**1.2**	**87**	**100**

ladány harpoon stray find directly dated, also lacks archaeological context (Marton et al. 2021) but could fit Early Holocene harpoon typology (Orłowska, Osipowicz 2022). Erk 1 site, northeastern Hungary, yielded a canid remain dated to the end of Early Holocene together with geometric microliths including microburins (Gutay, Kerékgyártó 2019). Majority of the remaining absolute dates from the Mesolithic are falling within the chronological range of the Boreal period (10.2–8.2 ka calBP) (Babinszki et al. 2023). Remete-Felső Cave near Budapest yielded human remains of which a vertebra was dated to this period (Hopkins 2018), but the archaeological collection consists of an admixture of Pleistocene and Holocene remains with hardly any finds characteristic to this period (Hopkins 2018; Markó 2019). Hódmezővásárhely-Gorzsa V sand mine yielded a Boreal period human burial (Horváth, Ilon 2017). Jászberény I Mesolithic site (C layer) was dated on a terrestrial mollusc shell found in the archaeological layer to 9.5–8.4 ka calBP (Kertész et al. 1994–1995).

The summary of the Pleistocene-Holocene boundary radiometrically dated archaeological finds in Hungary showed that except bone/antler harpoons there are no typologically relevant tool types for this period. The trapeze of Rejtek I rock-shelter appears earliest in Hungary in Mesolithic context (Marton et al. 2021), but it is also part of the lithic tool inventory from the Early Neolithic (Starnini 2001). The Epipalaeolithic classification of HTD by Gábori (1956) was based on two segments, Gravette points, and two tanged points, representing a Palaeolithic-Mesolithic transitional industry. These arguments do not support to classify HTD as Epipalaeolithic, moreover, there is no cohesion among archaeological data to depict an Epipalaeolithic stage in Hungary.

In contrast to Gábori (1956) we found no segments nor tanged points in the assemblage. Based on the armature typology of the UP of ECE (e.g. Kozłowski 2008; Wilczyński et al. 2015; Lengyel 2016; Sobkowiak-Tabaka 2017), HTD type composition shows similarity with the Middle and Later UP

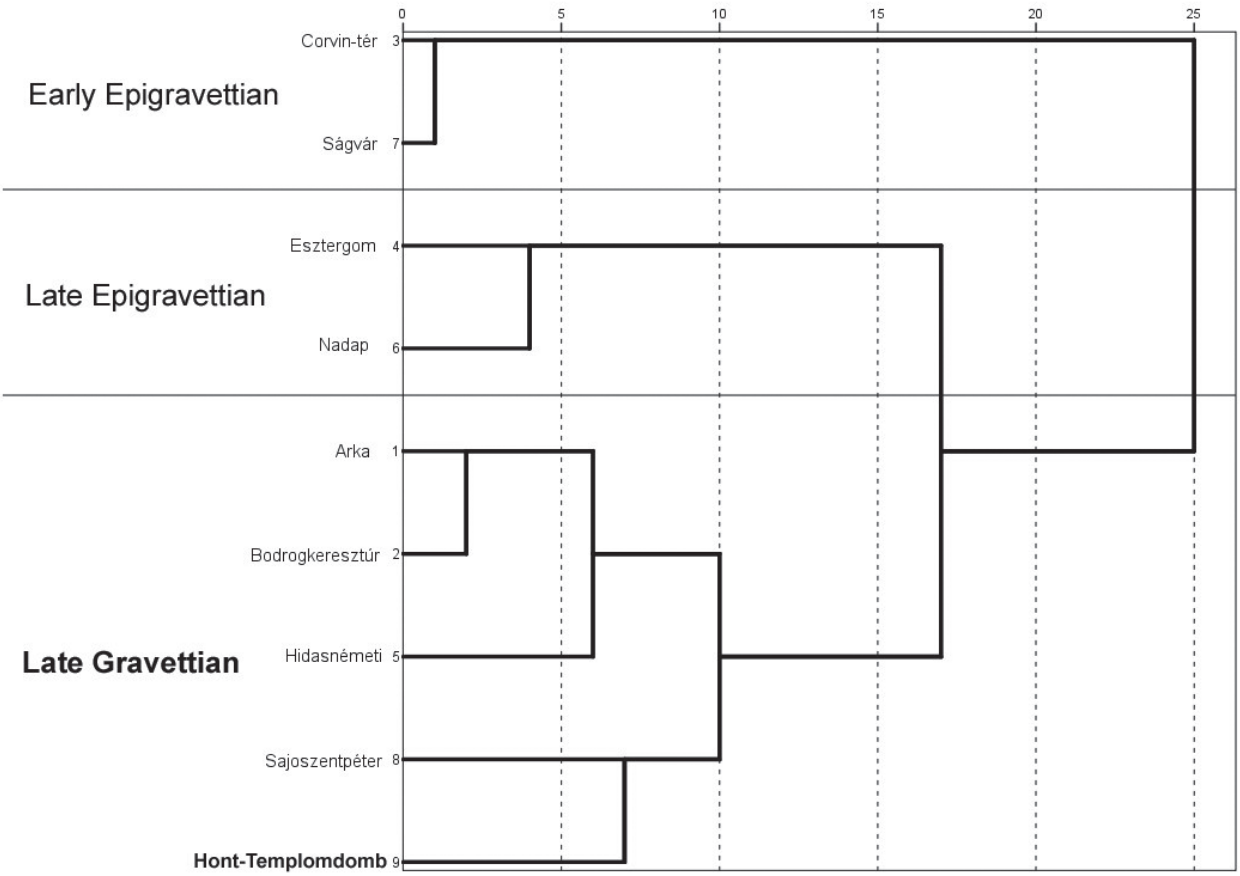

Fig. 6. Hierarchical cluster analysis of the main Late Gravettian and Epigravettian sites according the distribution of lithic tool types, using the average linkage between groups with squared Euclidean distance interval applying IBM SPSS 26.0

6. kép. A késő Gravettien és Epigravettien lelőhelyek hierachikus klaszteranalízise a kőeszköztípusok eloszlása alapján, a csoportok közötti átlagos kapcsolat négyzetes euklideszi távolságintervallumokkal, IBM SPSS 26.0 alkalmazásával

of ECE (Lengyel 2018). One of the tanged points of Gábori (1956, Fig 3.22) is in our classification a distal fragment of a retouched blade with a notch at its end. The other tanged item (Gábori 1956, Fig. 3.23) is a shouldered point. Thus, the presence of backed blades, Gravette points, backed point, shouldered point, the ventrally truncated Late Gravettian rectangle, rectangle, truncated backed blades, and the Kostienki knife best resembles the Late Gravettian typology (*Fig. 6*) (Kozłowski 2008; Wilczyński et al. 2015; Wilczyński 2016; Wilczyński et al 2019; Wilczyński et al. 2021).

The only tool that does not fit our relative chronological determination is a trapeze that was made of a blade with two oblique truncations without backing one of the edge. Late Gravettian rectangles always have a backed edge (Lengyel 2016; Lengyel 2018), while this type of trapeze is more common in later prehistoric cultures (Marton et al. 2021). The raw material of this trapeze is limnic silicite, not radiolarite, which yielded all the Late Gravettian types. The presence of this trapeze can indicate a re-deposition of the original archaeological layer, which could be likely, because no Late Gravettian artefacts were found in sandy layers in Hungary. As the field documentation is unavailable, we cannot clarify the origin of that piece.

If our reassessment is correct, typologically similar radiocarbon dated sites in ECE are Kraków Spadzista, Jaksice II, Lubná VI, Trenčianske Bohuslavice, Bodrogkeresztúr, Pilisszántó I Rock-shelter lowest layer, and Szeleta Cave layers 6 and 5 (Wilczyński et al. 2015; Lengyel et al. 2016; Wilczyński 2016; Lengyel 2018; Wilczyński et al. 2019; Wilczyński et al. 2020b). Arka, Hidasnémeti and Sajószentpéter sites are also similar typologically, although these are lacking convincing absolute chronological data (Lengyel 2016). Geographically, the closest site is Hont-Parassa III with an archaeologically unrelated radiocarbon date (Lengyel 2008–2009), where backed blades and Gravette points were also listed (Dobosi, Simán 2003). Thus, HTD can tentatively dated to between 30 and 26 ka calBP (Wilczyński et al. 2020a). This revision enlarges the number of the Late Gravettian human occupations in Hungary.

Our reassessment of the lithics from HTD demonstrated that the site cannot be defined as Swiderian and according to the typology cannot be considered Epipalaeolithic. This conclusion shortened the list of Late Glacial/Early Holocene sites in Hungary and seems to support the theory that Epigravettian hunter-gatherers left the Carpathian Basin around 14.7 ka calBP, and it was not repopulated in GI-1 and GS-1 (Béres et al. 2021; Lengyel et al. 2021). The Carpathian Basin could have been only shortly visited by humans but not occupied as it was before (Kaminská 2014, 297–317).

As the only site dated to the Early Holocene/Preboreal is Erk1 that yielded Mesolithic type geometric microliths there are no sites in Hungary which could fit an Epipalaeolithic cultural position in the sense of Gábori's definition. Therefore, we suggest classifying all lithic assemblages dated to the Late Glacial Final Palaeolithic until culturally diagnostic finds appear in the archaeological record. We also suggest calling all the Early Holocene/Preboreal human occupations Early Mesolithic as they are the products of Holocene hunter-gatherers.

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HONT-TEMPLOMDOMB „EPIPALEOLITIKUS" LELŐHELY ÚJ MEGKÖZELÍTÉSBEN

Összefoglalás

Az „epipaleolitikum" kifejezést tágabb értelemben a közel-keleti és észak-afrikai régészetben használják. Ebben a térségében ez az utolsó hidegcsúcs és a fiatalabb Dryas vége közötti időszakot fedi. Európában a kifejezést az utolsó pleisztocén környezetben élő vadász-gyűjtögető népesség kultúrájára használja a szakirodalom.

A magyarországi régészetbe a fogalmat 1956-ban Gábori Miklós vezette be Hont-Templomdomb lelőhely kapcsán. A homokrétegben talált pattintott kő leletanyagot a korabeli geokronológia alapján a pleisztocén végére helyezte, míg kőeszköz-tipológiai szempontból a Swidérien kulturális hatásokkal rendelkező Gravettienhez kötötte. Az „epipaleolitikum" a hazai régészetben a későbbiekben sem lett pontosabban körülhatárolva. Hont-Templomdomb pontosabb kormeghatározása érdekében a leletanyagot a mai tipológiai ismeretek birtokában újraértékeltük, annak reményében, hogy tisztázhassuk korát és kultúráját.

A leletanyagban fellelhető kőeszközök nyersanyaga döntő többségében radiolarit, amelynek elsődleges geológiai előfordulása valószínűleg az Északi-Kárpátokban található. Technológiailag felső paleolit jellegű az ipar, amiben egy és két leütési felszínű magkövekről választottak le pengéket eszközkészítés céljából. Az eszközök között a háztartási típusok (vakarók, vésők) csoportja a legnépesebb. Előfordul ebben a csoportban egy Kostienki-kés is, amely a magyarországi régibb kőkori leletanyagokban eddig nem ismert. Vadászfegyverként értelmezhető elem 17 darab van. Ezek tompított hátú pengék, csonkított-tompított hátú pengék, Gravette-hegyek, téglalap alakú (rectangle) eszközök, egy tompított hátú hegy, egy vállas hegy és egy nagy méretű trapéz.

A vizsgált leletek a kőeszköz-tipológia alapján nem köthetőek az epipaleolitikumhoz, hiszen a leletanyag nem tartalmaz korhatározó értékű típusokat, mint például geometrikus mikrolitok és a Swidry- vagy egyéb vállas és nyeles hegy. A leletek leginkább a 30 és 26 000 éves kelet-közép-európai késő Gravettienhez köthetők. Ez az eredmény erősíteni tűnik azt a teóriát, miszerint 14 700 év után ritka a Kárpát-medencében az emberi megtelepedés. Ezért javasoljuk, hogy a késő glaciális időszakra (14 700–11 700 év kalibrált BP) keltezhető szórványos régészeti adatainkat végső paleolitikusnak hívjuk, míg a kora holocén emberi megtelepüléseket kora mezolitikusnak.