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TYOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INDUSTRY IN LAYER VI OF THE KOROLEVO SITE IN THE TRANSCARPATIA REGION

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The article is devoted to typological characteristics of the Early Paleolithic techno-complex of Layer VI of Korolevo site in the Transcarpathia (Zakarpattia) region. The industry is chronologically dated back to OIS 14. It is classified as Mode 1 (techno-complex without hand – axes).

Keywords: early Paleolithic, Korolevo, stratigraphy, technocomplex, Mode 1.

Straipsnis skirtas ankstyvojo paleolito technokomplekso, rasto VI sluoksnyje, Korolevo radimvietėje (Užkarpatės srityje), tipologiniam apibūdinimui. Dirbiniai chronologiškai datuojami OIS 14 ir yra priskiriami Mode 1 industrijai (technokompleksas be rankinių kirvių).

Reikšminiai žodžiai: ankstyvasis paleolitas, Korolevo, stratigrafija, technokompleksas, Mode 1.

INTRODUCTION

The Korolevo site is the westernmost Paleolithic site in Ukraine and the easternmost one in Central Europe (Fig. 1). It is located on 100–120 m terraces of the left bank of the Tisza River on the outskirts of the village of Veryatsia, Zakarpattia (Transcarpathia) region, where an active quarry was developed for basaltic andesite production. Since the site was first discovered in 1974, it has been one of the most important reference localities for the study of the Paleolithic period on the European continent (Гладилин, Ситливый 1990; Кулаковская 1989). Ten archaeological levels have been traced in the stratigraphic sequence, nine of which are attributed to the Paleolithic period, and their chronological range is quite wide – MIS 23/25 – MIS 3 (Адаменко *et al.* 1989; Haesaerts, Koulakovska 2006) (Fig. 1).

Two lower Levels VII and VI are attributed to the early Paleolithic period. While Layer VII is covered quite comprehensively in various publications (Kulakovska, Usik, Haesaerts 2010; Кулаковская,

Усик 2011), Layer VI is of particular interest due to its typological set.

The finds of this layer come from the lithological horizon 17, which corresponds to the upper part of the palaeosol K-VII (Адаменко *et al.* 1989; Adamenko, Gladiline 1989; Haesaerts, Koulakovska 2006). The paleolandscape matches with the periglacial forest-steppe (Гладилин, Ситливый 1990, 32). The correlation of the geological section with marine isotope stages enables us to attribute layer VI to MIS 14 (approximately 550 thousand years ago) (Haesaerts, Koulakovska 2006, 29) (Fig. 2–A).

KOROLEVO. LAYER VI. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MATERIAL

The layer VI collection consists of more than 5000 items made mainly from andesite, a raw material found locally. Quartzite, flint, slate, jasper-like stones and other rocks were used far less frequently.

The initial stage of stone working is well-represented by a collection of cores and blanks. It

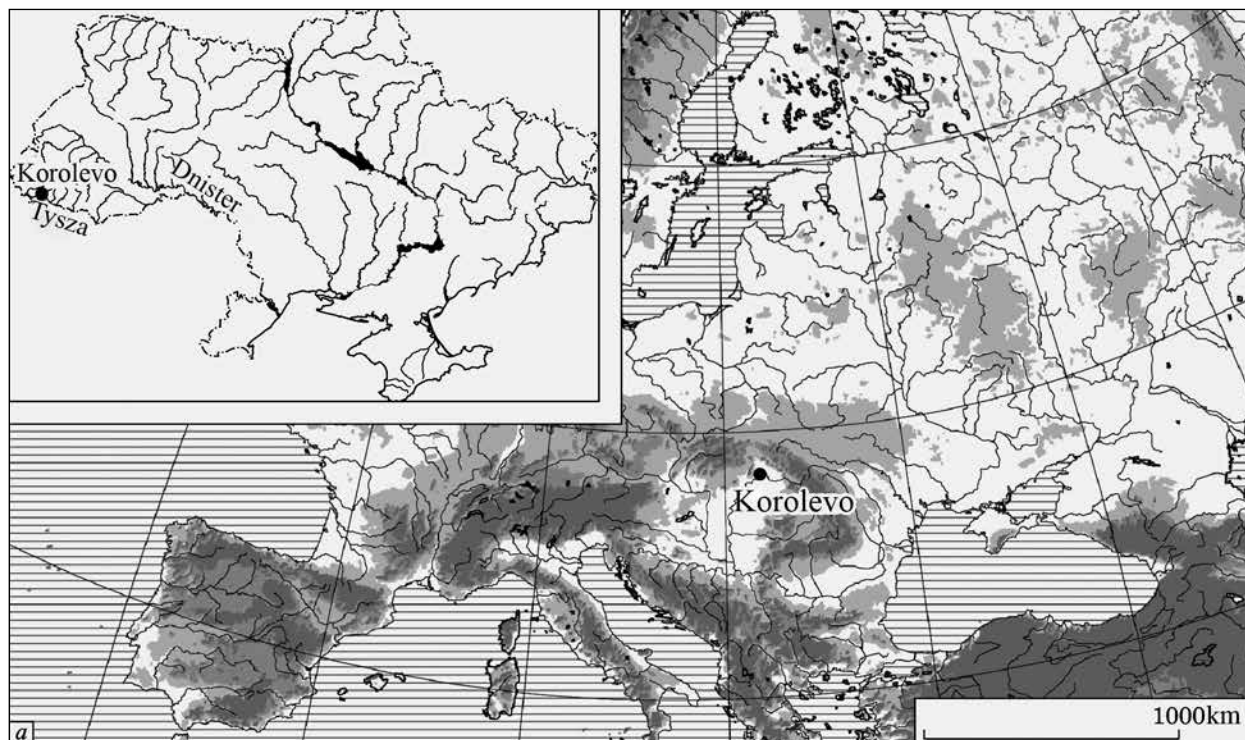


Fig. 1. A map of Europe and Ukraine: – Korolevo site. Drawing by V. Tkachenko, V. Usyk, O. Votiakova.

1 pav. Europos ir Ukrainos žemėlapis – Korolevo archeologinė vietovė. V. Tkachenko, V. Usyk, O. Votiakovos brėž.

should be noted that the cores are made exclusively from andesite as a raw material. Fragments of rock and large flakes were used as preforms, with the ventral part of the flakes serving as a working surface. The primary reduction strategy is characterized by a unidirectional system although the collection also features small quantities of parallel, bilongitudal, and orthogonal cores in small numbers, while radial cores are represented by single items. The platforms of the cores are almost always wide and smooth without any additional correction. The dorsal (back) sides often retain the remnants of the cortex (Fig. 2–B).

Flakes predominate among the chunks while blades are rare and are the result of nodule formation and re-formation. The tools were made of flakes, debris of andesite, flint and quartzite.

The typology collection is divided into three groups of artefacts:

1. Retouched items;
2. Macro tools or items with negatives of large flakes;
3. Flakes and occasional blades with irregular retouch.

Most of the preforms have a massive profile and quite large dimensions. Most often, the tools were formed by scaled retouch although there are some cases of the stepped retouch resembling Quina or semi-Quina retouch. Many tools have their back located opposite the working side. Most often it was formed naturally (the platform, sometimes the edge of the core) without traces of intentional correction.

The first group includes scrapers, denticulate, notched, and bifacial tools. Most of the items in this group are made of andesite, although other types of

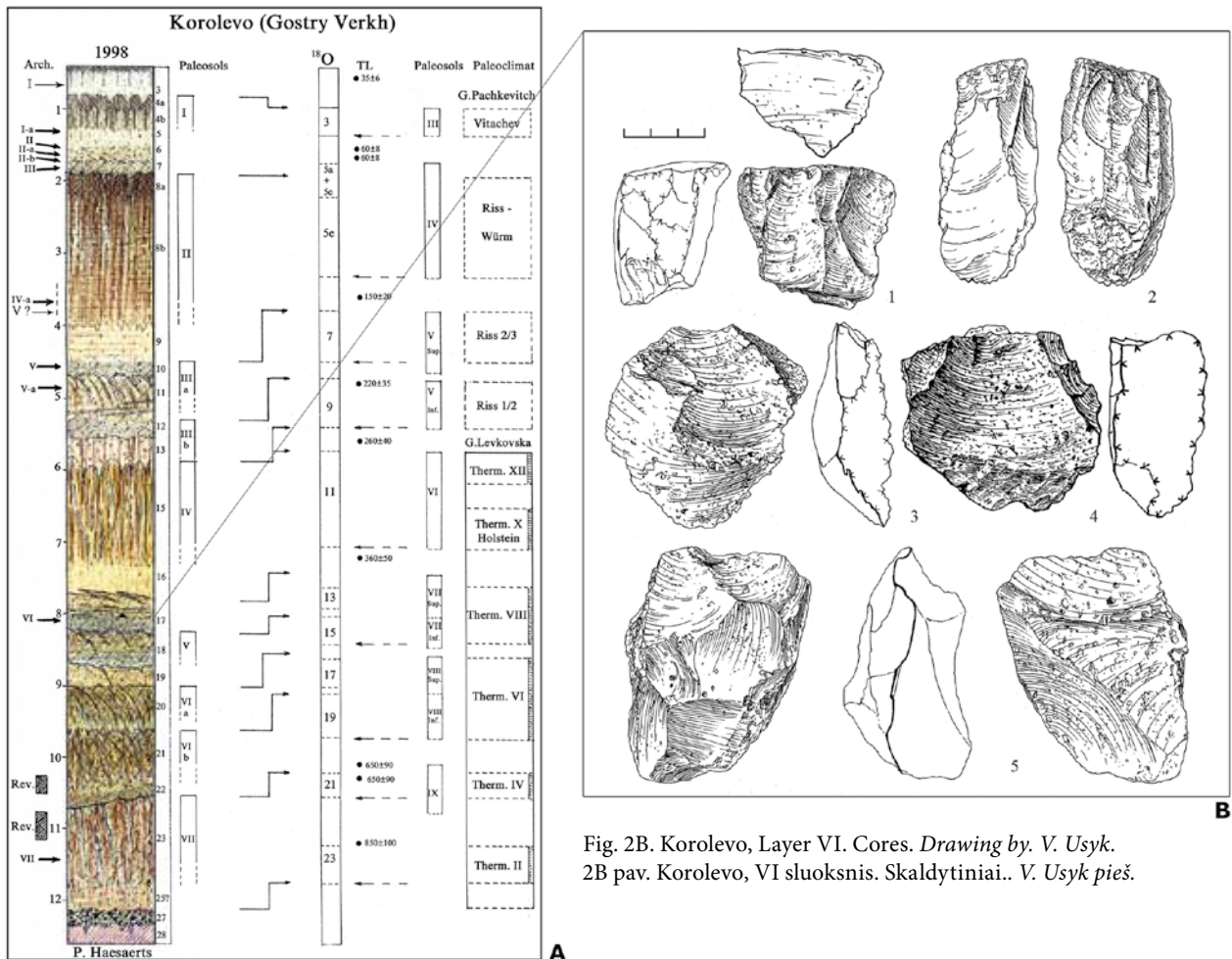


Fig. 2B. Korolevo, Layer VI. Cores. Drawing by V. Usyk. 2B pav. Korolevo, VI sluoksnis. Skaldytiniai. V. Usyk pieš.

Fig. 2A. The loess soil section of the Korolevo site, correlated with marine isotope stages of ODP Site 677 (Shackleton et al., 1990). Legend: little white arrow – early Upper Paleolithic; big white arrow – Middle Paleolithic; black arrow – early Paleolithic; P – periglacial; A – arctic; SA – subarctic; B – boreal; T – moderate. Drawing by P. Haesaerts.

2A pav. Lioso dirvožemio Korolevo vietovėje pjūvis, susietas su jūros izotopų analizės duomenimis, gautais ODP 677 vietovėje (Shackleton et al. 1990). Sutartiniai ženklai: maža balta rodyklė – paskutinio ankstyvojo paleolito fazė; didelė balta rodyklė – vidurinis paleolitas; juoda rodyklė – ankstyvasis paleolitas; P – periglacialinis; A – arktinis; SA – subarktinis; B – borealinis; T – vidutinis. P. Haesaerts pieš.

raw materials can be found. The items of this group are characterized by a carefully trimmed and well-formed working side and accommodation elements (back, thinning of the basal part). In terms of quantity, the scrapers and denticulate – notched forms are almost equally distributed.

The side-scrapers are mainly represented by longitudinal diagonal and transversal convex forms, although there are occasional convergent and déjeté

examples. The trimming of the working side was made by scaled, stepped retouch. This category includes items made of pebble raw materials: flint, slate, and jasper.

Some of the more illustrative items are described below:

- The longitudinal convex sub-rectangular scraper is made on a quartzite flake. The working side is formed by a single row scaled

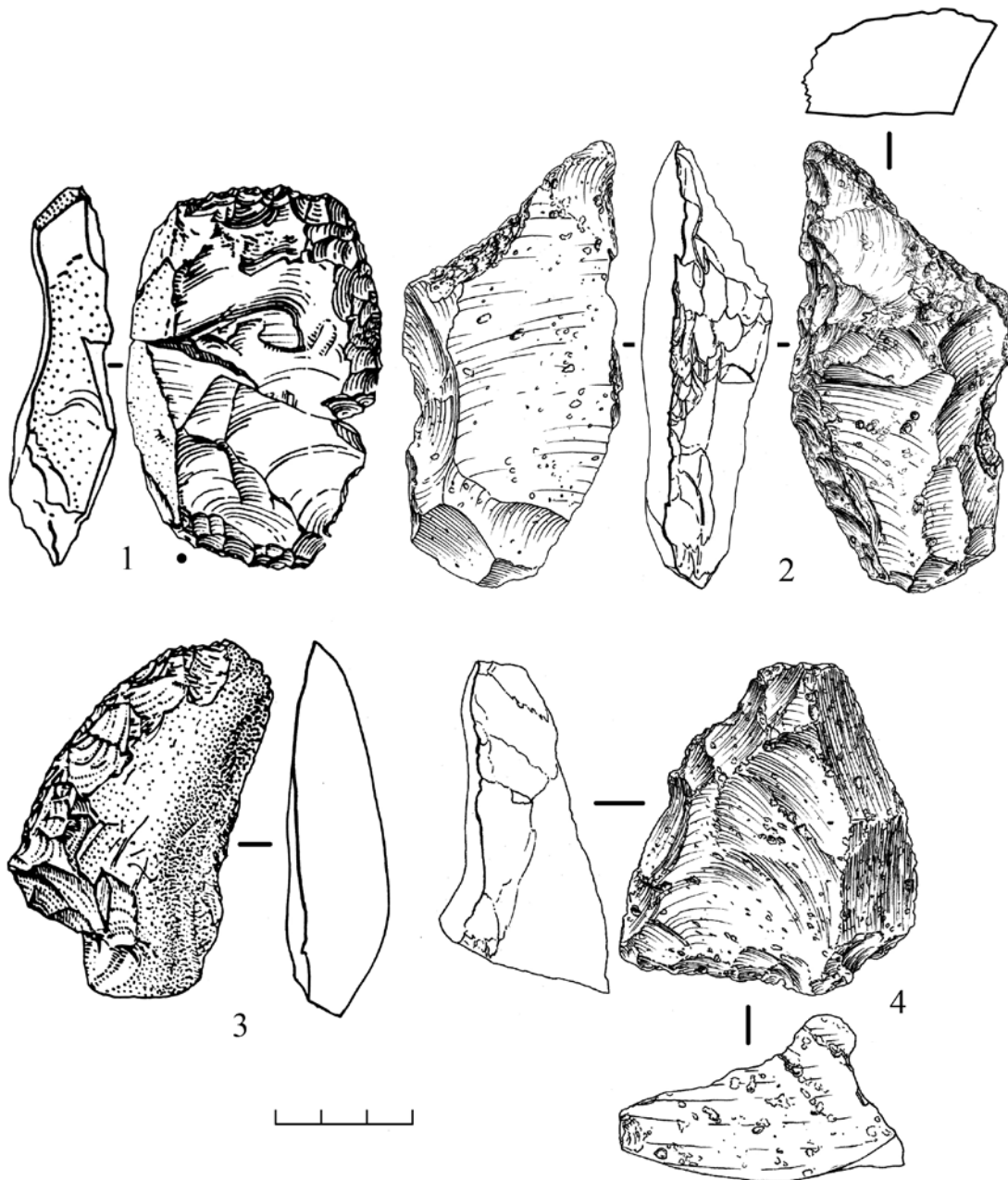


Fig. 3. Korolevo, Layer VI. Longitudinal scraper 1,3 – slate, 2, 4 – andesite. *Drawing by V. Tkachenko, V. Usyk.*
 3 pav. Korolevo, VI sluoksnis. Išilginis gremžtukas: 1, 3 – skalūnas, 2, 4 – andezitas. *V. Tkachenko, V. Usyk pieš.*

retouch. The part adjacent to the platform is not retouched. The item was possibly broken while the working edge was formed. The bord of the core serves as the back without any additional correction (Fig. 3-1).

- The longitudinal convex side – scraper is made on an andesite flake. The working side is formed by a stepped retouch, and the opposite edge has some elements of basal thinning and was used as the back (Fig. 3-2).

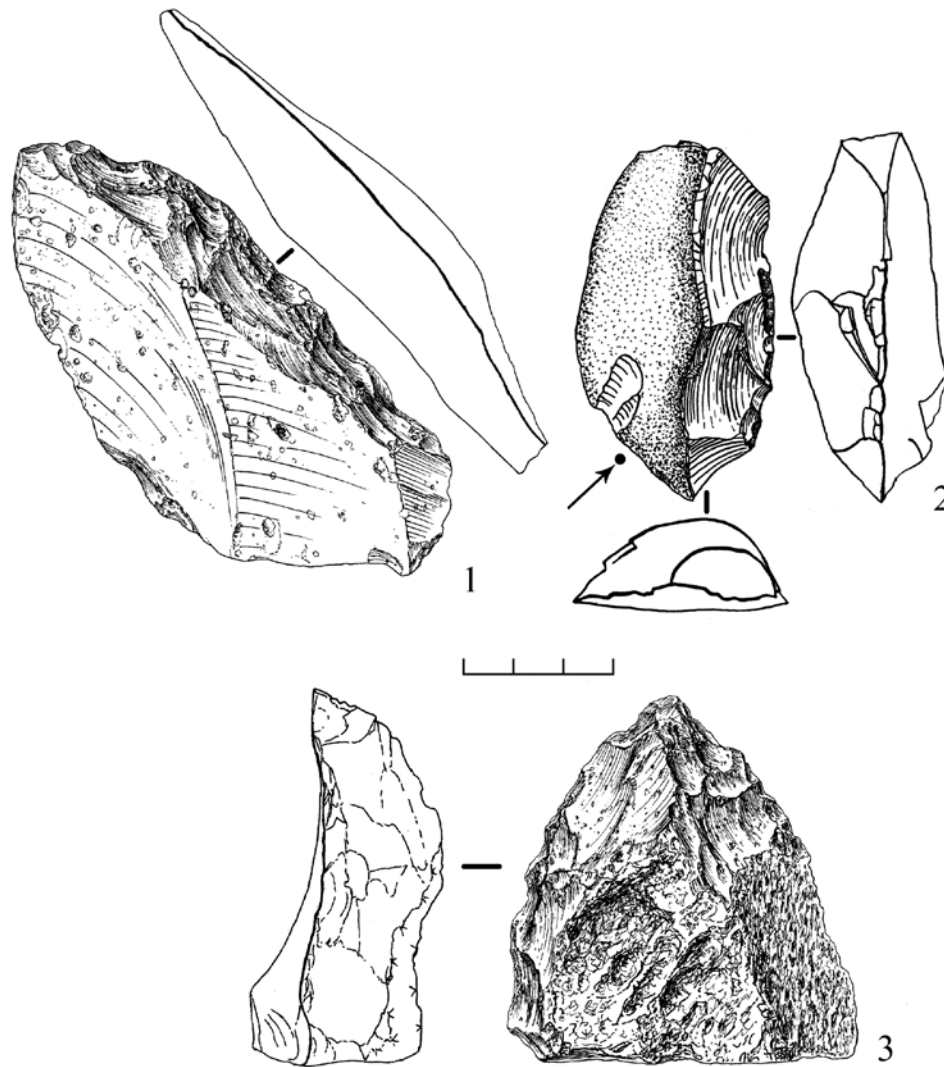


Fig. 4. Korolevo, Layer VI. Diagonal scrapers (1–2), convergent (3). 1,3 – andesite, 2– flint. *Drawing by V. Usyk.*
4 pav. Korolevo, VI sluoksnis. Įstrižiniai gremžtukai: (1–2), konvergentiniai (3); 1, 3 – andezitas, 2 – titnagas. *V. Usyk pieš.*

- The longitudinal side – scraper is made on a large andesite flake. The working side is formed by large facets (Fig. 3–4).
- The diagonal convex scraper is made on an andesite flake. The high working edge is formed by a three-row stepped retouch (Fig. 4–1).
- The diagonal convex scraper is made on a black slate flake. The working side is formed by a small single row retouch. The negative of a large deep facet indicates that the working edge was not quite successfully rejuvenated (Fig. 4–2).
- The convergent scraper is made on an andesite flake. One of the working edges is formed along the entire length by stepped retouch; only the top part of the second one is retouched (Fig. 4–3).

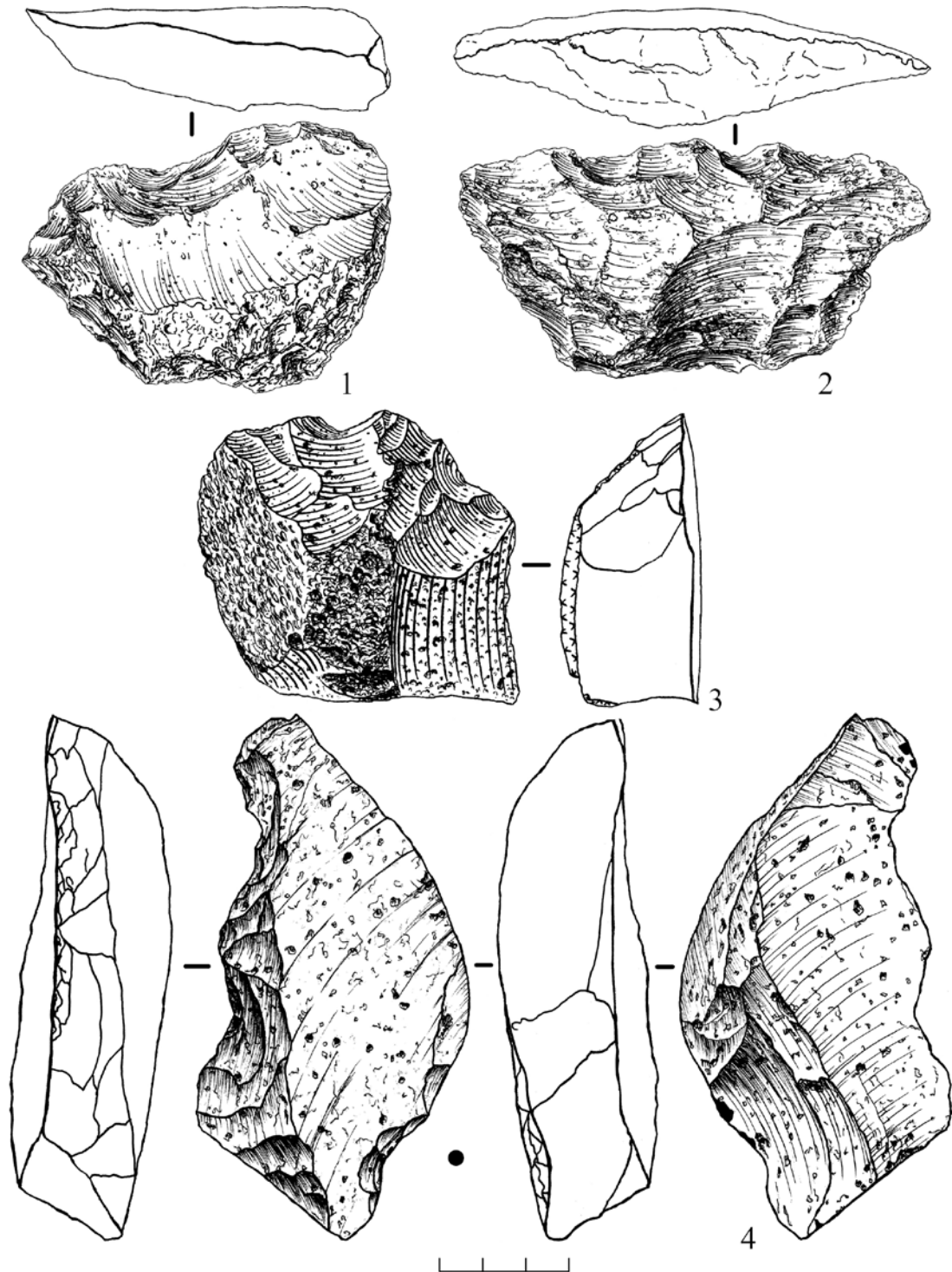


Fig. 5. Korolevo, Layerw VI. Tools. Angular scrape (1), serrated (2-4). 1-4 -andesite. *Drawing by V. Tkachenko, V. Usyk, O. Votikova.*
 5 pav. Korolevo, VI sluoksnis. Įrankiai: kampuotas gremžtukas (1), dantytas (2-4). 1-4 - andezitas. *V. Tkachenko, V. Usyk, O. Votikova pieš.*

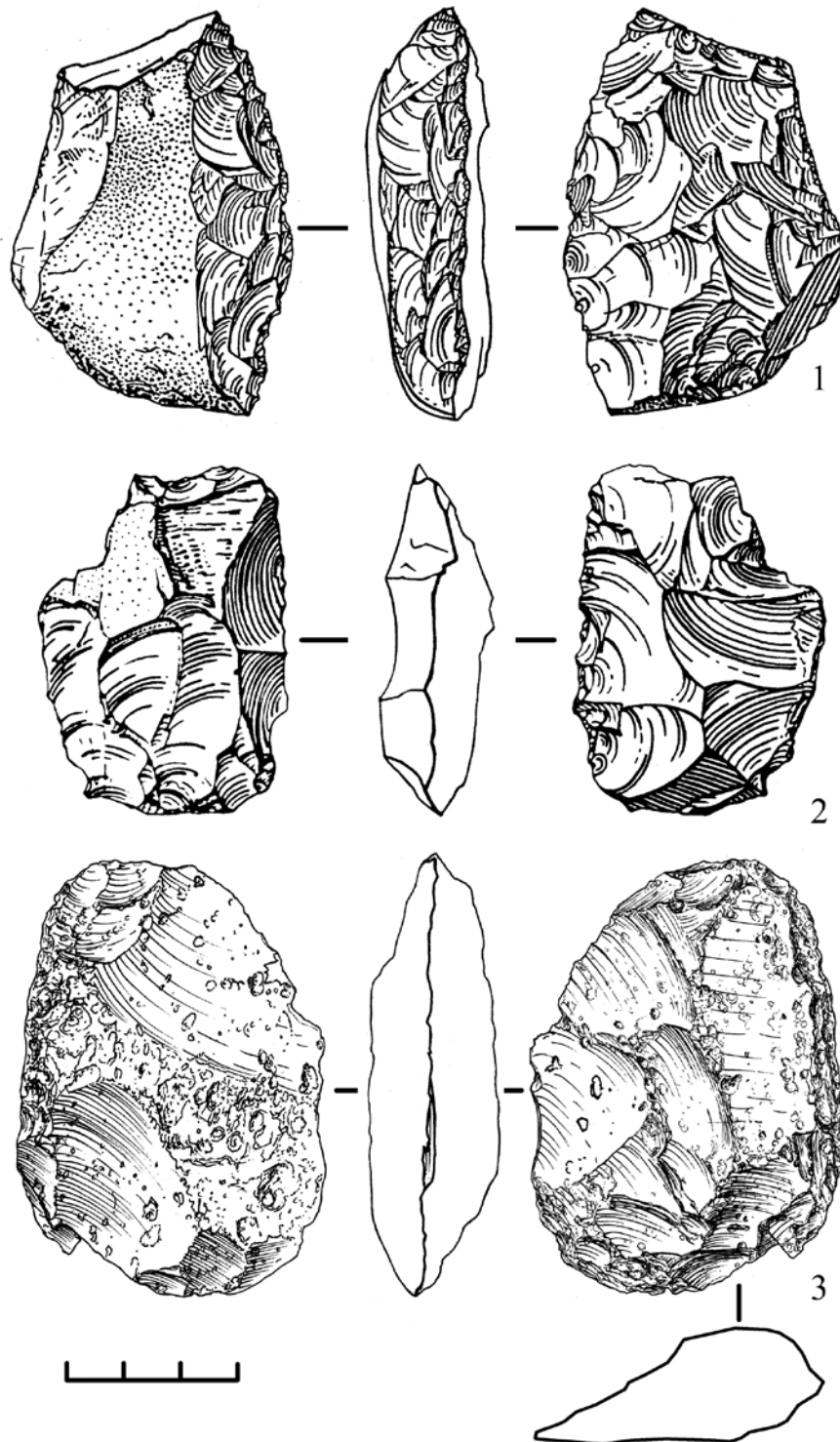


Fig. 6. Korolevo, Layer VI. Tools. 1 – scraper made by bifacial working of 2–3 – preforms, 1,2 – shale; 3 – andesite). Drawing by V. Tkachenko, V. Usyk.
6 pav. Korolevo, VI sluoksnis. Įrankiai: 1 – gremžtukas, apdirbtas iš abiejų pusių; 2–3 – ruošiniai; 1, 2 – skalūnas; 3 – andezitas. V. Tkachenko, V. Usyk pieš.

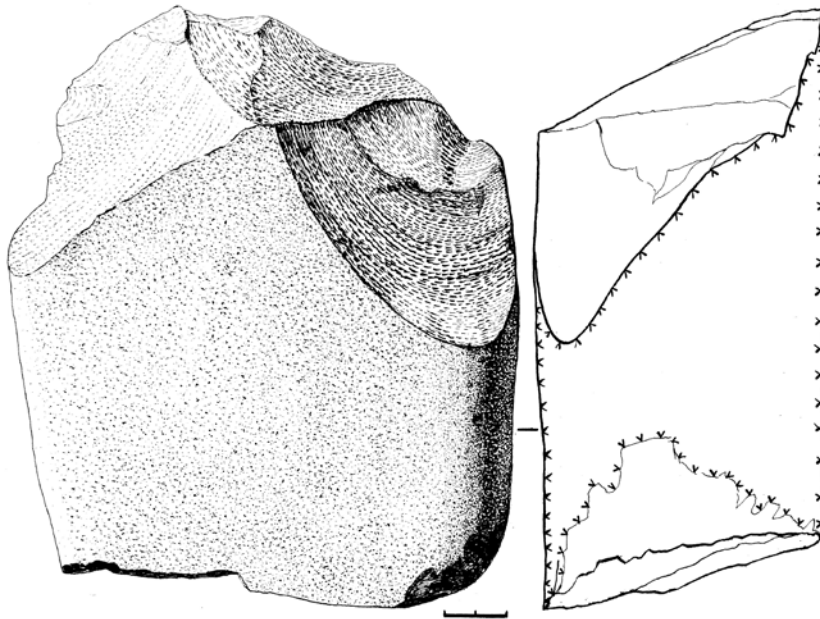


Fig. 7. Korolevo, excavation IX, Layer VI. Chopper. Sandstone. *Drawing by V. Tkachenko.*

7 pav. Korolevo, kasinėjimai nr. IX, VI sluoksnis. Smulkintuvas. Smiltainis. *V. Tkachenko pieš.*

- The déjeté scraper is made of andesite with a straight longitudinal working side, a convex transverse side, and an acute angle at the point of convergence. The shorter longitudinal edge is completely retouched; on the transverse edge, the remnants of retouch are preserved only at the edges; in the center, a negative of a large flake forms a notch. Most likely, this is the case of the correction the working side (Fig. 5-1).
- The denticulate tool is made on an andesite Kombewa flake. The item has a massive working edge, the notches are formed by semi-abrupt retouch. Three rounded protrusions are observed while bord located opposite the working edge can be regarded as a natural back (Fig. 5-4).

The first group also includes several tools with bifacial trimming of their working edge.

DENTICULATE TOOLS

- A denticulate tool is formed on a transverse andesite flake. The working edge is high enough for the negatives of the facets to form pronounced serration (Fig. 5-2).
 - The denticulate tool is made on a fragment of a massive andesite flake. The working edge is formed by two notches creating a protrusion in the center (Fig. 5-3).
- A bifacial trapeze form scraper (Keilmesser?) is made on a primary jasper flake. The working edge is formed by a stepped three-row retouch on the dorsal side of the tool. The ventral side is fully formed by thinning flakes. The edge opposite the working edge is created in the form of a back. The ends of the tool served as platforms from which small facets were removed to the ventral side. One large flake in the upper part of the tool resembles a paraurin of Micoquian knives of the Prondnik type. This conclusion is based on: the form, the presence

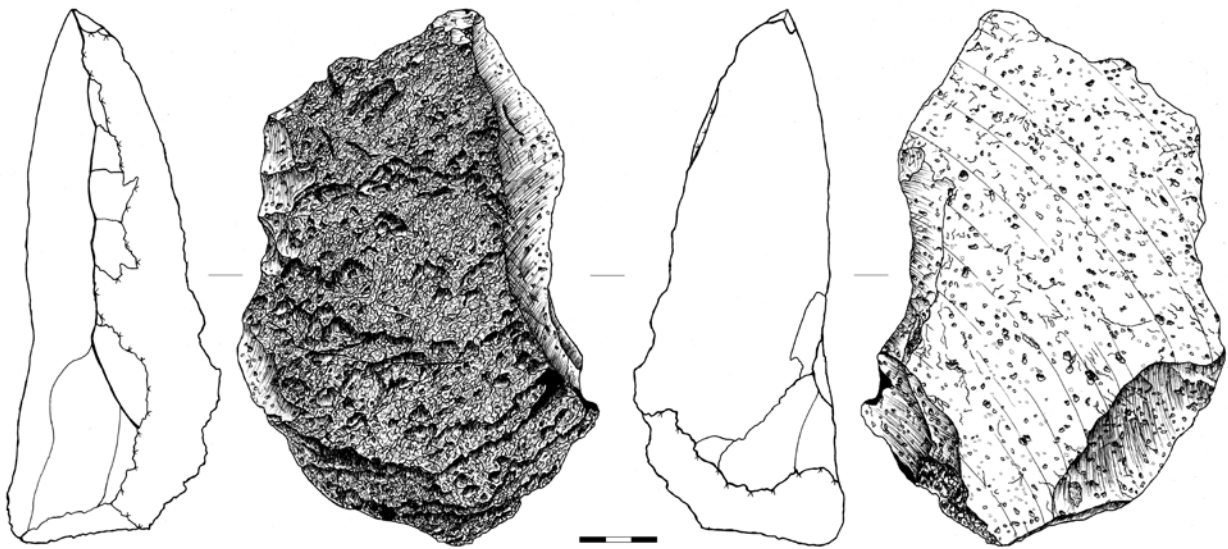


Fig. 8. Korolevo, excavation IX, Layer VI. Cut. Andesite. Drawing by O. Votiakova.
8 pav. Korolevo, kasinėjimai nr. IX, VI sluoksniš. Pjūvis. Andezitas. O. Votiakovos pieš.

of the back with an adjacent part, the plane-convex working edge and the negative of para-burin flake (Fig. 6–1).

The collection of Layer VI has also preforms for bifacial tools.

- One item is made on a flake of jasper-like raw material. On the dorsal side, a small fragment of the cortex can be observed on the dorsal side, and the negatives of the item's basal part reduction are visible. On the ventral side, the negatives of deep flakes form the sub-triangular shape of the item. The edges are retouched irregularly (Fig. 6–2).
- The preform is made on the andesite slab. The initial stage of working can be observed, particularly the creation of the form and the rejuvenation of the edge parts. (Fig. 6–3).

The second group of tools consists of choppers and cleavers.

Choppers are represented by single items. One of them is made on a quartzite pebble. The working side is made of several large flakes (Fig. 7).

Cleavers. This type of tool was classified by V.N.Gladilin based on the materials of the Early Paleolithic collections of the Korolevo site. According to his description, they are “... large cutting tools on flakes with one longitudinal working edge (worked or unworked on but with traces of signs of use) and a natural or artificial platform located opposite it...” (Гладилин, Ситливый 1990, 12) (Fig. 8, 9). He has also suggested that these tools would have been used for woodworking. In the 1980s, A. E. Matyukhin conducted an experiment directly at the Korolevo site, examining the production of cleavers and their application, particularly for wood cutting (Матюхин 1984). According to his typology, this item type is classified as finished (rough and standard) macro-tools (Матюхин 1988, 23).

The third group of tools includes massive flakes, mainly primary, along with their fragments and featuring irregular retouches. The retouch was possibly created in the process of work.



Fig. 9. Korolevo, excavation IX, Layer VI. Cut. Andesite. *Photo by O. Votyakova.*
 9 pav. Korolevo, kasinėjimai nr. IX, VI sluoksnius. Pjūvis. Andezitas. *O. Votjakovos nuotr.*

DISCUSSION

Layer VI of the Korolevo site is one of the Early Paleolithic technocomplexes of Ukraine.

The system of reduction is simple and unidirectional: the flakes were removed mainly in one direction. The combined systems (radial, orthogonal, etc.) are just beginning to appear. The dimensions of the cores are within 5–20 cm, and the flakes also correspond to the range.

However, the collection of this Layer has certain features which are specific to the Middle Paleolithic industry. Some of the tools in Group 1 are artefacts that have thoroughly made, often stepped, retouch. Accommodation elements appear, e.g. the back. The tools often have specific form.

However, almost all tools of Group 1 have a high working edge, which is often formed by the stepped retouch of Quina type. Thus, the features specific to the Charente technocomplex are manifested for the first time in kit tools of layer VI. This phenomenon occurs periodically in the Early Paleolithic, as emphasized by V.P.Lyubin (1984, 69).

In the collection of layer VI, a range of raw materials are used, with such materials having different structure, dimensions, and forms, although the technological treatment techniques are always

identical, giving an insight into traditions in stone treatment.

Thus, it can be stated that the uniqueness of the technocomplex of layer VI of the Korolevo site are seen in its Middle Paleolithic features. This phenomenon can be regarded alternately be considered from the perspective of economic activity at the site. Large cutting tools, flakes with traces of use, and denticulate and notched tools could be used mainly for woodwork. Scrapers were most likely used for the treatment and processing of meat and animal skins.

The present investigations of Early Paleolithic stratified sites and detailed analysis of lithic industries have led to some adjustments to the established understanding of this period. The typology of Early Paleolithic industries demonstrated quite a wide variability and “developed” level of tool manufacturing, which could revise the opinion about expected “archaism” (Derevianko 2009). The tool collection of layer VI of the Korolevo site supports this opinion.

In his initial interpretation of the Early Paleolithic layers of the Korolevo site, V. N. Gladilin, the author of the excavations, proposed his definition of the industry of layer VI as Acheulean (Гладилин, Ситливый 1990; Adamenko, Gladiline 1989). This definition was based on the age of the lithological

horizon and the availability of bifacially worked items in the collection. A more scrupulous analysis of the materials recorded exclusively in situ showed that some of the bifacially worked items, in particular leaf-shaped heads, were mistakenly attributed to this technocomplex. However, several bifacially worked items and their preforms, the complete absence of bifacially worked flakes (flakes resulting from shaping and trimming the working edge) contradict the attribution of this industry to the Acheulean industry. As a result, the collection was classified as the Mode 1 industry (Kulakovska, Usik, Haesaerts 2010; Кулаковская, Усик 2011). R. Rocca who was studying industry within the framework of the Early Paleolithic of Central Eastern Europe and analyzing the collection in detail, came to the same conclusion (Rocca 2013, 2016).

Therefore, today, two stratigraphic Early Paleolithic localities are correctly registered in Ukraine: Korolevo site (levels VII and VI), dating back 950,000 and 550,000 years, and Medzhybizh site, level, dating back 450,000 years (Степанчук *et al.* 2017). In technical and typological aspects, all three complexes are interpreted as Mode 1 – industry without hand axes.

Therefore, we can state that today there are no industries with hand axes, the so-called Acheulean technocomplexes, in the territory of Ukraine.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BCSQP (БКИЧП) – Bulletin of the Commission for the Study of the Quaternary period. Moscow

СА – “Sovietskaya Archeologiya” (Soviet archaeology), Moscow.

АО – “Arkheologicheskiye Otkrytia” (Archaeological Discoveries), Moscow.

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KOROLEVO ARCHEOLOGINĖS VIETOVĖS (UŽKARPATĖS REGIONAS) VI SLUOKSNIO INDUSTRIJOS TIPOLOGINĖ CHARAKTERISTIKA

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Santrauka

VI-tasis archeologinis sluoksnis buvo aptiktas viršutiniame, Mindelio senajame K-VII sluoksnyje (pagal P. Haesaerts) ir yra datuojamas apie 550 000 pr. m. e. Paleokraštovaizdis atitinka periglacialinę miškų-stėpių sritį. Akmens dirbinių kolekciją sudaro daugiau kaip 5000 dirbinių. Be pagrindinės žaliavos (andezito), dirbinių gamybai naudotas kvarcitas, kvarcas, titnagas ir skalūnas. Pirminiam nuskaldymui būdingi metodai: vienpusis, paralelinis/lygiagretus, ir retai pasitaikantis radialinis. Tipologinis rinkinys skirstomas į tris dirbinių grupes: retušuoti dirbiniai, makro įrankiai arba radiniai su stambiais nuoskalų negatyvais, nuoskalos, ir retesnės skeltės su netaisyklingu retušu.

Pirmosios grupės įrankių rinkinį sudaro šie tipai: paprastieji, skersiniai, ir įstrižiniai šoniniai

gremžtukai, dantytieji ir rečiau pasitaikantys įrankiai su abipusiu retušu. Dauguma įrankių turi statmeną retušą panašų į Kvinos (Quina) arba pusiau Kvinos retušą. Šie bruozai būdingi Šarantos technokompleksui ir pasirodo Ukrainos teritorijoje VI sluoksnio industrijoje.

Be minėtosios grupės įrankių, tarp VI sluoksnio radinių taip pat rasti masyvūs makro įrankiai skirti kapojimui, dirbiniai pagaminti iš nuoskalų, bei masyvios retušuotos nuoskalos.

VI-o sluoksnio industriją galima apibrėžti kaip tokią, kurioje vyrauja vienpusiai įrankiai. Ji priskiriama Mode 1 industrijai (technokompleksas be rankinių kirvių).

TYPOLGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INDUSTRY IN LAYER VI OF THE KOROLEVO SITE IN THE TRANSCARPATHIA REGION

Larissa Kulakovska

Summary

Archaeological layer VI was discovered in the upper part of the Mindel fossil soil K–VII (after P.Haesaerts), and dates back about 550,000 years ago. The paleolandscapes correspond to the periglacial forest-steppe area. The collection of stone artefacts consists of more than 5,000 items. Apart from main raw material (andesite) quartzite, quartz, flint, slate were used for reduction. The primary flaking characterized by exploitation of simple unidirectional, parallel and rare radial methods. The typological set is divided into three groups of artifacts: retouched items, macro tools or items with negatives of large flakes, flakes and occasional blades with irregular retouch.

The tool kit of the first group included the following types: simple, transverse, and diagonal side-scrapers, denticulates, rare tools with bifacial retouch. Most of the tools have steeped retouch resembling Quina or semi-Quina. These features are specific to the Charente techno-complex and first appear in the territory of Ukraine in the layer VI industry.

Besides this group of tools, the collection of the layer has massive macro tools – choppers, cutting tools on flakes, and massive flakes with retouch. The industry of layer VI can be defined as industry with predomination of unifacial tools and is classified as Mode 1 – industry without hand-axes.

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