

ting marks⁶⁸ and a large part of the faunal remains can be related to a human activity. While Kůlna level II only yields some elephant remains, the Tata assemblage yields young elephant remains as a main component. Unfortunately, these elephant remains are too few to implement a discussion on the evidence of hunting or scavenging. They indicate at least one or several summer settlements. Western site studies suggest that humans do hunt large herbivores such as the Rhinoceros or the Elephant, especially on young animals.⁶⁹ Furthermore, the high density of artefacts and bones seems to indicate that humans could have regularly occupied the water spring banks, possibly for hunting great herbivores on a large scale. For example, in Taubach (in Germany), the high frequency of young rhinoceros of 1-1,5 year old (*Stephanorhinus kirchbergensis*) in the bone assemblage attests an easy prey hunting.⁷⁰ On the 62 juvenile animal bones, numerous cut marks have been observed, especially on tibias. The Rhinoceros are associated with *Ursus arctos* bones which also bear cut marks. *Bison priscus*, *Castor fiber* and *Cervus elaphus* are well-represented but with few bone fragments with cut marks. The Rhinoceros mortality curve does not show a catastrophic profile, and according to B. Bratlund, this is evidence for an active hunting during repeated settlements. It would be the same case in Gánovce with both *Elephas antiquus* and *Dicerorhinus mercki*.⁷¹

If it is difficult to admit that the small tools have been used for hunting, except the points, it is conceivable that they could have been, at least, used for the animal processing. A Levallois point driven into the vertebra of a wild ass has been discovered in Syria, indicating a hunting weapon and a projectile use.⁷² However, the point size is larger than the microlithic points from Tata and it is impossible to know if a smaller projectile could have the same effect than a larger one. Aerodynamic studies on stone points from Middle Palaeolithic assemblages suggest, in the state of knowledge, a high penetration at short distance because of their large base.⁷³ A close distance necessary for hunting implies a particular kind of subsistence behaviour. If the small points have been used as projectiles, it could perhaps explain the choice of water springs to stay, in order to pick up dead or injured animals or to hunt easy preys.

According to the site, the blank categories vary while the processing system remains the same. In Tata, triangular flakes and elongated flakes (laminar flakes and bladelets) are more frequent among the assemblage as in Kůlna or Taubach-Weimar. Bifacial points also characterize the tool kit. A relationship between the debitage and a particular activity can be considered for each kind of blank related to a specific tool, in the presence of a retouch (points on triangular flakes and scrapers on backed flakes or ordinary flakes). It could be attractive to see within these tool types a clue

⁶⁸ VALOCH 1988.; ZELINOVA 1998.

⁶⁹ AUGUSTE et al. 1998.

⁷⁰ BRATLUND 1999.

⁷¹ LOZEK 1954.

⁷² BOĚDA et al. 1999.

⁷³ ELLIS 1997.; KNECHT 1997.