

The chronological position of the finds from layer 12 is delineated by an underlying firm travertine layer (layer 13) with a U/Th date $143\,500 \pm 7\%$,²² and in a hanging wall in layer 10b by malacofauna from the end of the last interglacial.²³ A flake from layer 9 of profile C1 and a burin from layer 8 of profile C2 belong probably to the same industry from the last interglacial. Layer 4 of profile C2 is younger.²⁴ The chipped stone industry from area C at Hôrka-Ondrej can be assigned to the Taubachien from the last interglacial (Eem).

The majority of the travertines with archaeological materials in the Spiš region is older than it was originally assumed, and there are only materials from the last interglacial in Gánovce-Hrádok and Hôrka-Ondrej, area C. In the Liptov region such finds are known from the travertine mound in Bešeňová, and in Central Slovakia from Bojnice III.

The younger phase of the Middle Palaeolithic

The most intensive settlement of the travertine locality Hôrka-Ondrej is documented in the younger phase of the Middle Palaeolithic in area A. The materials were concentrated in differently labelled layers of fossil soil sediments (G–C), delineated from below by the lower travertine, from above by a layer of loessy loam B, and partially they were found also in the layers of the younger travertine on the southern side of the uncovered area (Fig. 7.). After the deposition of layer C, when the sedimentation of layer B began, as result of freezing, a movement of the body of the lower travertine body occurred, resulting in its further fracturing and pushing to the south. These movements caused folding of the layers with the archaeological finds, their faulting, and their uplifting in the southern part in such a way that the upper part of the already deposited layer C was faulted over the depositing layer B.

During this movement a tearing and deformation of the layer with an oval fireplace in sectors A–D and a 4–7, occurred (Fig. 8.), as well as the faulting of a part of the stone industry and the animal bones (Fig. 9.). A high proportion of side-scrapers and knives, and occurrence of points belong to the traditional inventory of a hunter's camp which existed at the mineral water spring.

The period of the formation of the layers with archaeological finds is assumed to have been in some interstadial of the beginning of the Old Würm,²⁵ based on palaeopedology of fossil soil sediments²⁶ and geological observations.

The composition of the fauna from the above mentioned layers corresponds to societies belonging to the beginning of the Old Würm.²⁷ Particularly the small form

²² FORD 1995, 127.

²³ LOŽEK 1993, 109.

²⁴ SMOLÍKOVÁ 1993.

²⁵ KOVANDA 2000.

²⁶ SMOLÍKOVÁ 1993.

²⁷ HORÁČEK 1995.