Tata-Porhanyóbánya: the raw material of the stone artefacts

KATALIN T. BIRÓ

Introduction

It is well known to the participants of the present meeting that Tata is one of the classical Palaeolithic sites, the earliest investigated open-air settlement and at the time of its discovery, the oldest Hungarian Palaeolithic site: its archaeological research dating back almost to a hundred years.

Many problems concerning the Tata site are being raised here on the occasion of the new investigations. As the excavations were finished only last year and the amount of the new material is quite abundant we are only at the beginning of the evaluation not to speak of the revision of former results. This is especially true for raw material studies.

Published evidence on the raw material of the Tata stone tools

The former students of the Tata Palaeolithic settlement were, starting from Tivadar Kormos, the first excavator and generations of specialists to come, without exception, endowed with firm scientific background and strong connection to geosciences.

Therefore it was natural to include the petroarchaeological information available on the stone tools.

Kormos 1912

Kormos (1912) noted the followings:

"Az ősember itt... jobbára folyókavicsból készítette szerszámait. E kavicsokat talán nagyobb távolságról (a Dunából?) hordta össze s ezért az anyagot megbecsülte"[1]. That is, the tools were made of pebbles, collected probably from a longer distance, maybe the Danube. He also noted the presence, apart from tools, that of fabrication debris found in thousands.

In the description of the individual tools of outstanding typological merit,[2] he listed the followings:

[1] KORMOS 1912, 14.

[2] KORMOS 1912, 35-44., Items 1–50.