The petroarchaeological survey of the site[16] separated the following rock types in the Vértesszőlős industry:

Sedimentary rocks

1. Radiolarites (jasper, opal, flint chert):
2. Lydites
3. Spongiolites (brecciated and calcareous radiolarite, lydite and spongiolite)
4. Marl
5. Limestone

Metamorphic rocks

The author claimed that all the collected types could be located in the Pleistocene terraces of the Általér. She mentioned specifically the Tata-Akasztóhegy pebble quarry as possible source of lydite.

It is clear that the raw material basis of Tata and Vértesszőlős were close to each other if not identical. Surveying for one implies the same for the other.

New investigations on the raw material

Knowing what we know of Tata, after the work of colleagues with suitable calling and expertise, why do we have to investigate the Tata raw material any more?

First of all we have the large number of new finds at hand. Are they the same, are they different? How do they relate to the material known previously?

Second, in the meantime Hungarian petroarchaeological research has made important advances. We know much better the prehistoric raw material stock and have more data on raw material acquisition in general.

Third, we still miss a piece-by-piece identification of the raw material. All petrographic experts mentioned in their publication bulk results and the investigations, in a way, levigate in the air. Even the thin sections mentioned by Végh and Viczián[17] are not to be located any more. There are four old thin sections preserved in the Lithotheca collection of the HNM (L 97/305) we suspect to come from the Porhanyó site, but do not know for sure (Plates 1–2.). I have made new microphotos on the thin section slides preserved in the HNM Lithotheca collection. Two of them comprise radiolarites, one quartzite and one spongiolite.

Clearly, it is necessary to extend petroarchaeological studies to the new evidence as well as revise the former results.

What has been done already? In fact, not much compared to the quantity of finds. I have investigated altogether 208 pieces of the 1996 campaign by macroscopic inspection. Two groups emerge very clearly, as for all who had done anything on the Tata material at all: quartzite (98 pieces total, 47% of n = 208) and silex (101 pieces total, 49% of n=208). The rest (9 pieces, 4%) comprises limestone and calcareous sandstone.

[16] Varga-Máthé 1990.

[17] Végh–Viczián 1964.