

**Tata (Hungary), Kůlna (Czech Republic),
Taubach and Weimar (Germany):
a uniform Early Upper Pleistocene microlithic world (OIS 5)?**

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Abstract

Microlithic assemblages are present in Central Europe. Some of them dated from the OIS 9, but mostly they belong to the OIS 5 and the beginning of the OIS 4. They are also often associated with travertins (springs). The environment of the human occupations was frequently temperate. The bone remains (evidence of anthropic marks) show that large mammals have been hunted or scavenged (Bovids, Horses, Cervids, Rhinoceros, Elephants). The lithic assemblages linked to these bone remains are composed of numerous artefacts which have a very small size (20-30 mm for the flakes and the cores). The raw material acquisition took place around the site (flint, radiolarit, quartz, quartzite), except for some rare stones which have been collected in a long distance area (for example in Kůlna 11).

The technological study of four of these lithic assemblages (Tata, Kůlna 11, Taubach and Weimar) brings new observations on the debitage and the processing system used by humans. The technological behaviour is largely similar at these sites and it concern small pebbles or blocks, for the most quadrangular with flat faces. Most of the cores have two flaking surfaces, one of them carrying sometimes cortical patches. The removals are centripetal or unipolar. Some cores use the quadrangular shape of the pebbles, each face is a flaking surface for one or two removals. Evidence of bipolar technique does not exist. A great variability is observed among the cores, but most of them belong to a single processing system. Actually, this variability depends on the pebble shape, but also on stages in the processing system. The debitage on each core could have stopped at different moments of the processing system.

This common technological behaviour could indicate a specific and wide spread tradition over Central Europe including some local trends. It is difficult actually to imagine that the debitage of small flakes is only linked to the activities which took place in these locations. The activities could explain some characteristics for example the numerous small points in Tata. Nevertheless, the environment does not seem to explain the small pebble collecting.