

## The main activity : debitage with a same processing system

### *Raw material acquisition: a preference for small pebbles and for various rock types*

The raw material acquisition is above all local (less than 5 km), except for Kůlna. The stones employed are silicites-radiolarites in Kůlna (more than 50%) and Tata (88%), associated with quartz and quartzite.<sup>38</sup> In Taubach-Weimar, flint, chert and rhyolithes composed the most part of the assemblages, associated with quartz and quartzite, too. According to the geological study made by P. Neruda, some rare stones, as grey flint (80 km north), the porcelanite (East Moravian), and the rock crystal, are the only stones which came from a long distance (50 to 100 km). They could be arrived as tools (small bifaces on porcelanite) for the site.<sup>39</sup> Otherwise, the raw material choice does not seem to exactly reflect the stone possibilities in the environment.

The pebble tools, the entire pebbles and the cortical flakes show a selection of a large number of small pebbles, from 15 to 60 mm long for the most numerous, but also an exploitation of some larger pebbles (till 80-100 mm for the most). The abandoned cores measure sometimes more than the choppers (from 40 to 70 mm). A large quantity of collected pebbles occurs in each site. This number can be explained by the accumulation of numerous settlements. It could also be related to the pebble size and the reduction sequence requiring a large quantity of pebbles to produce the flakes.

The artefact size appears to be intentional. Even on the largest cores, the removals are small. The local exploitation of very small pebbles from various raw materials characterizes first the industry and it was not completely imposed by the environmental settings. Actually, large pebbles were present around the sites, in diverse good quality rocks, and some of them have evidently been collected by humans. Otherwise, pebbles were chosen according to their shapes for flaking or shaping. Humans preferred a large variety of rock types, even if fine-grained stones and high good quality stones were available in the environment. This fact could be another characteristic of these human groups.

### *The cores: evidence of a unique "chaîne opératoire"*

Some differences are visible between each stone category, but they reflect more details than a real specific technical behaviour. Men could have adapted their technology according to the different stone qualities, on pebbles or flakes, and this technology shows a lot of common points among the studied assemblages (fig. 2., 3., 4.).

<sup>38</sup> VÉRTES et al. 1964.; DOBOSI 1983.; MONCEL-NERUDA 2000.

<sup>39</sup> VALOCH 1987.; MONCEL-NERUDA 2000.; OLIVA 2000.