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KABAZI II:
THE 70 000 YEARS
SINCE THE LAST INTERGLACIAL

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Chapter 3

One or Two Groups? Transformation Analysis of Kabazi II, Level II/7

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Level II/7, which belongs to the lower part of the Western Crimean Mousterian sequence within Unit II, was located in geological stratum 7, and has produced a U-series date of 46.5 ± 8 ka BP. Finds were concentrated in the central part of the excavated area (Fig. 3-1). The assemblage of Level II/7 comprises 321 artefacts, 165 of which have been assigned to 50 raw material units (Fig. 3-2; note: RMUs 2, 22, 28, 33, 35, 48, 54 have been omitted). Raw material, which usually comprises round and flat nodules (Fig. 3-3), derives mainly from a nearby, primary source (Fig. 3-4).

Workpieces imported as single objects (21)

Two fragments of raw material nodules appear to attest the formatting of nodules on the site, are however counted as “single objects” according to our system (RMU 52, 12). Another 14 single objects all display cutting edges, among these are 8 backed knives and 6 unretouched flakes with sharp edges. Only one retouched tool was found among the single objects, a convergent scraper (RMU 54). One Levallois core (Fig. 3-5) was imported and subsequently discarded (RMU 8). A further three single objects could not be attributed to any transformational stage (RMU 19, 30, 41) as their separation from similar raw material units was uncertain. The general reason behind import of single objects had clearly involved a focus on cutting functions (Fig. 3-6, 1).

Workpieces imported as raw nodules (8)

Two units from this category had been imported for consumption on the site (Fig. 3-6, 2). Both RM units display long sequences of flake production with core corrections. In both cases, the residual cores (both broken into two pieces) were deposited on-site, each of these comprising a scraper discarded after use. One of these, a double scraper (RMU 26), was made on a cortical flake. This piece was not only produced, but also used and discarded at exactly the same spot where decortication of the core had taken place. The second scraper (RMU 40) was made on a blank from a flake production sequence, which again took place in the same square metre where the scraper was later produced, used and discarded. The import of both RM units is probably connected

with an anticipated demand of blanks for transformation into scrapers. Both RMUs seem to have been consumed in their entirety on the site, and without export of any of their components.

Another 6 RM units from the same category are of essentially different character, all focusing on later exportation demands (Fig. 3-6, 2). In these cases, raw material nodules had only been imported to the site either to receive some formatting or for transformation into cores for later export. Each of four cores (RMU 1, 7, 34, 42) delivered, prior to export, a preferential flake, which was then immediately used and discarded on-site. Production of more than one flake is only attested once as only RMU 7 contains a core correction flake.

З					
И					
К					
Л		1		3	1
М	8			18	9
Н	20	24	3	15	16
О	19	12	5	6	9
П				2	3
Р					
	8	7	6	5	4

Fig. 3-1 Kabazi II, level II/7: distribution of all artefacts included in transformation analysis.

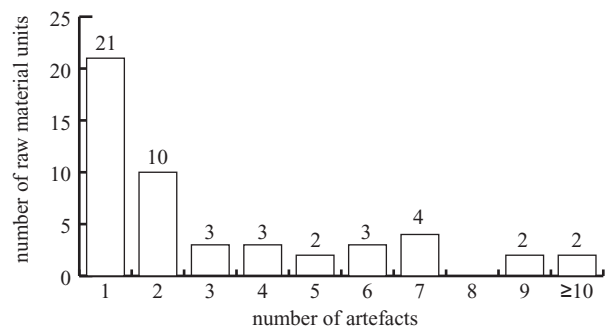


Fig. 3-2 Kabazi II, level II/7: number of artefacts per workpiece.

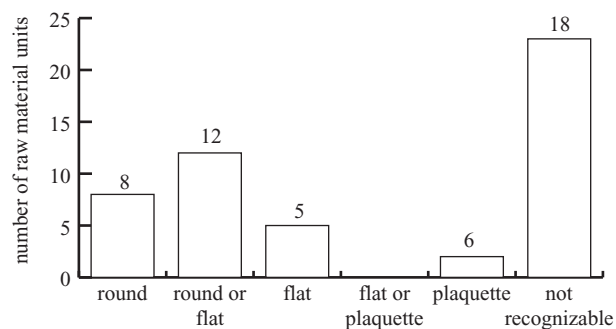


Fig. 3-3 Kabazi II, level II/7: shapes of raw nodules.

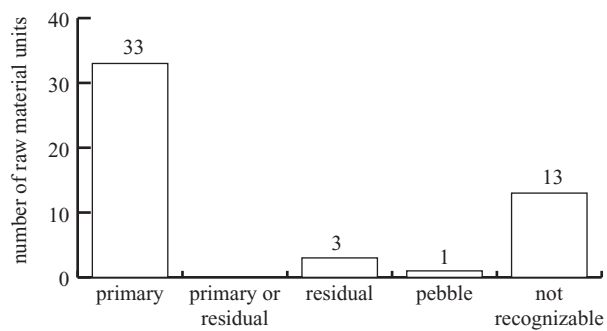


Fig. 3-4 Kabazi II, level II/7: nature of raw materials.

Workpieces imported as cores (22)

A total of 22 units attest the import of prepared cores or preforms. Of these, 19 were later exported (Fig. 3-6, 2; 3-6, 3; 3-6, 4). Thus, most artefacts of the C-category represent “migrating cores”. The majority of imported cores were probably small, but not very much reduced, with some cortical residue. Flake production sequences from these cores were short, with some decortication, and lacking any core correction (Fig. 3-7).

The flakes were often so thick and irregular (Fig. 3-8, 1; 3-8, 2; 3-9, 1; 3-9, 2; 3-9, 3; 3-9, 4) that these had to be recorded as “preparation waste” – stage 1 rather than “flake production” – stage 2A

(Geneste 1985, 1988, 1990). In all these cases core preforms had been imported, and the actual preparation of the exploitation surface had not yet taken place. Thus, this step was probably planned to be undertaken on-site.

Flake production was based exclusively on the centripetal, recurrent Levallois method. Many cores, however, were only initially exploited, and the Levallois concept was not fully performed.

In almost all cases of “migrating cores”, simple flakes or preferential flakes were detached, used for cutting, and later discarded on-site. The cores themselves were kept for later use elsewhere. These examples belong to a system of core curation.

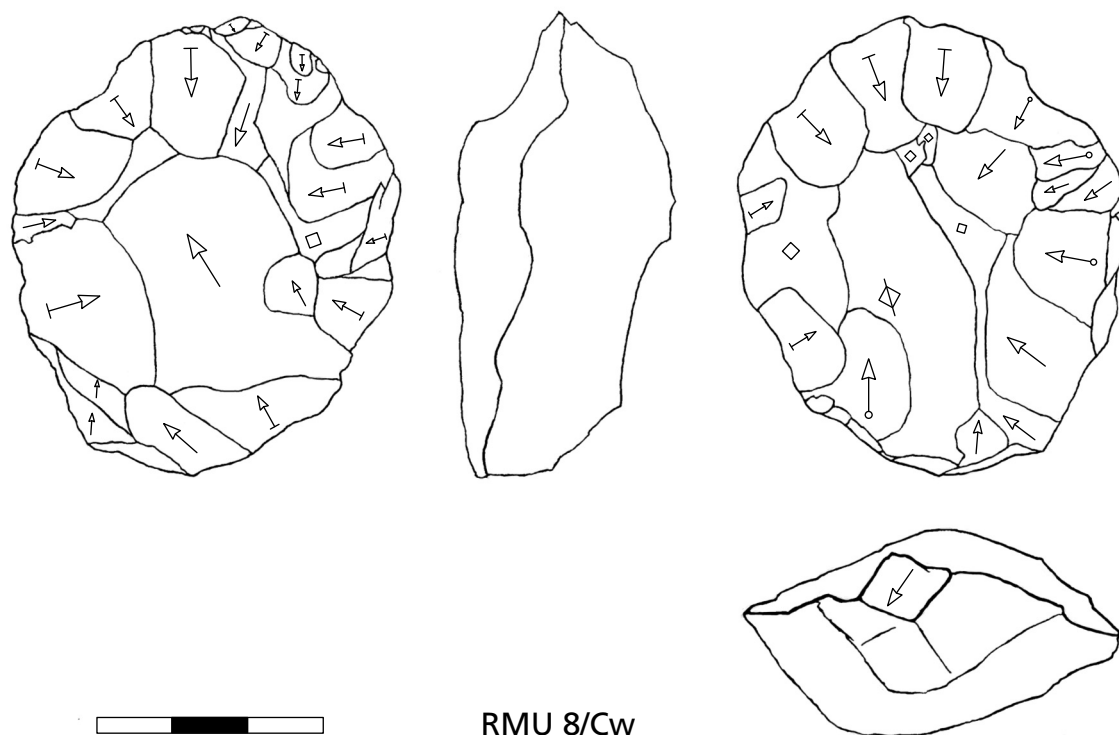


Fig. 3-5 Kabazi II, level II/7: isolated core, imported and discarded on site.

	RM ➡	52	12	55	56	46	24	10	51	31	4	9	29	20	11	53	6	54	19	30	41
OFF-SITE	0 Import																				
INTRA-SITE	1 Preparation																				
	2A Blank production																				
	2B Correction																				
	3 Modification																				
Discard		○ H-8	○ O-8	○ M-5	○ H-4	○ H-5	○ H-7	○ H-4	○ O-8	○ M-8	○ o.A.	○ H-7	○ H-5	○ H-4	○ M-4	○ O-4	○ H-7	○ H-8	M-7	-7 ?	J1-7
Export				←	←	cutting (backed pieces)					→	←	cutting (flakes)				→		←		→
Transformation Section		Nw	Nw	Bw	Bw	Bw	Bw	Bw	Bw	Bw	Bw	Bw	Bw	Bw	Bw	Bw	Bw	Tw			

Fig. 3-6, 1

[illegible]

Fig. 3-6, 2



















































	RM ➡	5	3	13	14	16	23	with RM16 of Level 6 25	18	37	43	45	47	50	
OFF-SITE	0 Import														
INTRA-SITE	1 Preparation														
	2A Blank production														
	2B Correction														
	3 Modification														
	Discard	● H4 ○ J15 ○ H4	● H8 ● M8 ● H6 ○ O7 ○ O6	○ M5 ○ O8	● H8 ● M5 ● H7 ○ H8 ○ H7 ○ H8	● I15 ○ H7 ○ O6	● M4 ● H5 ○ O5	○ O6 ○ M5 ○ M5 ○ H4	○ H7 ○ H4	● H4 ○ O7 ○ O4 ○ H4 ○ M5 ● H8 ● J15	○ O4 ○ O4 ○ M5	● H8 ○ O8	● H8 ○ O4 ○ O7 ○ J14	● H8 ○ H7 ○ M5 ○ O6 ○ J15	● H7 ○ H4
	Export ➡														
Transformation Section		Cc	Cb	Cb	Cb	Cb	Cb	Cb	Cb	Cb	Cb	Cb	Cb	Cb	

Fig. 3-6, 3

RM ➡		39	17	38	27	49	44
OFF-SITE	0 Import	core with cortex 	surface shaped tool 	core with cortex 	core with cortex 	core with cortex 	core with cortex
INTRA-SITE	1 Preparation	 intentional breakage					
	2A Blank production	 Levallois* blank production					
	2B Correction						
	3 Modification			 side-scraper	 side-scraper	 end-scraper	 side-scraper
Discard		 ○ o.A. ● H8 ○ O4 ○ H6	 ○ M5 ● M4 ○ M5	 ● H7 ○ O8 ○ H4 ○ H8 ○ H7 ○ H7 ○ M4	 ○ O8 ○ H8 ○ H8 ○ H7 ○ H7	 ○ M5 ○ O7	 ○ O4 ○ H7 ○ o.A. ○ M5 ○ M5 ○ M4
Export ➡		 preferential flake	 ? tool fragment			 Levallois core	
Transformation Section		Cb	Cb/f	Cm	Cm	Cm	Cm

Fig. 3-6, 4

Fig. 3-6

Kabazi II, Level II/7: transformation sections of workpieces: Bw = blank without debitage or modification, Tw = tool without debitage or modification, Cw = core without debitage, Nw = nodule without transformation, Ei = isolated functional part of a tool, including resharpening flake, TT = broken tool with corresponding tip, Mi = two or more isolated chips from modification, TM = tool with corresponding chips from its modification, Cc = correction of a core, Np = preparation of a raw nodule, Cb = blank production from a core, Nb = blank production from a raw nodule, Cm = blank production from a core and modification of blank(s), Nm = blank production from a raw nodule and modification of blank(s).

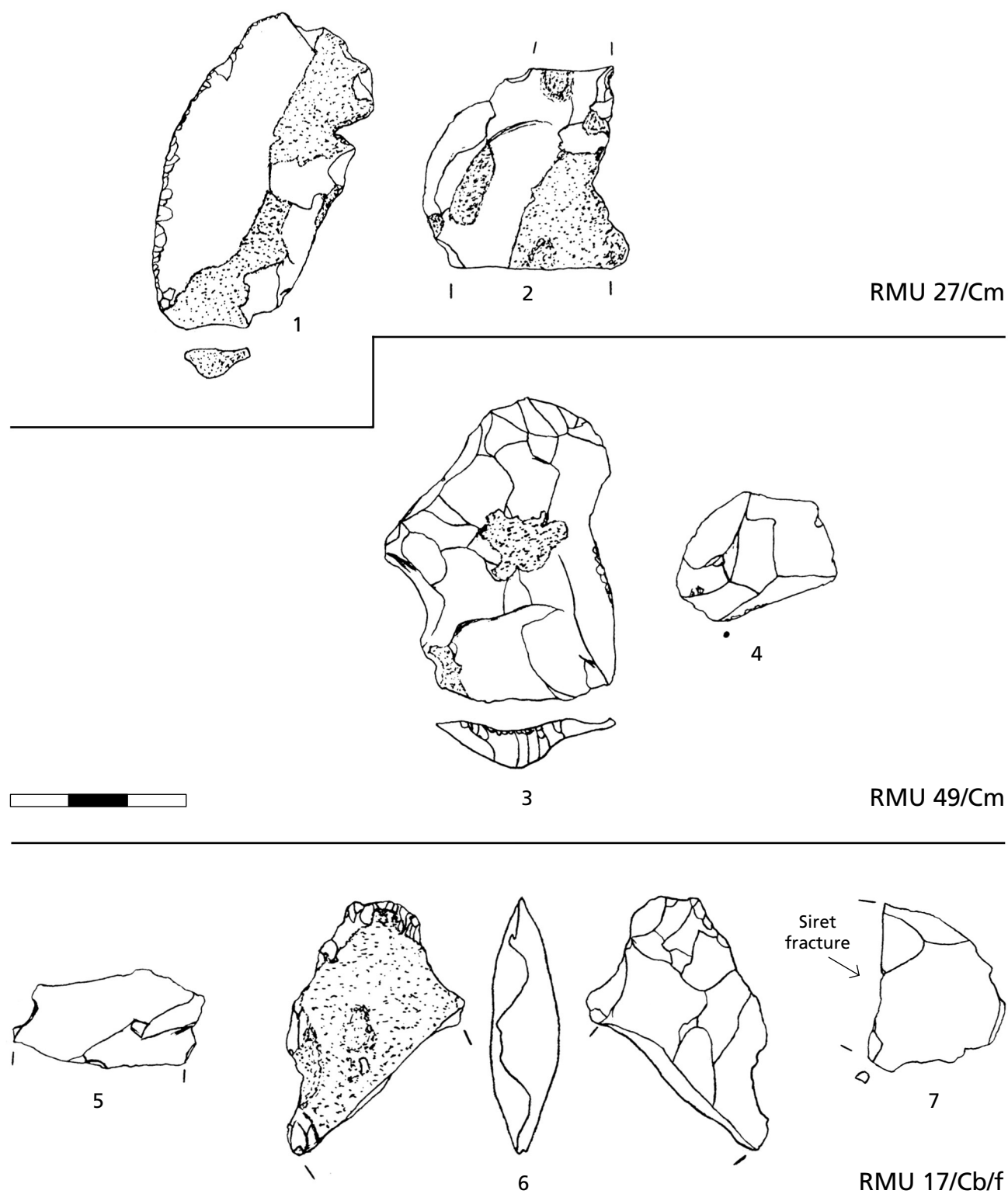


Fig. 3-7 Kabazi II, level II/7: 1-4 workpieces indicating „migrating cores“, 5-7 imported surface shaped tool with flakes from on-site rejuvenation.

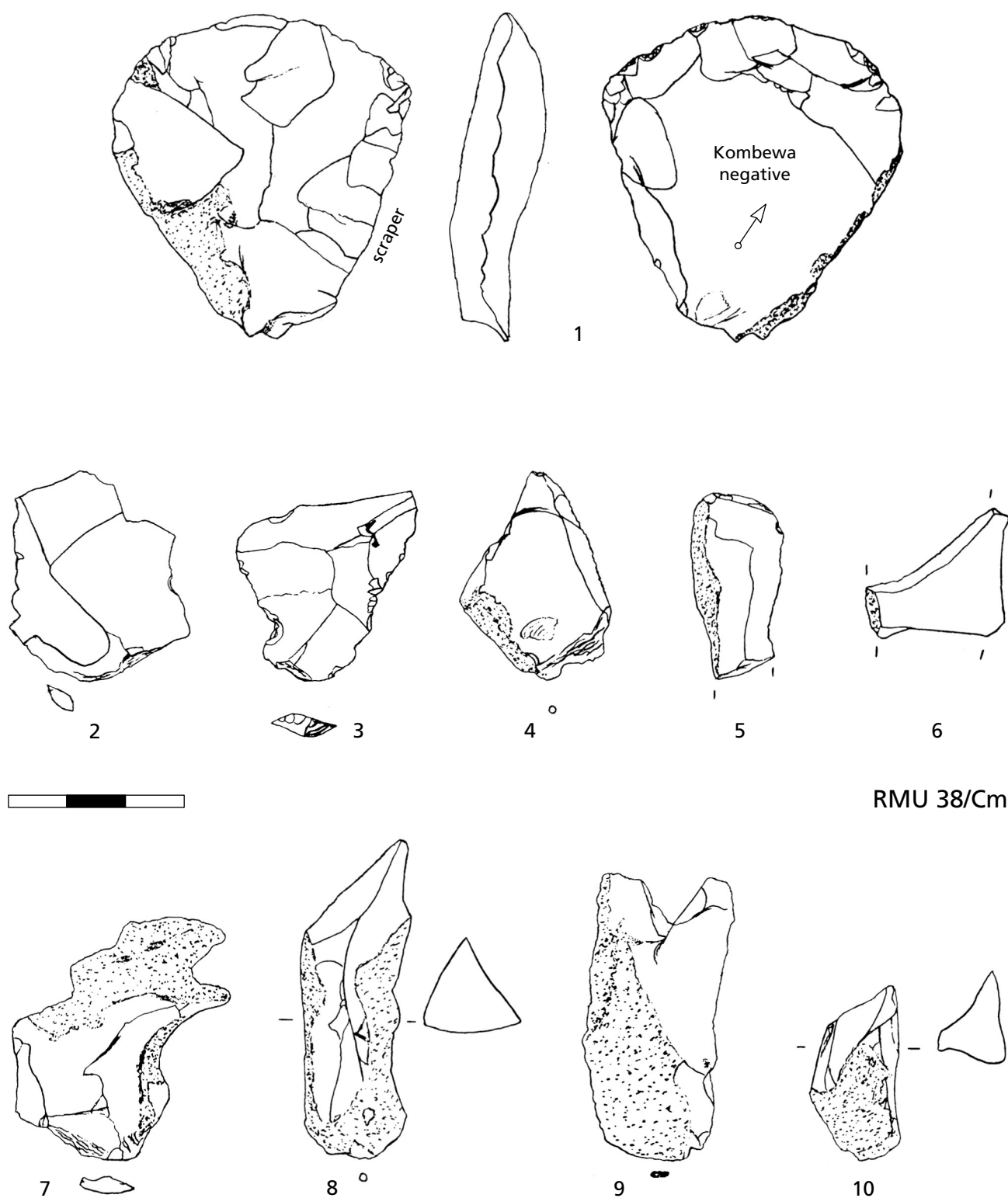


Fig. 3-8 Kabazi II, level II/7: workpiece indicating an imported core with cortex, more intensively exploited prior to exportation.

CONCLUSION

Level II/7 human occupation followed a twofold purpose. Firstly, people planned to cut meat or hides on the site, which explains why many pieces with sharp edges were imported, used, and subsequently discarded. Secondly, the short spell at the site provided an opportunity to acquire a fresh supply of raw material from a nearby source. Fresh nodules were brought onto the site, of which two were totally exploited, the residual cores being discarded. Two scrapers were produced from the same workpieces,

used, and then discarded together with flakes and cores. Some fresh nodules were decorticated and prepared for later export.

On the other hand, 19 “migrating cores” occur in the same layer. The question arises as to why these decorticated cores were also brought to the site. Each was only parsimoniously exploited and afterwards re-exported. For this reason, it cannot be excluded that different groups, possibly at different times, contributed to the assemblage from this level.

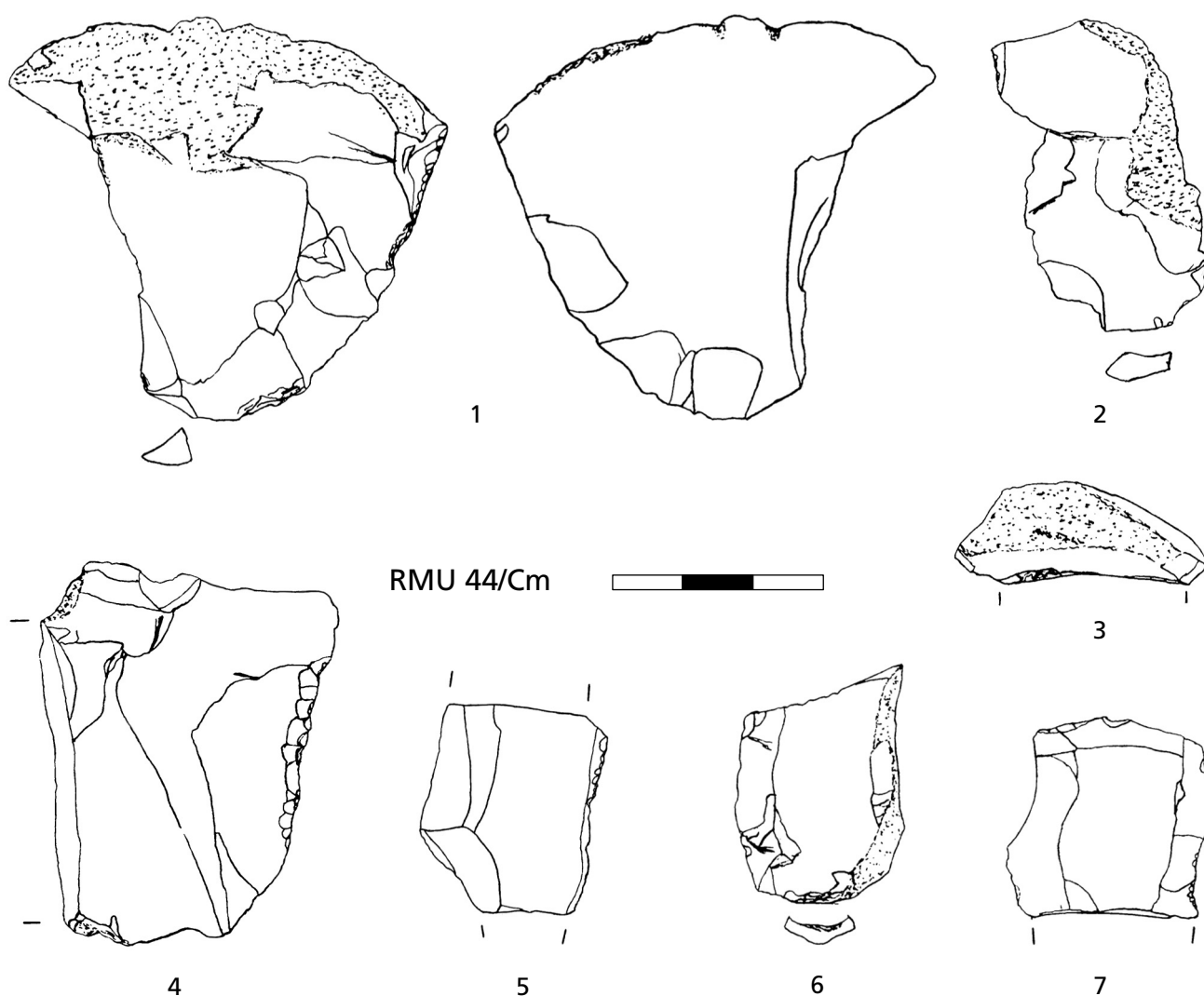


Fig. 3-9 Kabazi II, Level II/7: workpiece indicating a „migrating core”, more intensively exploited prior to exportation.

ABSTRACT

ОДНО ИЛИ ДВА ПОСЕЩЕНИЯ ПОСЕЛЕНИЯ
КАБАЗИ II, ГОРИЗОНТ II/7?

Ю.Рухтер

Обитатели горизонта II/7 преследовали две цели. Во-первых, гоминиды планировали разделку животных, что послужило основанием для импорта на территорию поселения значительного количества артефактов с острыми режущими кромками. Во-вторых, обитатели горизонта принесли на стоянку желваки необработанного кремня. Два желвака были полностью использованы, а остаточные нуклеусы оставлены. Серия сколов и два скребла были произведены из этих желваков. Данные артефакты после использования были также оставлены на территории стоянки. Остальные желваки были подготовлены для дальнейшего расщепления – с них была снята корка.

С другой стороны, в данном горизонте были обнаружены сколы, связанные с 19 нуклеусами-мигрантами, то есть нуклеусами, унесенными со стоянки. Возникает вопрос, зачем приносились данные нуклеусы? Все они прошли начальную стадию расщепления, а затем были экспортированы. Не исключено, что ответственность за создания коллекции артефактов горизонта II/7 несут разные группы гоминид, посещавшие стоянку в разное время.

