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# THE FLINT ASSEMBLAGES FROM PITS XVIII AND XXXII OF THE EARLY NEOLITHIC SITE OF CAMPO CERESOLE AT VHO' DI PIADENA <br> (Cremona, northern Italy)*** 


#### Abstract

SUMMARY - The Authors examine the flint assemblages from two Early Neolithc pits excavated at the central Po Valley site of Campo Ceresole, dated between the end of the seventh and the beginning of the sixth millennium BP. The assemblages, obtained from flint of Alpine origin, are characterized by a strong blade index and by the presence of a high number of bladelets struck from subconical cores. On a typological basis the retouched instruments include Burins on a side notch, straight Borers, trapezoidal and rhombic Geometrics and Bladelets with a sinuous profile. The Microburin technique is well represented. The study of the microwear traces compares tool form and function. It shows that the majority of the tools had been used on wood or hard materials such as bone or antler. The assemblage is also characterized by a high degree of resharpening and reuse. Perhaps most interestingly, the tools bearing «sickle» gloss improve our understanding of the use of plant materials during the Early Neolithic.


RIASSUNTO - Le industrie litiche dei pozzetti XVIII X XXXII del sito Neolitico di Campo Ceresole presso il Vhò di Piadena (Cremona). Gli Autori prendono in esame le industrie su selce raccolte in due pozzetti del sito neolitico di Campo Ceresole datati fra la fine del settimo e l'inizio del sesto millennio BP. Si tratta di industrie su selce esotica di provenienza alpina caratterizzate da un forte indice laminare e dalla presenza della tecnica di scheggiatura per la confezione di lamelle strette tratte da Nuclei subconici. Fra gli strumenti sono caratteristici Bulini su incavo, Perforatori diritti, Geometrici trapezoidali e romboidali e Lamelle a margine sinuoso. È rappresentata la tecnica del Microbulino. Lo studio delle tracce d'usura riguarda un'analisi comparativa della tipologiae della funzione dei reperti litici scheggiati. Questa ha dimostrato che la maggior parte degli strumenti è stata impiegata per lavorare legno o materiale duro quale osso o corno. L'industria è inoltre caratterizzata da un numero elevato di ravvivamentie di strumenti reimpiegati. L'aspetto forse più interessante riguarda la presenza di attrezzi con usura obliqua lucida, il che migliora le nostre conoscenze circa l'utilizzo di graminacee all'inizio del Neolitico.

## PREFACE (P. B.)

The Early Neolithic sites of Vhò lie on a fluvial terrace, 30-33 metres high, which extends south-east of Piadena (Cremona), in the central Po Valley. This terrace is delimited, to the south, by the lowlands of the river Po, and, to the north, by the escarpment of the Oglio which flows some two kilometres away (fig. 1). Known since the end of the last century, the sites were first investigated by PARAZZI (1890) and

[^0]CASTELFRANCO (1892) who carried out several excavation campaigns. Nine sites have been discovered so far. That of Campo Ceresole was test-trenched in 1974 (BAGOLINI and Biagi, 1975). The excavations, sponsored by the Soprintendenza Archeologica della Lombardia, were carried out between 1976 and 1979. Some 3000 square metres of this settlement, which extends over 30-40,000 sqm, were uncovered, bringing to light 69 pits of different shape and size as well as remains of a probable long house (fig. 2) (BAGOLINI et al., 1987).


Fig. 1 - Distribution map of the Neolithic sites of Vhò di Piadena (dots) with the location of Campo Ceresole (circle). The other sites are Campo Costiere Orefici (1), Campo Costiere (2), Campo Guercio (3), Campo del Ponte (4), Campo Cappellino (5), new site discovered in the Seventies (6), Campo Cinque Fili (7), and Campo Sera Mattina (8) (drawn by P. Biagi).

## THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES (P. B.)

Two of the pits excavated during the 1976-1979 campaigns, namely Pit XVIII and Pit XXXII (fig. 3), produced very rich assemblages. The excavation of Pit XVIII took place in 1977 and 1978, revealing a unique feature, 2,20 metres deep, dug out into the soil, below the present water-table. The main concentration of finds lay some 1,50 below the surface (fig. 4). It included a rich flint assemblage, sherds of at least 400 pots, fragments of greenstone and sandstone polished tools (BAGOLINI et al., 1976), a rich collection


Fig. 2 - Plan of the 1977-1979 excavations at Campo Ceresole with the location of Pits XVIII and XXXII (drawn by P. Biagi).
of bones among which were, in descending order, roe deer, turtle, cattle, red deer, pig and sheep/ goat (BARKER, 1983), two pieces of clay figurines and one polished pebble (Bagolini and Biagi, 1977). The charcoals were analyzed by CAStelletti and MASPERO (1992) who identified the following species: ash, oak, elm, maple and Pomoideae. One charcoal sample was dated to $6170 \pm 110$ BP; 5260 (5154) 4970 cal BC (I-11445). A second date of $6235 \pm 470 \mathrm{BP}(\mathrm{I}-11444)$ is unacceptable because of its high standard deviation. Pit XXXII, some 1,10 metres deep, almost cylindrical in shape, had three main phases of filling (fig. 5). Nevertheless there are reasons to suggest that also this pit was filled rather quickly. Bones and charcoal were concentrated mainly at the bottom of the pit. It produced sherds of at least 45 pots, bones of both domesticated and wild animals such as roe deer red deer, pig, cattle, fish and sheep/goat, a few freshwater molluscs, six specimens of Tertiary marine fossils (GIROD, 1978) and abundant charcoal pieces identified as ash, oak, maple, hazelnut, elm and Pomoideae (Castelletti and Maspero, 1992). The charcoal was dated to $5930 \pm 50 \mathrm{BP} ; 4900$ (4814) 4781 cal BC (Bln-3135) (PEARSON et al., 1986).

## THE FLINT ASSEMBLAGES (P. B.)

All the artefacts from Campo Ceresole are obtained from Alpine flint whose outcrops probably lie on the eastern moraines of Lake Garda or on the Lessini Hills in the Veneto, some sixty kilometres north-east of the site (CrEmASCHI, 1981). This is demonstrated by many corticated artefacts with striations produced by glacial friction (Plate I). A complete list of the flint colours is given in Appendix 1.

The main characteristics of the lithic industries of Pits XVIII and XXXII are listed in Table I and in fig. 6. A total of 164 complete, unretouched, instruments from Pit XVIII and 33 from Pit XXXII were measured to develop the diagrams and the


Fig. 3 - Campo Ceresole. Pit XVIII (a) and Pit XXXII (b) (photos by P. Biagi).
histograms of figs. 7 and 8 , respectively. The different results are reasonably due to the very low number of artefacts measured from Pit XXXII. The diagram of Pit XVIII shows the high percentage of narrow blades and tools of normolithic dimension. The length/thickness diagram has a high index of flat and very flat artefacts. Pit XXXII has a high percentage of both microlithic and normolithic flat or very flat tools and a relatively low number of narrow blades. Pit XXXII gave 104 Instruments, 14 Cores, 8 Microburins and 2 Rejuvenation flakes, while Pit XXXII produced 15 Instruments, 3 Cores and 3 Microburins (Table I). The number and percentage of Instruments from the pits is given in fig. 9. The industries are described following Laplace's method (LAPLACE, 1964), cores excluded for which the authors have followed the typological list of Broglio and Kozlowski (1983).

Cores (N)
Most of the Cores from both pits are of subconical, blade type on one or both sides, with one prepared platform (177-187, 222, 223). They have blade scars on one or both sides. Most pieces are corticated, and none show traces of wear. One Core from Pit XXXII is oval-shaped (224) with centripetal, flakelet, scars.

## Burins (B)

The most common type is the Burin on a side notch on narrow blade or bladelet (so-called Ripabianca Burin), represented by twenty-seven specimens from Pit XVIII


Fig. 4 - Campo Ceresole. Profile of Pit XVIII (drawn by P. Biagi).
(1-12, 14-28) and one from Pit XXXII (198). They are sometimes double or triple with lateral burin blows in both directions. Only two samples have one transverse blow ( 24, 25). Other types include one Burin on truncation with one lateral blow, from Pit XVIII (13) and one Burin on retouch with one transversal blow, from Pit XXXII (204). They had been used on wood or hard materials.

## Endscrapers (G)

One broken, long, Endscraper on a bladelet with rather steep end, from Pit XVIII (29), used on wood.

## Truncations (T)

All Truncations are on bladelets. From Pit XVIII were three marginal (30-32), three normal (33-35) and three oblique Truncations (36-38) one of which with piquant trièdre point (38). Two marginal $(200,202)$ and one oblique Truncation with piquant trièdre point (201) come from Pit XXXII. The Truncations were used in a variety of actions and on a variety of materials, similar to the Retouched Blades.

## Borers (Bc)

Pit XVIII produced eleven straight Borers, on blades or bladelets, obtained with backed retouch (39-49) and one straight Borer on a narrow blade from Pit XXXII


Fig. 5 - Campo Ceresole. Profile of Pit XXXII (drawn by P. Biagi).
(199). The Borers had been extensively used on wood or harder materials, such as bone or antler, except for one example which appears to have been used on a medium soft substance, perhaps hides.

## Geometric Tools (Gm)

Four Rhomboids with parallel, oblique, truncations (51, 53-55), one scalene (50) and two rectangular Trapezes $(52,56)$ from Pit XVIII. One rectangular Trapeze with piquant trièdre point comes from Pit XXXII (203). None of the Geometric tools show wear traces from having been used as armatures although all bore traces of use.

## Retouched blades (L)

Retouched Blades are the most common instruments from both Pit XVIII (thirtyseven) and XXXII (five). They have a simple, marginal retouch tending to be backed. A few specimens have characteristic sinuous edges (127, 133, 145, 146, 149, 212). The greatest variety of actions and worked materials was found among the Retouched Blades, including use on soft materials and plants.

## Denticulates (D)

This group includes two single Notches, nine Notched Blades, obtained with simple or, more rarely, backed retouch and one tanged bladelet with simple, bilateral, bifacial retouch (168), from Pit XVIII. As with the Burins, the Denticulates exclusively have wear traces from having been used on wood or hard materials such as bone or antler.

## Side Scrapers (R)

Three pieces from Pit XXXII. In two cases the retouch is simple and marginal $(217,218)$. The third shows a simple, deep, inverse, retouch on the left side (216). Only



Fig. 6 - Campo Ceresole. Percentage of burnt and corticated artefacts (drawn by P. Biagi).


Fig. 7 - Campo Ceresole. Length/width (left) and length/thickness (right) diagram of the unretouched artefacts from Pit XVIII (drawn by P. Biagi).
one of the Side Scrapers has use wear from functioning as a Scraper, while the other two had been cutting tools.

## Microburins (Mb)

The size is very variable. Only one proximal Microburin comes from Pit XXXII. All the other specimens are distal. This technique is largely employed in the manufacture of Truncations and Geometric Tools. None of the Microburins had microwear traces except one, a relatively large piece which had been used to work wood.




Fig. 8 - Campo Ceresole, Length/width (left) and length/thickness (right) diagram of the unretouched artefacts from Pit XXXII (drawn by P. Biagi).

## Rejuvenations ( $\mathbf{R j}$ )

Only one blade (188) and one flake (189) from Pit XVIII. Both of the Rejuvenations had been used, one extensively on a hard substance (bone or antler).

## MICROWEAR ANALYSIS (B. A. V.)

Microwear (or use-wear) analysis is a form of lithic study whereby units of a stone assemblage are examined under a stereoscopic binocular microscope to determine traces of wear that were incurred when the lithic was used. For this particular study of the neolithic materials from Campo Ceresole, the magnifications used did not exceed 100 x , which differentiates this study from the so-called «high-power» approach to microwear (for background discussion of microwear, cf. KEELEY, 1980; MOSS, 1983;

Newcomer et al., 1968; Van Gijn, 1989; Voytek, 1985).
The accompanying figures show tools that had been used on materials of varying resistance. By way of explanation, «soft» (S) should be taken to mean a material of little resistance such as fresh meat or skins; «hard» (H) substances have the most resistance and would include antler and dried bone. The traces associated with «woodworking» (WW) are sufficiently material specific that «wood» (W) can be indicated, with «hard wood» (HW) suggesting species such as oak and «soft wood» (SW), maple or hazelnut. The other materials mentioned, such as hides, should be considered reasonable suggestions, rather than the only possibilities for worked materials. In addiction, the actions shown such as «cutting» (C) or «scraping» (S) should be accepted as indicators of the motion involved when the edge in question had been used and not as indicators of a particular tool type, except perhaps in the case of Borers (see Appendix 2).

The lithic material from Campo Ceresole should be able to help shed light on production activities which took place at the site. We do know that the floral and faunal evidence indicates that the subsistence economy was mainly based on hunting, fishing, collection of fresh-water resources as well as, most likely, wild plant foods, with less emphasis on stock-rearing and cultivation (BARKER, 1983: 68). This is supported by pollen and other environmental studies which indicate that the region had been covered by a dense mixed oak woodland and surrounded by marshy areas (BARKER, 1983: 52).

In spite of the excellent data on subsistence activities, questions remain as to the nature of the site and also, the nature of the economy. That is, was the site a seasonal settlement, part of a larger network of sites by which the landscape had been utilized by the Early Neolithic population? Were the production activities carried out at the site representative of hunter-gatherers or of agriculturalists? Such questions motivated the microwear analysis reported here.


Fig. 9 - Campo Ceresole, Pit XVIII. Number and percentage of flint instruments (drawn by P. Biagi).

During the summer of $1990,1,078$ pieces of chipped stone were examined from the site of Campo Ceresole. Of this number, 184 had been used ( $17.1 \%$ of the total assemblage). This figure is relatively low, compared with $57 \%$ used pieces from the neolithic site of Suvero (Voytek, n. d.) and over $75 \%$ from the neolithic levels at Arene Candide (Starnini and Voytek, i. p.).

Of the total number of used pieces, 70 had shown evidence of hafting ( $38.0 \%$ ). Cortex was found on 23 tools, suggesting that trimming flakes were often considered functional pieces. On a few blades, the edge with cortex had been hafted (e. g. 62, 64, 73, 122).

## Resharpening and reuse

Over $11 \%$ of the used pieces had been reused and the same number had been resharpened (21), although these two attributes were not mutually inclusive. This compares with slightly less than $9 \%$ at Arene Candide. The burin technique was the most common method of removing a used, exhausted adge and creating a new one. Out of thirty Burins which were examined, thirteen had undergone resharpening in this way (eleven of them were so-called Ripabianca Burins). Eight of the Burins had been reused (seven of these were the Ripabianca type). The original use of these tools had been on hard materials or especially, hard wood, which dulled the edges extensively. Without the burin technique, these tools would have had limited use value.

The Burins on a side notch, or Ripabianca, have been examined by other researchers. An excellent discussion of their manufacture is provided by D'ERRICO (1987, 1988). Contrary to his studies, our analysis showed no evidence for use on grains (D'ERRICO, 1987: 142; 1988: 57). However there were clear remnants of the original or prior usage effectively, but not always completely, removed by the burin blows (figs. 27, 28). The reuse of the «new» or rejuvenated edge was also documented by microwear traces.

Resharpening and reuse are often associated with lack of raw materials, a situation which would have necessitated conservation. However, there did not appear to be a shortage of material available to this site. The flint appears to come from an Alpine source, which is well-documented although there is no evidence for systematic exploitation of flint sources during the Early Neolithic (Barfield, 1990: 151). From this, we might infer that the users of these tools had not been regularly or directly involved in raw material procurement. That is, their tasks while at this site perhaps did not include obtaining quantities of raw materials and working them into stone tools. Resharpening of tools fit the production system better than replacing them because the raw materials did not come to the site upon demand.

The use of flint blades on hard woods surely contributed to the development of the burin technique for «rejuvenating» edges or at the very least, encouraged its improvement. Flint edges dull quickly against wood, especially hard wood like oak. Abrasion of the edge is extensive and reduces the ability of the edge to cut into the material (TRINGHAM et al., 1974; VOYTEK, 1985: 372) (fig. 29a). Lateral simple retouch is another means of resharpening tools (figs. 29b, 30), but it is not as effective as Burin techniques in producing a new working edge. Resharpening within neolithic assemblages from Southeast Europe is not characterized by such edge treatment; exhausted edges were simply replaced with new tools or inserts. Again, this fact has been related to the nature of raw material procurement activities and their control by the individual households (VOYTEK, 1985: 139-149; 238-263).


Fig. 10 - Campo Ceresole, Pit XVIII. Burins on a side notch (1-10) (1:1) (drawn by G. Almerigogna).


Fig. 11 - Campo Ceresole, Pit XVIII. Burins on a side notch (11, 12, 14-20), Burin on Truncation (13) (1:1) (drawn by G. Almerigogna).


Fig. 12 - Campo Ceresole, Pit XVIII. Burins on a side notch (21-28), Endscraper (29), Truncations (30-34) (1:1) (drawn by G. Almerigogna)


Fig. 13 - Campo Ceresole, Pit XVIII. Truncations (35-38), Borers (39-49) (1:1) (drawn by G. Almerigogna).


Fig. 14 - Campo Ceresole, Pit XVIII. Geometric Tools (50-56), Sickles (57-64), Unretouched Blades (65-69) (1:1) drawn by G. Almerigogna).


Fig. 15 - Campo Ceresole, Pit XVIII. Unretouched Blades (70-88) (1:1) (drawn by G. Almerigogna).


Fig. 16 - Campo Ceresole, Pit XVIII. Unretouched Blades (89-109) (1:1) (drawn by G. Almerigogna).


Fig. 17 - Campo Ceresole, Pit XVIII. Unretouched Blades (110-123), Retouched Blades $(124,125)(1: 1)$ (drawn by G. Almerigogna).


Fig. 18 - Campo Ceresole, Pit XVIII. Retouched Blades (126-141), (1:1) (drawn by G. Almerigogna).


Fig. 19 - Campo Ceresole, Pit XVIII. Retouched Blades (142-155), (1:1) (drawn by G. Almerigogna).


Fig. 20 - Campo Ceresole, Pit XVIII. Retouched Blades (156-158), Denticulates (159-167) (1:1) (drawn by G. Almerigogna).


Fig. 21 - Campo Ceresole, Pit XVIII. Denticulates (168, 169), Unretouched Flakes (170-173), Cores (174176) (1:1) (drawn by G. Almerigogna).


Fig. 22 - Campo Ceresole, Pit XVIII. Cores (177-182) (1:1) (drawn by G. Almerigogna).


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Fig. 23 - Campo Ceresole, Pit XVIII. Cores (183-187), Rejuvenation flakes $(188,189)$ (1:1) (drawn by G. Almerigogna).


Fig. 24 - Campo Ceresole, Pit. XVIII. Microburins (190-197). Pit XXXII. Burin on a side notch (198), Borer (199), Truncations (200-202) (1:1) (drawn by G. Almerigogna).


Fig. 25 - Campo Ceresole, Pit. XXXII. Geometric Tool (203), Burin on Truncation (204), Retouched Blades (205, 210-213), Unretouched Blades (206-209), Unretouched Flakes $(214,215)(1: 1)$ (drawn by G. Almerigogna).


Fig. 26 - Campo Ceresole, Pit XXXII. Side Scapers (216-218), Microburins (219-221), Cores (222-224) (1:1) (drawn by G. Almerigogna).


Fig. 27 - Piece 15. (a) Burin blow to resharpen/rejuvenate edge. Shadow to the right is the burin facet; left shows abraded scars from cutting hard. $0,7 \mathrm{x}$. (b) Same as above at $1,5 \mathrm{x}$. Line on the right is indicating burin facet; note lack of abrasion on the outline of the facet, when it meets the used edge (photos by B. A. Voytek).


Fig. 28 - Piece 16. (a) Burin blow to resharpen/rejuvenate edge. Burin facet to the left; on the right scars and abrasion from cutting wood. 1,5x. (b) Same as above. 2,0x (photos by B. A. Voytek).


Fig. 29 - Piece 36. (a) Scrape wood. Abrasion on very edge of tool, view from ventral; on dorsal, can barely see smoothed, abraded flake scars from use. 1,5x. Piece 121. (b) Cut soft wood; ventral surface. Retouch had been used to thin and straighten edge or resharpen. $1,5 \mathrm{x}$ (photos by B. A. Voytek).


Fig. 30 - Piece 62. (a) Sickle which has been resharpened with simple retouch; retouched edge then used for cutting wood. 1,0x. (b) Same as above. Sickle which has been resharpened with retouch; reused as edge for cutting wood. 2,0x (photos by B. A. Voytek).


Fig. 31 - Piece 72. Edge used in cutting grass. Narrow band of polish. 1,5x (photo by B. A. Voytek).

## Sickles and plant processing tools

The assemblage from Campo Ceresole provides a potential contribution to our knowledge of plant use during the Early Neolithic. Seven inserts were found with heavy or «thick» sickle gloss, extending onto the surfaces of the piece across an oblique area (5759; 61-64; fig. 30). These pieces were considered «true» sickles that had been used for harvesting grain. They compared favourably with examples from, for example, neolithic sites in Southeast Europe (VOYTEK, 1985: 369). However, seven other inserts, although displaying gloss, had a different pattern (60,65,71,72, 110, 111 and 214). Although welldefined, the gloss was less «thick» and shiny, being almost matt in appearence (fig. 31). In addition, it was less extensive on the surface of the pieces, running parallel in a narrow band along a single used edge. Often, it was found on one surface only.

Although all fourteen pieces appear to have been used on silica-containing grains or grasses, the mode of use had differed. There are several possible causes. The microwear experiments of Unger-Hamilton (1989) deal with several of these. For example, they showed that a long time is needed before a reasonably intense gloss develops on blades used to harvest cereals, and different polishes may thus be due to extent of use (UNGERHAMILTON, 1989: 91). This fact could be the main reason for the variety in polish intensity noted at Campo Ceresole. However, differences in distribution and width of polish can ben due to factors such as the flexibility, structure, and width of the stems of diverse plant species or the sections cut. In her study area (Natufian and Pre-pottery assemblages of the Levant), Unger-Hamilton (1989: 96) found that polish width increased in time, possibly because of the watering and spacing of plants under
cultivation which increased stem thickness. Other researchers have found that a narrow band of well-defined polish is often associated with cutting grasses (VAN GiJN, 1989: 40). This pattern seems most similar to that seen at Campo Ceresole.

Several other factors contributed to the width of the polish including position of pieces in the haft, number of strokes, width of the exposed part in the blade, the angle of the strokes, the number of stems blundled in the hand, and the edge angle of the blade. Furthermore, not surpresingly, it was found that slightly curved sickles tended to produce oblique patterns (Unger-Hamilton, 1989: 92). Needless to say, the small sample from Campo Ceresole allows one to apply these findings only with caution. However, on the basis of the excellent research by Unger-Hamilton (1989) and Van GIJN (1989), it is safe to say that the variety noted in this assemblage reflects activities which involved the cutting of plants but not entirely as part of a cereal harvest. A spectrum of activities comes to mind and they are not all food-related (e.g., construction, basketry, obtaining fuel, fodder, etc.). Comparison of «sickles» from other neolithic sites in the Mediterranean would greatly help to expand this research. Similar variation within the sickle category was noted in the microwear analysis of the chipped stone assemblages from Arene Candide (Starnini and Voytek, i.p.) and Suvero, in Liguria (VOYTEK, n.d.).

## Geometrics

There are eight Geometrics in this assemblage (50-56 and 203). These tools had been used in a variety of ways, but not as armatures or projectile points. They had been hafted segments in tools employed as knives or scrapers on soft or medium resistant materials. The primary use of five inserts was cutting soft materials, while three had been used for scraping wood. It appears that the characteristics of the edge, rather than the overall shape of the piece, were the deciding factor for the function of these tools. In this respect, they contrast with Geometrics from other sites, for example, the Castelnovian mesolithic site of Laghetti del Crestoso. Microwear analysis of these Geometrics revealed that some had been used as armatures, while others had no wear traces (Lemorini, n.d.: 4). The contrast between these two assemblages may be important in helping to confirm that apparent continuity of tool form does not necessarily mean continuity of function, and further, that although form does not occur independent of function, neither dictates the other (VAN GiJn, 1989: 144).

## SUMMARY (B. A. V.)

The breakdown of action and worked materials represented by this assemblage is shown in Table III.

The overwhelming majority of the tools had been used for cutting ( $64.7 \%$ of total number of tools or $67 \%$ of total used edges, 221). This percentage is not unusual, compared with other neolithic assemblages (VOYTEK, 1985: 374; n. d.). However, the high percentage of tools used on wood contrasts with other studies. At Campo Ceresole, sixty-nine tools had been used on wood (eighty-six edges). Percentage wise, this means that over a third of the tools ( $37.5 \%$ ) and used edges ( $38.9 \%$ ) had been used on wood.

This percentage is comparable to Arene Candide (34.6\%), but at Suvero, the
percentage was only about $16 \%$. Some neolithic sites in the Netherlands give a range of ca. 9 to $18 \%$ (VAN GIJN, 1989), which is comparable to the Southeast European neolithic sites ( $10-25 \%$ ). An even higher percentage of wood-working has been noted within the epipalaeolithic assemblage of Arma dello Stefanin (over 50\%; Voytek, i. p.) and the Copper Age / EBA assemblage of Uscio (over 40\%; VOYTEK, 1990). Needless to say, these comparisons, to some degree, reflect environmental differences and similarities among the various sites. However, they also relate to activities - including the manufacture and maintenance of wooden weapons, tools, traps, construction, vessels and so forth - as well as the organization and application of lithic technologies.

Although some researchers have tried to relate evidence for wood-working with duration of settlement (VAN GIJN, 1989: 130), we would hesitate because of the number of variables to consider. One of these, of course, is the presence/absence of a ground-edge tool technology which would have complemented the chipped stone tool assemblage.

However, overall, it is fair to say that at Campo Ceresole, the prehistoric inhabitants had made good use of the resources available to them, especially plant resources. Interestingly enough, this does not appear to be the case regarding animal resources. That is, there is a relatively low percentage of tools within this assemblage ( $15 \%$ ) with use wear from working medium resistant materials such as dried hides. This percentage is less than Arene Candide (ca. 20\%), and the LBK sites mentioned earlier, in which hideworking provided the highest percentage of used tools (Van GiJn, 1989). Again, several explanations can be evoked in the discussion of these comparisons. The microwear study of other assemblages from the Po Plain and Alpine regions would undoubtedly help support some of them.

It has recently been argued that the Alpine region had provided a diversified and rich environment which posed few challanges and little impetus for a subsistence system dependent on food production (CLARK, 1990; RIEDEL, 1990). The use of lithic resources, within the limitation of the Campo Ceresole assemblage, suggests this view as well. The emphasis on wood-working and the use of plant resources indicate that although perhaps not cultivated, these assets were the focus of much of the behaviour reflected by these tools.

Table I

|  |  | Pit XVIII |  |  | Pit XXXII |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Burnt | Cortex |  | Burnt | Cortex |
| Flint Artefacts | 985 | 564 (57,25\%) | 255 (25,88\%) | 93 | 14 (15,05\%) | 23 (24,73\%) |
| Instruments | 104 | 29 (29,88\%) | 34 (32,69\%) | 15 | 2 (13,33\%) | 3 (20,00\%) |
| Unretouched artefacts with |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| traces of wear | 69 | 13 (18,84\%) | 20 (28,98\%) | 6 | - - | 4 (66,66\%) |
| Unretouched artefacts | 788 | 517 (65,60\%) | 191 (24,23\%) | 66 | 12 (18,18\%) | 14 (21,21\%) |
| (complete) | (168) |  |  | (33) |  |  |
| (broken) | (620) |  |  | (33) |  |  |
| Cores | 14 | 3 (21,42\%) | 10 (71,42\%) | 3 | - - | 2 (66,66\%) |
| Microburins | 8 | 2 (25,00\%) | - - | 3 | - - | - - |
| Rejuvenations | 2 | - | - - | - | - - | - - |
| Blade Index | 95,2 |  |  | 64,7 |  |  |


| Table II |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Typology | Instrument | Function | Hafting | Manufacture | Resharp. | Colour | Length | Width | Thickness Condition | Cortex | Burnt | Feature | Number |
| B6 enc prox dext dir | Burin on a side notch |  | N | N | N |  | 70 | 13 | 4 C | Y | Y | XVIII | 1 |
| B6 enc prox dext dir | Burin on a side notch | first $\mathrm{CH}, \mathrm{SH}$, second SM | N | N | Y | 62F | 22 | 10 | 3 F | N | N | XVIII | 2 |
| B6 enc prox sen dir | Burin on a side notch |  | N | N | N |  | 42 | 10 | 5 F | Y | Y | XVIII | 3 |
| B6 enc prox sen dir/.Sma | Burin on a side notch | CH | N | N | N |  | 49 | 10 | 3 F | N | Y | XVIII | 4 |
| B6 enc dist sen dir | Burin on a side notch | CSW | Y | N | Y | 61 E | 42 | 15 | 4 F | N | N | XVIII | 5 |
| B6 enc prox sen inv | Burin on a side notch |  | N | Y | N | 62 E | 41 | 11 | 4 F | Y | N | XVIII | 6 |
| B6 enc prox sen dir/-D1.Smi | Burin on a side notch | CW | Y | N | N | 62 C | 30 | 10 | 4 F | N | N | XVIII | 7 |
| B6 enc dist dext inv | Burin on a side notch | SH | N | N | N | 61 E | 68 | 11 | 4 C | Y | N | XVIII | 8 |
| B6 enc prox dext dir.B6 enc dist dext dir.B6 enc dist sen dir | Burin on a side notch | SH, SH | N | N | Y | 90 H | 59 | 17 | 6 C | Y | N | XVIII | 9 |
| B6 enc prox dext dir-Spd.B7 enc dist sen dir-Smd | Burin on a side notch | CW, CH, SH for Burin | N | Y | Y |  | 54 | 13 | 4 F | N | Y | XVIII | 10 |
| B6 enc prox sen dir | Burin on a side notch | W, CH, SH for Burn | N | N | N |  | 32 | 13 | 3 F | N | Y | XVIII | 11 |
| B7 enc dist dext dir-D1 | Burin on a side notch | CW | N | N | Y | 62D | 32 | 13 | 3 F | N | Y | XVIII | 12 |
| B6 [T2 obl] | Burin on Truncation | SSW, CSW | N | N | N | 61 F | 40 | 20 | 4 C | Y | N | XVIII | 13 |
| B6 enc prox dext dir.B6 enc prox sen dir | Burin on a side notch | SH, SH | N | Y | N |  | 44 | 12 | 6 F | N | Y | XVIII | 14 |
| B6 enc prox dext dir.B6 enc dist dext dir.B6 enc dist sen dir | Burin on a side notch | CH, CH | N | N | Y | 81E | 45 | 13 | 5 F | Y | N | XVIII | 15 |
| B6 enc med dext dir/.Smd | Burin on a side notch | CW | N | N | Y | 62D | 34 | 15 | $5 \quad \mathrm{~F}$ | N | N | XVIII | 16 |
| B6 enc dist dext dir | Burin on a side notch | CSW | N | N | N | 10 E | 41 | 13 | 3 C | Y | N | XVIII | 17 |
| B6 enc med dext dir.B6 enc med sen dir | Burin on a side notch | CW, CW | N | N | Y | 10B | 61 | 19 | 5 C | N | N | XVIII | 18 |
| B6 enc prox sen dir.B6 enc dist dext dir | Burin on a side notch |  | N | N | N |  | 49 | 11 | 3 F | N | Y | XVIII | 19 |
| B6 enc prox dext dir.B7 enc prox sen dir-D1 | Burin on a side notch | CW, SH | N | N | Y | 61 F | 62 | 10 | 5 C | Y | N | XVIII | 20 |
| B6 enc prox sen inv | Burin on a side notch |  | N | N | N |  | 28 | 12 | 3 F | N | Y | XVIII | 21 |
| B6 enc dist dext dir.B6 enc dist sen dir | Burin on a side notch | SH, SH | N | N | N | 61 D | 26 | 14 | 6 F | Y | N | XVIII | 22 |
| B6 enc dist dext dir.B5 prox dext | Burin on a side notch | SH | N | N | N | 62 D | 22 | 16 | 5 F | Y | N | XVIII | 23 |
| B7 enc prox dext dir-Sma | Burin on a side notch | C-SW | N | N | N | 62 D | 24 | 16 | 6 F | Y | N | XVIII | 24 |
| B7 enc med dext dir-Smi | Burin on a side notch | SH, SH | Y? | N | N | 54F | 24 | 12 | 3 C | N | N | XVIII | 25 |
| B6 enc dist dext dir/.Spd | Burin on a side notch | CW | N | N | N |  | 23 | 13 | 4 F | Y | Y | XVIII | 26 |
| B6 enc dist dext dir | Burin on a side notch |  | N | N | N |  | 35 | 16 | 5 C | N | Y | XVIII | 27 |


#### Abstract

  



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Burin on a side notch Endscraper䔍 을霊 든 Truncation ． ․ㅡㄹ 흥 ذ 는 シ © ๖ 흥 닌 $\qquad$ Rectangular Trapeze
Rhomboid Rhomboid Rhomboid Rectangular Trapeze范䓂荡皆 Retouched blade皆


B6 enc prox dext dir．B6
enc prox sen dir




 1．D1 inv
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Retouched blade

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| Typology | Instrument | Function | Hafting | Manufacture | Resharp. | Colour | Length | Width | Thickness Condition | Cortex | Burnt | Feature | Number |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| L1 [Smd dist dext] | Retouched blade | CM | N | N | N |  | 57 | 19 | 6 C | N | Y | XVIII | 152 |
| L1 [Smd part bil] | Retouched blade | WW | Y? | N | N | 54F | 44 | 14 | 5 C | Y | N | XVIII | 153 |
| L1 [Smd part bil] | Retouched blade | CM | Y | N | N |  | 45 | 10 | 3 F | N | Y | XVIII | 154 |
| L1 [Smd part bil] | Retouched blade | CS | Y | N | N | 54F | 31 | 13 | 3 F | Y | N | XVIII | 155 |
| L1 [Smd part bil] | Retouched blade | CH, CH | Y | N | N |  | 39 | 11 | 3 F | N | Y | XVIII | 156 |
| L1 [Smd bil] | Retouched blade | CM | Y | N | N | 62 J | 27 | 8 | 2 F | N | N | XVIII | 157 |
| L 1 [Smd med bil] | Retouched blade | CS | Y | N | N | 61 E | 32 | 9 | 2 F | N | N | XVIII | 158 |
| D1 prox sen [Spb] | Notched blade | SH | N | N | N | 42F | 20 | 13 | 3 F | Y | N | XVIII | 159 |
| D1 prox sen [Spd] | Notched blade | CW, CW | N | N | Y | 61 C | 30 | 19 | 3 F | N | N | XVIII | 160 |
| D2 [Amd] | Denticulated scraper | CHW, CHW | N | N | N | 61 F | 40 | 11 | 2 F | N | N | XVIII | 161 |
| D2 [Smd bil] | Denticulated scraper | SH, SH | N | N | N | 64F | 37 | 15 | 3 C | Y | N | XVIII | 162 |
| D2 [Smd bil] | Denticulated scraper | CW, CW | N | N | N | 62D | 22 | 12 | 2 F | N | N | XVIII | 163 |
| D2 [Sma] | Denticulated scraper |  | N | N | N |  | 22 | 13 | 3 F | N | Y | XVIII | 164 |
| D2 [Amm] | Denticulated scraper | CH, CH | Y | N | N | 90B | 35 | 13 | 3 F | N | N | XVIII | 165 |
| D2 [Smm] | Denticulated scraper | CHW, CHW | Y | N | N | 41J | 45 | 12 | 3 F | Y | N | XVIII | 166 |
| D2 [Smi dext] | Denticulated scraper | CHW | N | N | N |  | 65 | 21 | 11 C | Y | Y | XVIII | 167 |
| D2 [Smb bil] | Tanged blade |  | N | N | N |  | 34 | 11 | 3 F | N | Y | XVIII | 168 |
| D2 [Smb bil] | Denticulated scraper | CH, CH | Y | N | N | 61 E | 35 | 21 | 9 C | N | N | XVIII | 169 |
| E0 | Flake | SSW | N | N | N | 90 A | 29 | 31 | 7 C | Y | N | XVIII | 170 |
| E0 | Flake | SM | N | N | N | 61 C | 27 | 20 | 3 F | Y | N | XVIII | 171 |
| E0 | Flake | SM | N | N | N | 90 C | 19 | 28 | 4 C | Y | N | XVIII | 172 |
| E0 | Flake | WSW | N | N | N | 61 D | 22 | 26 | 6 C | Y | N | XVIII | 173 |
| I class 3 | Subconical core |  | N | N | N | 90 E | 50 | 40 | 26 C | Y | N | XVIII | 174 |
| I class 3 | Subconical core |  | N | N | N | 56 E | 36 | 33 | 20 C | N | N | XVIII | 175 |
| I class 3 | Subconical core |  | N | N | N | 61 D | 31 | 31 | 28 C | Y | N | XVIII | 176 |
| I class 3 | Subconical core |  | N | N | N | 54F | 41 | 29 | 29 C | N | N | XVIII | 177 |
| I class 3 | Subconical core |  | N | N | N | 90F-72B | 31 | 39 | 37 C | Y | N | XVIII | 178 |
| I class 1 | Subconical core |  | N | N | N | 90D | 48 | 35 | 30 C | Y | N | XVIII | 179 |
| I class 1 | Subconical core |  | N | N | N | 90F | 38 | 38 | 40 C | Y | N | XVIII | 180 |
| I class 1 | Subconical core |  | N | N | N |  | 38 | 30 | 24 C | Y | Y | XVIII | 181 |
| I class 3 | Subconical core |  | N | N | N |  | 39 | 36 | 40 C | N | Y | XVIII | 182 |
| I class 1 | Subconical core |  | N | N | N | 62D | 44 | 39 | 18 C | Y | N | XVIII | 183 |
| I class 1 | Subconical core |  | N | N | N |  | 40 | 32 | 26 F | Y | Y | XVIII | 184 |
| I class 1 | Subconical core |  | N | N | N | 10 H | 50 | 28 | 22 C | Y | N | XVIII | 185 |
| I class 3 | Subconical core |  | N | N | N | 90D-63C | 33 | 34 | 31 C | Y | N | XVIII | 186 |
| I class 1 | Subconical core |  | N | N | N | 54F | 26 | 31 | 24 C | N | N | XVIII | 187 |
| Rj | Rejuvenation blade | CH, CH, SH, SH | N | N | N | 62 D | 56 | 11 | 8 C | N | N | XVIII | 188 |
| Rj | Rejuvenation flake | SS | N | N | N | 61 D | 49 | 38 | 13 C | N | N | XVIII | 189 |
| Mb dist | Microburin | SW, CW | N | N | Y | 72D | 46 | 14 | 4 C | N | N | XVIII | 190 |
| Mb dist | Microburin |  | N | N | N |  | 24 | 13 | 3 F | N | Y | XVIII | 191 |














 Retouched blade Retouched blade
 Flake Flake
Side scraper
Side scraper
Side scraper
Microburin
Microburin
Microburin
Subconical core
Subconical core
Oval core苞
 B6 enc dist sen dir
Bc2 prox [Apd + Api]
T1 obl [Smd]
T3 rect [Apd pt]
T1 conv [Amd] $/$-Smd sen Gm 7 [T2 rect dir + T2 rect dir pt]
 오 L0
L1 [Smd bil]
L1 [Smm sen] L1 [Smm dext] L1 [Smd sen] 20 lat [Spi sen] R2 lat [Spi sen] R1 lat [Smd part sen]
 I class 1
I class 3
V class 13


Plate I - Campo Ceresole, Pit XVIII. Cores (above) and main flint colours (below) (photos by P. Biagi).

Table III

|  | cut | scrape | bore | work | totals |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | :--- | :--- | ---: | :--- |
| wood | $25(11)$ | $11(1)$ | $4(-)$ | $5(1)$ | $45(13) 58$ |  |
| soft | $34(5)$ | $5(-)$ | - | - | $39(5)$ | 44 |
| hard | $14(5)$ | $13(5)$ | $3(-)$ | $1(-)$ | $31(10)$ | 41 |
| medium | $16(4)$ | $10(3)$ | - | - | $26(7)$ | 33 |
| swood | $8(2)$ | $7(-)$ | $1(-)$ | $1(-)$ | $17(2) 19$ |  |
| hwood | $7(2)$ | - | - | $7(2)$ | 9 |  |
| grain | $7(-)$ | - | - | $7(-)$ | 7 |  |
| grass | $7(-)$ | - | - | $7(-)$ | 7 |  |
| msoft | $1(-)$ | - | $1(-)$ | $1(-)$ | $3(-)$ | 3 |
| totals | $119(29)$ | $46(9)$ | $9(-)$ | $8(1)$ | $182(39) 221$ |  |

plus one pounder and one tool which had only hafting scars $=184$
( ) = secondary use (opposite edge or second, new use)

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Flint colours according to Cailleux and Taylor (n. d.).

Colours

Number per Pit
XVIII
XXXII

| A 90 | White | 2 | - |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| B 10 | Light grey | 1 | - |
| B 61 | Very pale yellow | 1 | - |
| B 90 | Very light grey | 9 | - |
| C 10 | Light grey | 2 | - |
| C 42 | Light reddish brown | 1 | - |
| C 46 | Yellowish red | 1 | - |
| C 54 | Very pale brown | 1 | - |
| C 61 | Pale brown | 4 | 2 |
| C 62 | Very pale brown | 5 | 1 |
| C 90 | Light grey | 15 | 2 |
| D 10 | Grey | 1 | - |
| D 41 | Brown | 1 | 2 |
| D 48 | Reddish yellow | 1 | - |
| D 61 | Light brownish grey | 14 | 1 |
| D 62 | Brown | 14 | - |
| D 72 | Yellowish brown | 3 | - |
| D 81 | Light brownish grey | - | 1 |
| D 90 | Grey | 9 | 6 |
| E 10 | Grey | 1 | - |
| E 56 | Strong brown | 2 | - |
| E 61 | Dark greyish brown | 11 | 1 |
| E 62 | Greyish brown | 3 | - |
| E 63 | Yellowish brown | 2 | - |
| E 64 | Yellowish brown | 1 | - |
| E 68 | Strong brown | 1 | - |
| E 74 | Light olive brown | 2 | - |
| E 81 | Greyish brown | 2 | - |
| E 90 | Grey | 11 | 5 |
| F 10 | Dark grey | 1 | - |
| F 42 | Reddish brown | 1 | - |
| F 54 | Dark brown | 7 | 2 |
| F 61 | Dark greyish brown | 5 | - |
| F 62 | Greyish brown | 2 | - |
| F 63 | Dark yellowish brown | 2 | - |
| F 64 | Dark yellowish brown | 1 | - |
| F 82 | Olive | 2 | - |
| F 90 | Dark grey | 6 | 1 |
| H 10 | Dark grey | 1 | - |
| H 61 | Dark brown | 1 | - |
| H 90 | Very dark grey | 1 | - |
| J 41 | Very dark greyish brown | 1 | - |
| J 62 | Dark brown | 1 | - |
| B 90-F 54 | Very light grey-Dark brown | - | 1 |
| D 90-C 63 | Grey-Very pale brown | 1 | - |
| F 90-B 72 | Dark grey-Pale yellow | 1 | - |

Abbreviations used in figs. 10-26.

| CS | Cut soft |
| :--- | :--- |
| CM | Cut medium |
| CH | Cut hard |
| CW | Cut wood |
| CSW | Cut soft wood |
| CHW | Cut hard wood |
| CG | Cut grass |
| SS | Scrape soft |
| SM | Scrape medium |
| SH | Scrape hard |
| SW | Scrape wood |
| SSW | Scrape soft wood |
| C-SH | Cut-Scrape hard |
| C-SW | Cut-Scrape wood |
| BH | Boring hard |
| BW | Boring wood |
| BMS | Boring medium soft |
| BSW | Boring soft wood |
| WW | Work wood |
| WSW | Work soft wood |
| WMS | Work medium soft |
| S | Sickle |
| P | Pounding/Hammering |
| H | Haft |
| AH | Alternative Haft |
| r | Resharpening |
| m | Manufacture |
| A | Abrasion |
| D | Damage |
| ND | New Damage |
|  |  |


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