

JANKOVICHIAN, SZELETIAN OR A LEAF POINT INDUSTRY: ANALYSIS OF THREE SMALL LITHIC ASSEMBLAGES

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‘The duty of the man who investigates the writings of scientists, if learning the truth is his goal, is to make himself an enemy of all that he reads, and [...] attack it from every side. He should also suspect himself as he performs his critical examination of it, so that he may avoid falling into either prejudice or leniency.’ (Alhazen)

Abstract: The eponymous site of the Jankovichian industry was found at the Öreg kő cliff, in the northern part of the Transdanubia, Western Hungary. From the thick layer complex of the Jankovich cave, however, only 104 lithics were collected and the scarce data showed that the pieces belong to several archaeological entities. At the same time, the nearly total lack of the field documentation allowed the reconstruction of the stratigraphic position of each artefact only in a few cases. The stratigraphic integrity is missing from the archaeological material of the Kiskevély and Szelim caves as well as the Csákvár rock shelter, and according to the recent evaluations the bifacial tools from the Dzeravá skála (Pálffy cave) and Lovas belong to the Micoquian and the Late Palaeolithic period.

In this paper we analyse the following three assemblages, excavated after World War II in Transdanubia: the Pilisszántó rock shelter II, the Bivak and the Remete Felső caves. The chronological, basically, bio-stratigraphic data known from these layers are also evaluated.

The conclusion of the study is that (1) the chronological data of the studied sites do not permit to place the archaeological occupation of each cave into the Early Würm or to the Late Middle Palaeolithic period and (2) the validity of a distinct Jankovichian industry cannot be proved.

Keywords: Jankovichian, Szeletian, chronology, leaf shaped tool

The eponymous site of the Szeletian industry is located in the eastern part of the Bükk Mountains in North-eastern Hungary. However, as the recent analysis showed none of the assemblages excavated in ‘fireplaces’ or ‘culture layers’ in the Szeleta cave can be classified as belonging to the Szeletian industry itself.¹ In fact, this problem can be traced back to the definition of the Szeletian² and it was emphasised several times by specialists having direct information on the Szeleta assemblages.³

Recently this term has been used, even if on an informal way, for various industries not only from Slovakia, Moravia, Poland and Bavaria, but also from a vast territory lying between the Rhine Valley and the Don Basin,⁴ and from Poland to the Balkans.⁵ At the same time, the ‘eastern Szeletian’ assemblage of Buran-kaya III in the Crimea was excavated beneath the Micoquian layers,⁶ illustrating that the ‘Szeletian’ plays exactly the same role as the ‘Solutréan’ before 1953: connecting very different industries having a single common trait, namely the presence of leaf shaped implements.

¹ MARKÓ 2016, 32.

² PROŠEK 1953.

³ For instance: GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1956; FREUND 1968; GÁBORI 1968; VÉRTES 1968.

⁴ PATOU-MATHIS 2000, 386, 392; ZALIZNYAK–BELENKO 2009.

⁵ For instance: FOLTYN 2003; MIHAILOVIĆ–ZORBIĆ 2017.

⁶ MARKS–MONIGAL 2000, 217–218; CHABAI 2003, 75; PÉAN *et al.* 2013.

Even in Hungary, a number of different assemblages and finds are united under this term, including the industries of the Szeleta cave,⁷ the Szeletian industry as it was described by F. Prošek in 1953⁸ and the leaf shaped artefacts selected from the mixed surface collections.⁹ In the 1950s¹⁰ two geographical groups of the Szeleta culture were differentiated in the Bükk Mountains and Transdanubia, respectively. As a result of the excavations in the Remete Upper cave (1969–1971) instead of this later Transdanubian group the Middle Palaeolithic Jankovichian industry was postulated.¹¹ The definition of this new cultural entity, dated to the Early Würm ('Altwürm', MIS 5 d-a) by archaeological, paleontological and palaeo-botanical arguments was based on 176 lithic artefacts, collected from eight different localities in Hungary and one in Slovakia. However, the richest and eponymous site yielded only 104 lithics, most probably belonging to several different archaeological industries, excavated from the 6 m thick layer sequence and only at five pieces are the data on the exact place of the recovery available.¹² The field observations are also absent from the Szelim¹³ and Kiskevély¹⁴ caves, excavated before the World War II. Similarly the history of the interpretation of the Csákvár rock shelter and the Lovas ochre mine locality are typical and instructive. During the palaeontological excavations of the Csákvár rock shelter in 1926 and 1928 a pierced deer canine and a human metacarpal bone was found in the Pleistocene light brown loam.¹⁵ In 1951 further artefacts and another human bone were collected from the back-dirt of the previous field works.¹⁶ The age of the rather atypical fauna was estimated to be more recent than the characteristic 'Würm I' assemblages but older than the 'Würm III' faunas (MIS 4 and MIS 2, respectively).¹⁷

Among the lithics collected in 1951 L. Vértés compared a bifacially worked knife and a side scraper to the Mousterian tool types from Tata and he noted that a single flake with large bulb of percussion is similar to the blanks known from the Jankovich cave.¹⁸ This atypical piece was enumerated among the Jankovichian finds in the eighties¹⁹ and in 1993 the artefacts identified earlier as Mousterian tools by Gábori-Csánk as well as two flakes were also listed among the lithics of the same industry.²⁰ In our view, however, this new classification of the scattered finds from the Csákvár rock shelter is not convincing enough.

Similarly, the single leaf shaped scraper of limnic quartzite²¹ excavated at Lovas allowed to describe this locality as the only one open-air site of the Transdanubian Szeletian. Although in the 1970s and 1980s M. Gábori and V. Gábori-Csánk suggested, that the presence of a single typical tool was not sufficient to list the site among the Jankovich-type industry,²² in the monograph consecrated to this entity twelve flakes, a core fragment and a raw material fragment, each made of radiolarite were also enumerated among the Middle Palaeolithic artefacts²³ and the single typical tool was compared to the earliest pieces of the industry known from the Kiskevély cave.²⁴

⁷ Importantly, the 'Szeletian culture' was originally defined as a typical Upper Palaeolithic industry with leaf points and strong Gravettian traits using the modern terminology (I. L. Červinka in 1927): PROŠEK 1953, 145.

⁸ MESTER 2017, 85, 86; MESTER 2018, 34.

⁹ MESTER 2017, 87; MESTER 2018, 34.

¹⁰ MÉSZÁROS–VÉRTES 1954, 19, 25, note 54, Fig. 13; VÉRTES 1955a, 273–277.

¹¹ GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1974; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1983; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1984; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1990; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1993; GÁBORI 1976, 78–80.

¹² MARKÓ 2013a, 11, 19–20. – The doubts foreshadowed but not expounded by Zs. Mester about the stratigraphic observations by the excavator of this site, ascertained in the publications and the inventory book are completely unfounded: MESTER 2017, 84; MESTER 2018, 34.c.f. HILLEBRAND 1926; VÉRTES 1955a, 276.

¹³ According to Gábori-Csánk the excavation methods used on this site raised a number of problems: '*Sa fouille a été faite malheureusement selon une méthode particulièrement mauvaise.*': GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1983, 279; cf. GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1984, 18.

¹⁴ At the Kiskevély cave the artefacts selected as 'Jankovichian' tools were originally labelled as coming partly from the 'Magdalenian' (i.e. Gravettian or Epigravettian), partly from the Mousterian layer: DOBOSI-VÖRÖS 1994, 19, cf. GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1993,

139, pl. X, 1–5, XI, 1–5. – At the same time, a double scraper published by Gábori-Csánk among the artefacts from the Jankovich cave in fact belongs to the Kiskevély assemblage: GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1993, Pl. IIIa–b.2, cf. MARKÓ 2013, 17.

¹⁵ KADIĆ–KRETZOI 1926–1927; KADIĆ 1934, 101–102 (under the name of Esterházy cave). – The pierced canine was compared to the pieces found in the Herman Ottó cave and, accordingly, the site was dated to the Aurignacian period.

¹⁶ KRETZOI 1954, 38.

¹⁷ KRETZOI 1954, 42–43.

¹⁸ VÉRTES 1962, 280; VÉRTES 1964, 317; VÉRTES 1965, 113, 159, 291.

¹⁹ GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1983, 277; 1984, 16–17. – In fact, referring to the oral information by M. Roska, Vértés originally compared the leaf shaped point to the Jankovich artefacts and together with the alleged bone artefacts from this site he identified the site as belonging to the Transdanubian Szeletian: VÉRTES 1955a, 265, 277.

²⁰ GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1993, 141, Pl. XIIa–b, 1, 2, cf. VÉRTES 1965, 113, Pl. XI.1–2.

²¹ MÉSZÁROS–VÉRTES 1954, 12, Plate XII: 4a–b.

²² GÁBORI 1976, 80; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1983, 276–277; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1984, 16.

²³ GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1993, 84, 142.

²⁴ GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1993, 83.

Recently M. Patou-Mathis summarizing her observations on the osseous artefacts suggested that this locality has been repeatedly used from the Middle Palaeolithic until the recent Prehistoric times,²⁵ and pointed out that the artefacts were collected from three features probably representing different periods. However, the data given by Gy. Mészáros and L. Vértés clearly show that the leaf shaped scraper was found in layer 5 of feature 2, together with the radiolarite flakes and the double-bevelled point,²⁶ as well as several bone implements made of elk ulna,²⁷ pseudo-metapodial awls,²⁸ and finally, the single tool made of ibex bone.²⁹

The Lovas site was originally dated to the Würm I–II interstadial, later to the Early Würm (Varbó phase, following the mammal biostratigraphy developed in Hungary, MIS 5a)³⁰ or to the Middle or Upper Würm (Istállóskő phase).³¹ In our view, the leaf shaped scraper was most probably found in a secondary position and does not belong to the otherwise homogenous Late Palaeolithic assemblage of the characteristic, specialised bone tools associated with reliable radiocarbon dates.³² Anyway, systematic taphonomic, typological and technological studies of this important assemblage will be necessary in the future.

Finally, from the Pálffy/Dzeravá skála cave (Western Carpathians, Slovakia) only the single bifacially worked piece excavated by J. Hillebrand was originally mentioned by V. Gábori-Csánk.³³ Later the presence of the Levallois flaking,³⁴ leaf shaped scrapers and pieces similar to the *Faustkeilblatt*-type were also identified on the drawings published by F. Prošek. At the same time, some artefacts were compared to the tools known from the Kiskevély³⁵ and the Jankovich cave. Consequently, Gábori-Csánk classified each ‘Szeletian’ lithic from this cave as belonging to the Jankovichian industry.³⁶ Recently, however, the presence of both the Szeletian or Jankovichian artefacts in the Dzeravá skála assemblage were questioned and the single bifacially worked tool found during the 2002–2003 excavations in the middle part of layer 11 was classified as belonging to the Micoquian industry after an infinite radiocarbon date from the same level.³⁷

In the last ten years the problem of the Jankovich-type artefacts was discussed by Zs. Mester in connection with the so-called technological investigations of the bifacial tools from the Szeleta and the Jankovich caves.³⁸ The result of the investigations suggested that the asymmetric forms, generally made on flakes, and considered as the characteristic forms of the lower layer of the Szeleta cave are identical with pieces of the Jankovich cave. Earlier³⁹ we pointed out several problems concerning the low number of studied pieces in each assemblage,⁴⁰ the pointless use of percentages when the studied population is well below 100 elements and the contradictions at the stratigraphic interpretation of certain layers, especially at layer 4 of the Szeleta cave.⁴¹

²⁵ PATOU-MATHIS 2002. – Earlier V. Gábori-Csánk raised the possibility of two independent periods of ochre exploitation at the same site, as a possible explanation for the occurrence of the decorated ulna implement and the antler point in the Lovas assemblage: GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1993, 49.

²⁶ MÉSZÁROS–VÉRTES 1954, 5, Fig. 11,2 – cf. PATOU-MATHIS 2002, 174.

²⁷ Including the largest artefact, mentioned by Patou-Mathis as a completely polished tool and dated to the later Prehistory: MÉSZÁROS–VÉRTES 1954, 7, Pl. I,3 – cf. PATOU-MATHIS 2002, 167, 174, Fig. 7.

²⁸ Including pieces with both well preserved and heavily weathered surface: MÉSZÁROS–VÉRTES 1954, 13, Plate IV, 1–4, 6–10, 12 – cf. PATOU-MATHIS 2002, 174.

²⁹ MÉSZÁROS–VÉRTES 1954, 17, Plate IV, 11. – cf. PATOU-MATHIS 2002, 174.

³⁰ DOBOSI–VÖRÖS 1979, 22. – In 1988 V. Gábori-Csánk placed the site into the last interglacial (Süttő faunal phase, MIS 5e): GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1990, 98–99.

³¹ VÖRÖS 2000, 194, cat. nr. 101. – In the seventies D. Jánossy placed the Lovas site to the same period because of the presence of the Szeletian artefacts: JÁNOSY 1977, 143. In fact, the Istállóskő phase was dated to the Middle Würm by D. Jánossy and to the Upper Würm by I. Vörös.

³² DOBOSI 2006; SAJÓ *et al.* 2015.

³³ GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1983, 278–279; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1984, 17.

³⁴ The use of this method was observed during the recent evaluation of the assemblage too: KAMINSKÁ *et al.* 2005, 41, 45, Fig. 25,5.

³⁵ The given tools from the Kiskevély cave were classified earlier as belonging to the Mousterian industry (see note 14) and they are very similar, however, to the Tata artefacts.

³⁶ GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1993, 80. – In the same volume the bifacially worked tool excavated by J. Hillebrand in the Pálffy cave/Dzeravá skála was listed among the tools from the Jankovich cave: GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1993, Pl. Ia–b. 3. – cf. MARKÓ 2013a, 17, note 29.

³⁷ KAMINSKÁ *et al.* 2005, 55; KAMINSKÁ 2014, 94–95.

³⁸ MESTER 2010; MESTER 2011; MESTER 2014a.

³⁹ MARKÓ 2016.

⁴⁰ For instance, in a recent paper Zs. Mester claimed that seven of the 18 asymmetric pieces excavated in the Szeleta cave were found in the upper layers 5, 6 and 6a, nine artefacts in the lower layers 2, 3 and 4, and finally, no stratigraphic data are available in the case of further seven pieces. This way, however, the number of the asymmetric pieces is not 18 but 23. and in fact, he analysed 17 leaf shaped implements: MESTER 2017, 78. – It is embarrassing, that in a paper published in the preceding year the number of the asymmetrical pieces was 13, seven of them were from layers 5 and 6 and six pieces from layers 4 and 3: LENGYEL *et al.* 2016, Table 5.

⁴¹ Mester dated this assemblage to the early Szeletian. This is, however, inconsistent with the data presented in the same papers, as the majority of the leaf shaped artefacts from this stratigraphic unit belong to the group characteristic for the Evolved Szeletian: MESTER 2011, tabl. 4; MESTER 2014a, Tabl. 4. – c.f. MARKÓ 2016, note 1.

In our view, the information available from the more than 100 years old excavations of the Szeleta is not sufficient to make well based conclusions in the 21st century.⁴² Furthermore, our studies shed some light to the role and intensity of the post-depositional effects, which could change basically the stratigraphic position of the given artefacts.⁴³ Similarly, the Late Gravettian classification of the assemblage from layer 3 and 4 was rejected on the strength of the presence of the asymmetric leaf shaped points and the occurrences of the Gravettian tools were interpreted as an admixture.⁴⁴ At least in some cases, however, the error occurred after the excavations with the incorrect stratigraphic and typological determination of the artefacts.⁴⁵

THE STUDIED ASSEMBLAGES

Ultimately, of the Transdanubian Seletian/Jankovichian sites very few or no stratigraphic information is available from the Jankovich, Kiskevény, Szelim and Csákvár caves, while the recent evaluation led to the conclusion that the open-air site of Lovas and the Pálffy/Dzeravá skála cave belong to different, Late Palaeolithic and Micoquian industry. These observations raised the question of the validity of the term ‘Jankovichian’. In the present paper we analyse the available information from three localities excavated after World War II in the north-eastern part of the Transdanubia: the Pilisszántó rock shelter II, the Bivak and the Remete Felső caves (*Fig. 1*), that may serve further evidences to this problem.

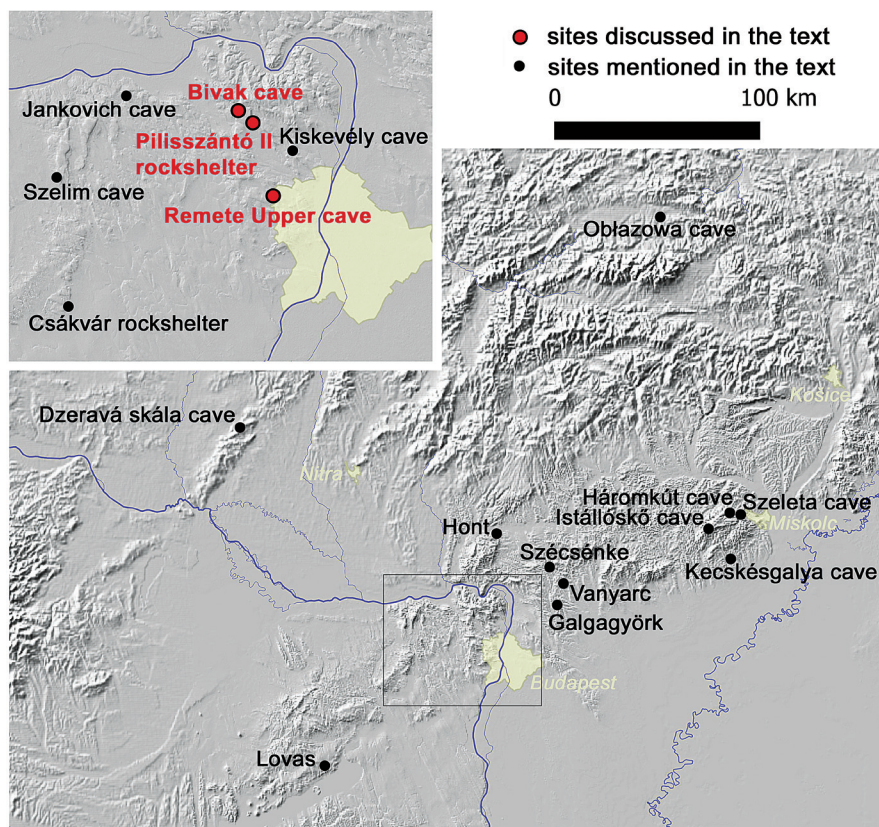


Fig. 1. The localities discussed and mentioned in this paper (map constructed by B. Holl)

⁴² MARKÓ 2016, 8–10.

⁴³ MARKÓ 2016, 10–12.

⁴⁴ LENGYEL *et al.* 2016. – The 40–36 ka B.P. radiocarbon dates from these layers confirm that the assemblages are clearly older than the Late Gravettian: HAUCK *et al.* 2016, Table 4.

⁴⁵ E.g. in the case of the allegedly shouldered point from layer 4: LENGYEL *et al.* 2016, 177, Fig. 4,9. – cf. MARKÓ 2016, 24, Fig. 12, 1, note 8.

Pilisszántó Rock shelter II

The site is lying in the southern part of the Pilis hill, close to the bottom of the valley, at 386 m a.s.l. The infilling of the little chamber was partly excavated in 1946 by L. Vértés. In the Pleistocene layers only two atypical chipped stone artefacts of greenish radiolarite (*Fig. 2.1*) and Slovakian obsidian (*Fig. 2.2*) were found. The pieces were first dated to the Magdalenian,⁴⁶ later to the Transdanubian Szeletian⁴⁷ and finally to the Jankovichian⁴⁸ industry. Recently the occurrence of obsidian as an extralocal raw material in this assemblage led K. Biró to date the site to Early Upper Palaeolithic.⁴⁹



Fig. 2. Lithic artefacts from the Pilisszántó II rockshelter (drawing by K. Nagy)

The implements were classified as Szeleta scrapers,⁵⁰ later scrapers with large bulb of percussion, similar to the Jankovich tools⁵¹ and, rather surprisingly, as a unifacial leaf shaped scraper and a scraper.⁵² In our view, both pieces belong to the group of the heavily fragmented blanks partly showing traces of intentional modification, but partly shaped by natural factors. These forms, sometimes called as ‘raclettes’, are known not only from the Jankovich cave but also from the Dzeravá skála⁵³ and Szeleta⁵⁴ caves as well as from the lower (‘Aurignacian I’) layer of the Istállóskő cave in the Bükk Mountains,⁵⁵ clearly illustrating the problems with the typological classification of these partly naturally fragmented lithics.

During the excavations of the Pilisszántó rock shelter II several Pleistocene layers and traces of important erosional events were documented. According to the original report the artefacts were found in the lower layer group (layers 8–10).⁵⁶ Later the lowermost, brownish-red layer 10⁵⁷ or the lower brown layer 9⁵⁸ was given as the place of recovery of the artefacts. The recent stratigraphic evaluation of the site placed the occurrence of the lithics to the border of the reddish brown and the red-brown loam.⁵⁹

⁴⁶ VÉRTES 1951.

⁴⁷ VÉRTES 1955a; VÉRTES 1965.

⁴⁸ GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1983; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1984; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1993.

⁴⁹ BIRÓ 1984.

⁵⁰ VÉRTES 1965, 161, 325.

⁵¹ GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1983, 281; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1984, 18.

⁵² GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1993, 140–141. – Importantly, the artefact from the Jankovich cave, mentioned as similar to the piece made of obsidian (*Fig. 2.2* in the present paper) is most probably the fragment of a typical blade, collected from the Gravettian layer: GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1993, IX,9, VIII,19; cf. MARKÓ 2013, Fig. 2, 3.

⁵³ The pieces excavated by F. Prošek were enumerated among the artefacts from the uppermost level of layer 11: KAMINSKÁ *et al.* 2005, 45–50, Fig. 28.

⁵⁴ MARKÓ 2016, 16, 19, Table 3.

⁵⁵ MARKÓ 2015, 22.

⁵⁶ Layer 8: ferruginous loam, layer 9: brown loam and layer 10: brownish red loam with limestone fragments: VÉRTES 1951, 228–229, Fig. 1; VÉRTES 1955b, 395–398. – Using the original field documentation the stratigraphic sequence of this cave was revised in the 1980s: the former layer 8 was renamed to Layer 7 (light tan loess with yellow grains), layer 9 to Layer 8 (reddish brown clay) and the lowermost layer 10 to Layer 9 (red brown clay): DOBOSI-VÖRÖS 1986, 27.

⁵⁷ VÉRTES 1955a, 270 – According to the excavation diary, this stratigraphic unit (Layer 9, following the revised layer sequence) was completely sterile in archaeological and paleontological point of view, see: DOBOSI-VÖRÖS 1986, 27.

⁵⁸ VÉRTES 1965, 325. – Identical with Layer 8 by Dobosi and Vörös: DOBOSI-VÖRÖS 1986.

⁵⁹ Layers 9 and 10 by Vértés or Layers 8 and 7 of the revised sequence. Following the archaeological considerations, i.e. the presence of the Jankovichian industry it was suggested that the scrapers were found in the uppermost horizon of the reddish brown Layer 8: DOBOSI-VÖRÖS 1986, 30, Fig. 1.

The formation of the reddish brown layer was estimated to the Würm I or Pre-Würm, however, as in this layer only a single indifferent bone fragment was found this age was based exclusively on the presence of the Jankovichian implements.⁶⁰ The macro mammal remains from the overlying reddish brown loessy loam⁶¹ suggested for an interstadial date, most probably the Szeleta faunal phase (Würm I/II, Hengelo interstadial, MIS 3), noting the striking similarities with the corrected fauna from the Lower layers of the Pilisszántó I rock shelter.⁶² Later the given layers from these localities were enumerated among the localities of the Istállóskő phase (Denekamp interstadial MIS 3).⁶³

By and large, the stratigraphy of the Pilisszántó rock shelter II is rather problematic: the layer from which the lithics were reported has not been documented and between the two lowermost layers a stratigraphic hiatus is indicated.⁶⁴ It seems to be evident, that the two artefacts are dated to a period not younger than the MIS 3. In the assemblage of this rock shelter, however, no bifacial implements were found and in our view, the presence of not typical tools and fragments ('raclettes') does not justify the Jankovichian classification of the little lithic assemblage.

Bivak cave

This cave is lying at a distance of 3.5 km from the Pilisszántó rock shelters, in the northern part of the Pilis hill, opening at a large relative height into western direction. During the autumn of 1953 D. Jánossy and L. Vértess excavated the Pleistocene layer sequence of yellow or locally orange-coloured, yellowish grey, grey and brown loam underlying the Holocene humus layer.⁶⁵ The field works yielded four lithics and two antler tools (*Table 1*). The bifacially worked leaf shaped tool made of patinated brown radiolarite (nr. 1 in *Table 1*, *Fig. 3.1*) and a unilaterally retouched blade were excavated (nr. 6 in *Table 1*, *Fig. 3.4*) at the border of the grey and the yellowish grey layer. However, the stratigraphic evaluation of the site, similarly to the Pilisszántó rock shelter II showed an important hiatus between these two layers. A 'raclette' of Szentgál-type (nr. 3 in *Table 1*, *Fig. 3.3*) and a retouched blade-like flake of greenish grey radiolarite (nr. 1 in *Table 1*, *Fig. 3.2*), both made on blanks removed from core edge, were documented in the grey layer, close to each other. Finally, one of the antler tool fragments was most probably found at the border of the orange-coloured and the greyish yellow layer (nr. 2 in *Table 1*), the other one in the disturbed part of the cave, where only the grey and the reddish brown layers were preserved.⁶⁶

Table 1.

Artefacts recovered in the Bivak cave (see *Fig. 3*)

nr.	classification	place of recovery	date of recovery
1	leaf shaped scraper of radiolarite	at the border of the yellowish grey and grey layers	24. 09. 1953.
2	antler point fragment	orange-coloured and yellowish grey layer	29. 09. 1953.
3	antler point fragment	disturbed sediment	1. 10. 1953.
4	raclette of Szentgál type radiolarite	grey layer	
5	raclette of greenish grey radiolarite	grey layer	
6	blade fragment	at the border of the yellowish grey and grey layers	7. 10. 1953.

Concerning the chronology of the grey layer and the lithics, V. Gábori-Csánk supposed that the associated fauna is typical to the Early Würm period.⁶⁷ However, already in the seventies the palaeontologist D. Jánossy enumerated this site among the localities of the Istállóskő faunal phase,⁶⁸ noting that there are important differences in the faunal composition of the Bükk and the Pilis sites. Even if this opinion could have been influenced by the presence of the 'Szeletian' artefacts, Jánossy pointed out that the remains identified as *Megaloceros* belong in fact to

⁶⁰ DOBOSI-VÖRÖS 1986, 43. – Earlier D. Jánossy dated the reddish layers from the rock shelter to the Istállóskő faunal phase after the presence of Szeletian tools: JÁNOSSY 1977, 143.

⁶¹ Light tan loess Layer 7 with the dominant species of cave bear remains and the presence of cave hyena, lynx, bison, arch, woolly rhino, horse, elk and chamois: DOBOSI-VÖRÖS 1986, 36–38.

⁶² DOBOSI-VÖRÖS 1986, 43.

⁶³ VÖRÖS 2000, 193, cat. nr. 80 and 81.

⁶⁴ DOBOSI-VÖRÖS 1986, 27–29.

⁶⁵ JÁNOSSY *et al.* 1957, 21–25.

⁶⁶ JÁNOSSY *et al.* 1957, 20, 34.

⁶⁷ GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1983, 282–283; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1984, 20; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1993, 52–53.

⁶⁸ JÁNOSSY 1977, 143.

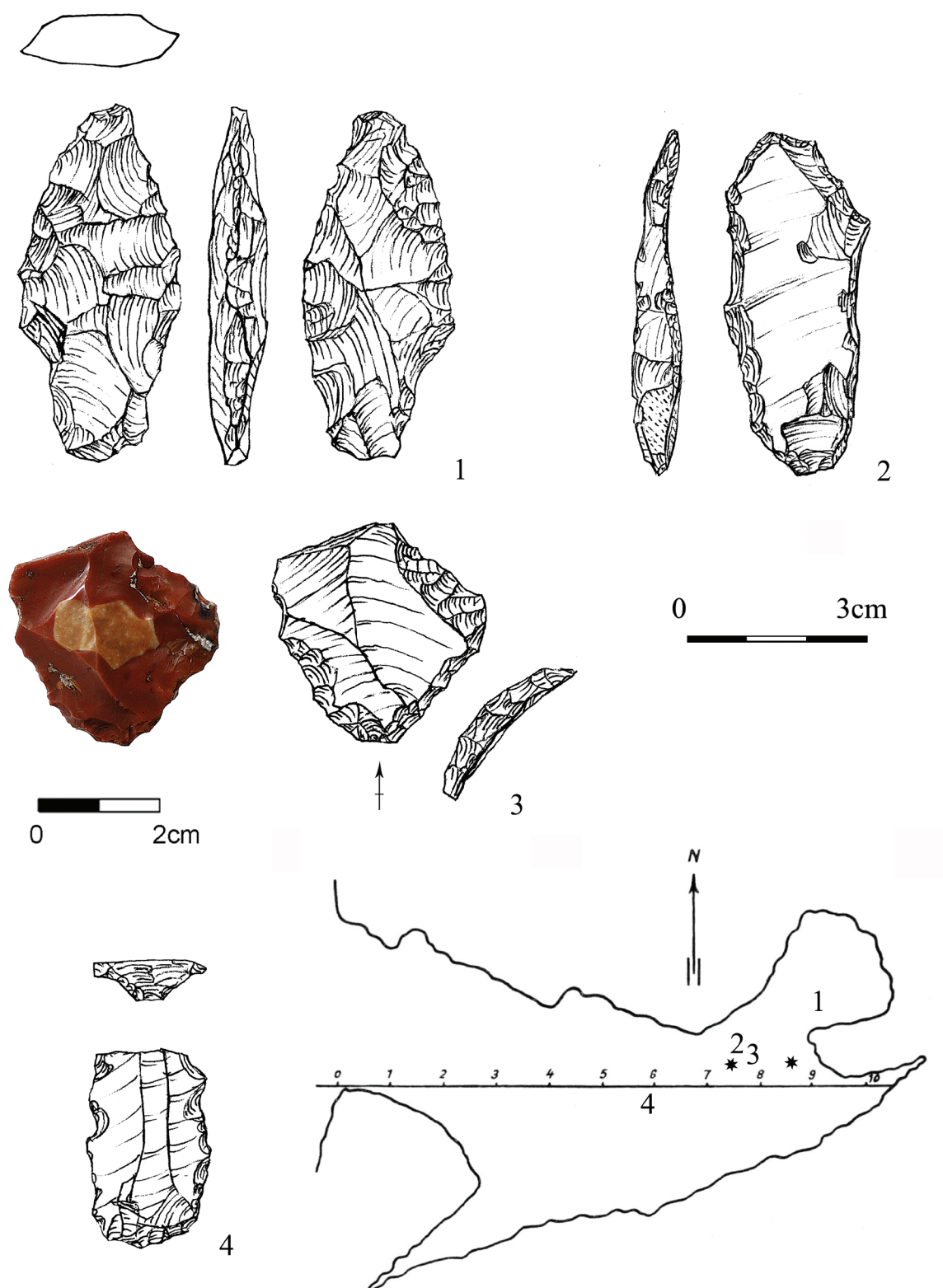


Fig. 3. Bivak cave: lithic artefacts (drawing by K. Nagy) and the distribution of the including the antler tools (displayed by stars) in the cave (following JÁNOSSY *et al.* 1957 modified)

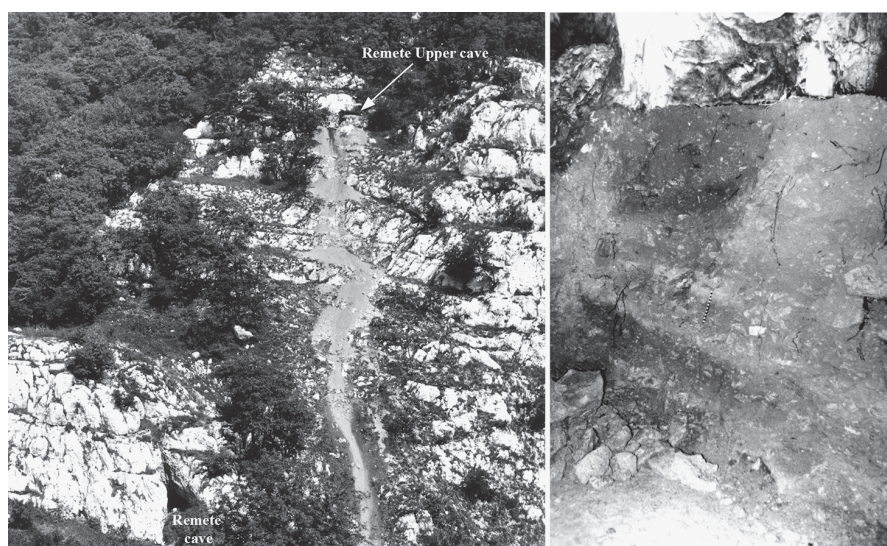


Fig. 4. Remete gorge: the entrances of the caves during the excavations and the longitudinal section in the inner chamber of the Remete Upper cave⁶⁹

the taxon of *Cervus elaphus*, and acknowledged, that the giant deer finds younger than the Subalyuk phase (first Würmian Pleniglacial, MIS 4) should be revised.⁷⁰

In total, during the relatively well documented excavations in the Bivak cave rather poor but characteristic lithic assemblage and most probably at least one of the osseous artefacts was found in the grey layer. The age of this stratigraphic unit is, however, not known precisely, most probably it can be dated to the Middle Würm period (mis 3). Finally, the most recent review of the Upper Pleistocene mammal faunas from Hungary⁷¹ did not mention this site.

Remete Upper cave

This little cave is opening in south-western direction, at the height of 70 m above the bottom of the narrow and deep Remete gorge (Fig. 4), in the north-western part of Budapest. The site was excavated by V. Gábori-Csánk in 1969–71.⁷² According to the stratigraphic evaluation of the cave infilling by the geographer F. Schweitzer⁷³ the large limestone fragments lying directly on the bedrock were dated to the glacial maximum of the penultimate glacial (MIS 6) and the imbedding reddish brown loam was formed during a later mild period (MIS 5e?). The lower part of the overlying layer 4 (reddish loam without limestone fragments) dated to the end of the last interglacial was formed on a discordant surface, showing a washout in the layer sequence. The upper level of the same layer with the lithic artefacts, as well as the remains of 24 vertebrate taxa and the human teeth is yellowish loessy sediment mixed by sharp limestone fragments, documenting the cooling period of the Early Würm (preceding MIS 4). The grey coloured layer 3 with sharp limestone fragments was interpreted as a cryoturbated sediment,⁷⁴ overlain by the brown humic layer 2, missing from the inner chamber of the cave and by a recent rendzina soil layer 1 both dated to the Holocene.

The number of the lithics excavated in the upper level of layer 4 was 14⁷⁵ or 12,⁷⁶ actually eleven pieces are catalogued in the collection of the Budapest History Museum.⁷⁷ This way, the Remete Upper cave is the second richest locality of the Jankovichian industry in Hungary. Regrettably, in spite of the reports by the excavator⁷⁸ the place of

⁶⁹ JÁNOSSY 1977, 144. – cf. DOBOSI-VÖRÖS 1986, 43. – Recently the late survival of giant deer was evidenced from Central European localities too: LISTER-STUART 2019.

⁷⁰ VÖRÖS 2000.

⁷¹ GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1970; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1971; GÁBORINÉ CSÁNK 1973.

⁷² GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1983, 258–263; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1984, 8–10; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1993, 58–60.

⁷³ However, in this layer fossil and subfossil bones and rather atypical Prehistoric sherds were also found, showing that the redeposition dates at least partly to the Holocene: GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1983, 253; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1984, 6.

⁷⁴ GÁBORI 1981, 98.

⁷⁵ Including nine formal tools and three flakes: GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1983, 267; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1984, 12; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1993, 143.

recovery of the lithic artefacts could be unambiguously identified only in four cases. The data enumerated in *Table 2* are based on the laconic notes found in the field diary,⁷⁹ summarising very shortly the observations of one or two days.

The first lithic, a proximal fragment of a blade-like flake of radiolarite with pebble cortex and very slight traces of secondary modifications (*Fig. 5.3*) was found in trench 3.⁸⁰ A half finished bifacial tool made on a flake of nummulitic chert⁸¹ with dihedral base and centripetal dorsal scars (nr. 9 in *Table 2*, *Fig. 5.1*) and a side scraper of Szentgál-type radiolarite with faceted base and unidirectional dorsal scars (nr. 8 in *Table 2*, *Fig. 5.2*) were excavated at the northern wall of the cave.⁸² These later tools were reported to be found close to the human remains.⁸³

Finally, among the non-catalogued artefacts from the cave there is a box with the label '70.7.21'⁸⁴ and '3/1 under the humus, in a yellowish lens'. We suspect that the atypical flake of radiolarite (probably the missing twelfth lithic artefact mentioned by the excavator,⁸⁵ the piece of nr. 13 in *Table 2*) and the two cave bear teeth together with the *Glycymeris obovata* shell could have been excavated in 1970 in the inner chamber of the cave.⁸⁶

The details of the recovery of three bifacial tools, which could have been easy to recognise on the field and a half made piece were not documented in the field diary. One of them, a proximal and medial fragment of a long leaf shaped tool of hornstone⁸⁷ or poor quality limnic quartzite (*Fig. 6.2*) was claimed to be one of the typical forms

Table 2.

Artefacts from the Remete Upper cave as reflected in the field documentation.
Pieces which could have been securely identified in the collection are written with **bold**

nr.	classification	place of recovery	stratigraphical position	depth of recovery	date
1	flake of radiolarite	trench 3	layer 4	–100–120 cm	12–13. 8. 1969.
2	flake of obsidian	trench 4	top horizon of layer 4	above –100 cm	14–15. 8. 1969.
3	flake of obsidian	trench 4	top horizon of layer 4	above –100 cm	14–15. 8. 1969.
4	flake of hornstone	trench 5	layer 4	above –120 cm	21–22. 8. 1969.
5	flake of hornstone	trench 5	layer 4	above –120 cm	21–22. 8. 1969.
6	shed antler (red deer)	trench 6, at the wall of the cave	at the border of layer 3–4		27. 8. 1969.
7	flint tool (<i>encoche</i>)	trench 6, at the wall of the cave	layer 4		27. 8. 1969.
8	notched tool made on a Levallois flake	at the border of trench 5-6a, at the wall of the cave	layer 4		2–3. 9. 1969.
9	half made bifacial tool	trench 5, at the wall of the cave, from the rocky infilling			6–7. 9. 1969.
10	flake	trench 3/2	thin Pleistocene layer		
11	flake	trench 3/2	thin Pleistocene layer		
12	flake	trench 3/2	thin Pleistocene layer		
13	flake of radiolarite	square 3/1	layer 4		1970
14	fossil shell	square 3/3 at the wall	layer 4		1970
15	canine of bear	square 3/3 at the wall	layer 4		1970
16	canine of bear	square 3/3 at the wall	layer 4		1970

⁷⁶ Under the inventory number of 71.1.1–11. We are grateful for the friendly help for the colleagues working in the Aquincum Museum, Budapest.

⁷⁷ GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1983, 267; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1984, 12; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1993, 59.

⁷⁸ Found in the Archives of the Budapest History Museum under the number of H 1406–2004 and of the Hungarian National Museum: V.91.1970.

⁷⁹ The numbering of the trenches in the field documentation differs from the published data. According to the papers by Gábori-Csánk the first lithic was found in trench 2, the second in trench 3, etc.: GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1983, 267; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1984, 12; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1993, 59.

⁸⁰ MARKÓ-KÁZMÉR 2004.

⁸¹ This later piece was repeatedly claimed as especially typical for the Jankovichian industry: GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1983, 267, Fig. 16.6; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1984, 12, Fig. 16.6.

⁸² GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1983, 267; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1984, 12. – According to the label on the box containing the teeth, the two incisors were found in the sample collected in trench 6/a, while the canine in 6/2, each at the depth of 120 cm below the original surface.

⁸³ This is certainly not the inventory number of the items, but probably the date of recovery (i.e. 21 July 1970).

⁸⁴ JÁNOSSY 1977, 144 DOBOSI-VÖRÖS 1986, 43; LISTER-STUART 2019, cf. note 76.

⁸⁵ GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1983, 267, 269; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1984, 12, 13; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1993, 59.

⁸⁶ The term 'hornstone' is used in a conventional way, for the siliceous rocks formed in the shallow marine sediments during the Triassic Age. This relatively poor quality raw material was used during the Middle Palaeolithic (Érd), but typically during the Copper and the Bronze Age: DIENES 1968; BIRÓ 2002.

⁸⁷ GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1983, 267, Fig. 16.3; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1984, 12, Fig. 16.3.

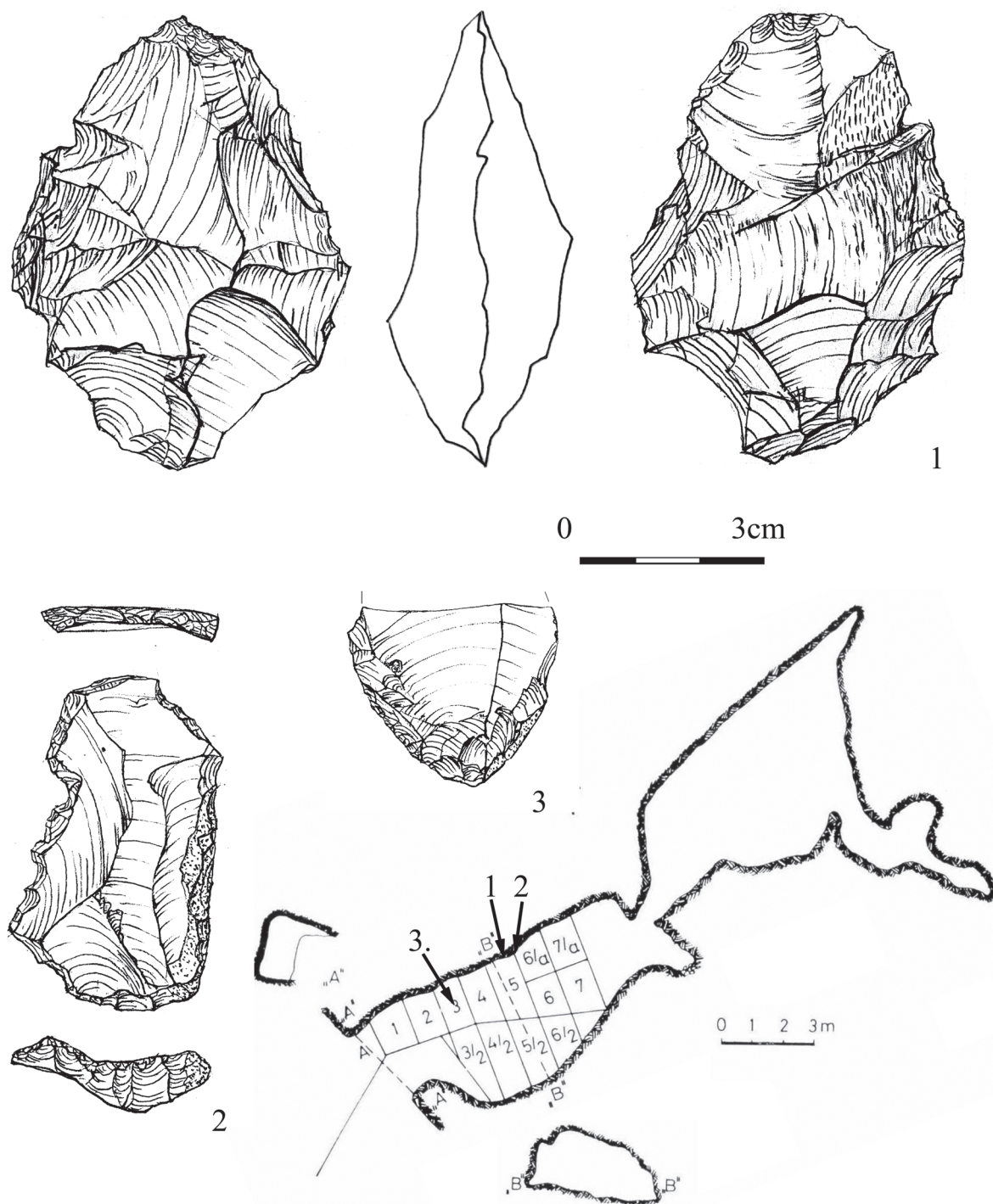


Fig. 5. Remete Upper cave: documented lithic artefacts (drawing by K. Nagy)
and the distribution of the pieces excavated in the cave in 1969 (following GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1983 modified)

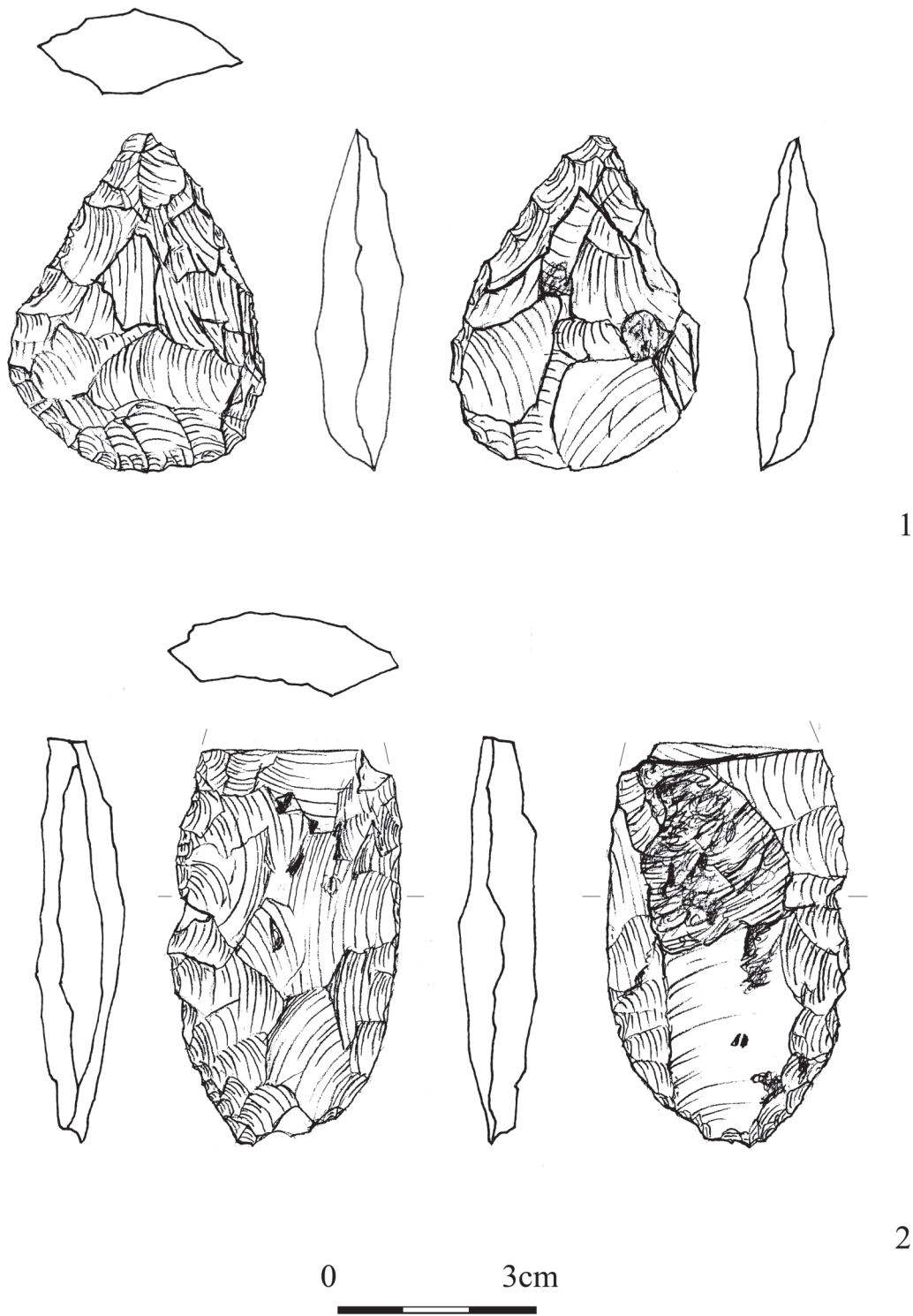


Fig. 6. Remete Upper cave: leaf shaped implements from unknown parts of the cave (drawing by K. Nagy)

of the industry.⁸⁸ Another piece, a plano-convex leaf shaped tool made on a flat cortical flake with a thinned bulb of percussion (*Fig. 7.1*) is comparable to the pieces known from Hont lying in the Ipoly valley in northern Hungary.⁸⁹ The third piece, a plano-convex leaf shaped tool made of poor quality limnic quartzite is similar in outline to the Moravany-type points, and to a unifacially manufactured piece from the same site.⁹⁰ The tool from the Remete Upper cave was thinned on the ventral face by some flat removals with the exception of the tip, where it was intensively retouched (*Fig. 6.1*). Finally a piece made of low quality nummulithic chert pebble is interpreted as a half made bifacial tool, probably of a leaf shaped scraper, abandoned by the angular breakage pattern and the hinge removals (*Fig. 7.2*).

One of the unifacially worked artefacts found at an unknown place in the cave is a notched tool made on a *debordant* flake (*Fig. 7.4*). Its raw material, the brown hydrothermal rock is similar to the pieces known from the Börzsöny Mountains.⁹¹ Finally, the plunging flake of dull grey-coloured siliceous pebble with a retouched edge was probably fragmented during the excavations (*Fig. 7.3*).

Among the artefacts there is an amorphous piece with several scars, made of glass, most probably of artificial origin. This piece is possibly identical with the ‘amorphous volcanic rock’ mentioned in the papers⁹² or the notched tool of greenish Triassic flint of number 7 of *Table 2*.

It is interesting to note the presence of the obsidian artefacts (number 2 and 3 in *Table 2*, found in the topmost horizon of layer 4 in trench 4), which are not mentioned in the publications and cannot be identified in the Palaeolithic collection. In a box containing the Prehistoric artefacts from the cave, however, there is a blade fragment of Slovakian obsidian and another one of black coloured siliceous rock (which is, however, not obsidian),⁹³ dated probably to the Copper Age (Ludanice culture), represented among the finds from this site.⁹⁴

During the excavations the pit with the Bronze Age depot find was meticulously documented,⁹⁵ but no other post-Palaeolithic features were described or depicted in the documentation. On the photograph from the inner chamber of the cave, however, a section of a pit is clearly visible (*Fig. 4*),⁹⁶ suggesting that some lithics including the obsidian artefacts or the mentioned amorphous piece could have been intrusive finds in the Pleistocene layers.

Unfortunately, the mammal remains from the site have not been systematically analysed yet and only preliminary data are available from layer 4 of the first chamber (data by the palaeontologist M. Kretzoi).⁹⁷ According to the excavator, both the composition of the fauna (including remains of *Lagopus*, *Ursus spelaeus*, *Crocotta*, *Equus*, *Leo*, *Coelodonta* and *Megaloceros*) found in the upper level of layer 4 and the presence of the muskox *Ovibos*, is typical for the period preceding the first Würmian Pleniglacial (Early Würm or ‘Altwürm’ period, MIS 5d-a).⁹⁸ Recently, however, I. Vörös revised the *Ovibos* bones and concluded that the remains from the Remete Upper cave belong to a little bison⁹⁹ and placed the age of yellow layer 4 into the Szeleta faunal phase, i.e. to the Hengelo interstadial.¹⁰⁰ Taking into consideration the last appearance date of the giant deer in the Carpathian Basin, which is the discriminating species of the Szeleta and Istállóskő phases or the Hengelo and Denekamp interstadials,¹⁰¹ the age of the fauna associated with the lithic tools cannot be securely placed to the first part of the last glaciation.¹⁰²

⁸⁸ E.g. GÁBORI 1964, 72, Pl. XIX.1; ZANDLER 2010, Fig. 9.1.

⁸⁹ ZANDLER 2010, Fig. 9.2. – In the Moravany assemblage excavated by J. Bárta there are similar pieces without flat ventral retouch, too: NEMERGUT 2010, 192.

⁹⁰ The same raw material is also known from the Hont assemblage. Moreover, on the piece of the Remete Upper cave a number „124” written by ink is clearly visible. A similar label is found on the artefacts from Hont again.

⁹¹ GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1984, 12. – In other papers this piece is referred as amorphous block of volcanic rock and it was suspected that the source region was not in the Tokaj Mountains: GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1983, 267; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1993, 143.

⁹² Stored under the inventory number 73.3.4-5 in the Prehistoric Collection of the Aquincum Museum.

⁹³ M. VIRÁG 1995.

⁹⁴ GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1983, 255, Fig. 4,13; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1984, 7–8, Fig. Fig. 8; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1993, Fig. 15.

⁹⁵ Cf. the published drawing from the same part of the cave: GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1983, Fig. 15; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1984, Fig. 15; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1993, Fig. 16.

⁹⁶ GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1983, 263–266; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1984, 10–12; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1993, 61.

⁹⁷ GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1983, 263–265; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1984, 10–11; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1993, 61–63.

⁹⁸ VÖRÖS 2010, 43.

⁹⁹ VÖRÖS 2000, 190, cat. nr. 31.

¹⁰⁰ Importantly, in the seventies M. Gábori reported the presence of *Cervus elaphus* and not *Megaloceros* from the cave: GÁBORI 1976, 79 – JÁNOSSY 1977, 144 DOBOSI-VÖRÖS 1986, 43; LISTER-STUART 2019, cf. note 70.

¹⁰¹ MESTER 2011, 30; MESTER 2014a, 53 – cf. MARKÓ 2013, note 6.

¹⁰² GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1983, 262–263; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1984, 7, 10.

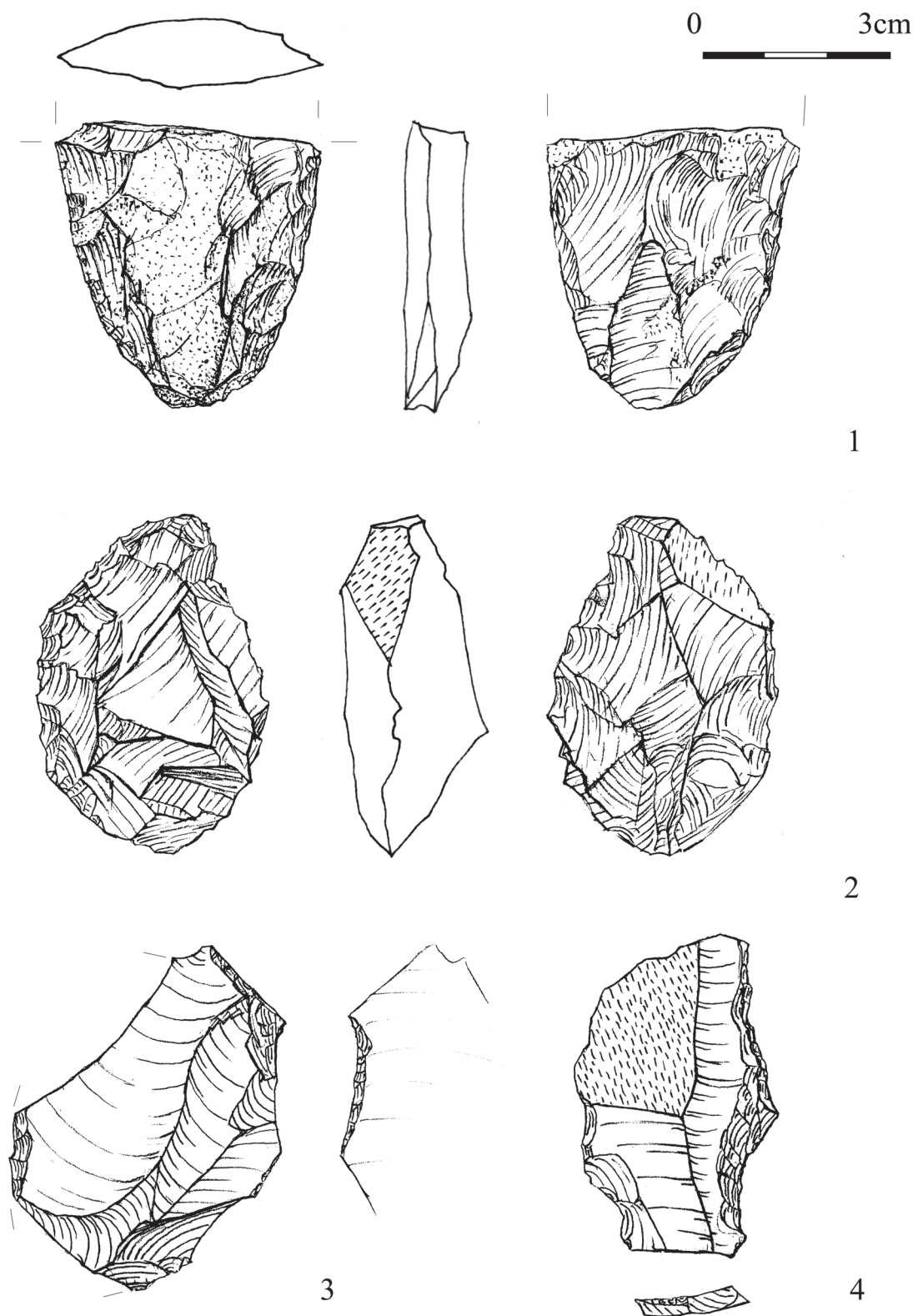


Fig. 7. Remete Upper cave: leaf shaped implement, half made tool and retouched pieces from unknown parts of the cave
(drawing by K. Nagy)

Table 3.
Charcoal remains from the 1969 excavations of the Remete Upper layer

archaeological label ¹⁰³	<i>Quercus cf. robur</i>	<i>Quercus cf. sessilis</i>	<i>Quercus</i>	<i>Fraxinus cf. excelsior</i>	<i>Cornus</i>	<i>Acer cf. pseudo-platanus</i>	<i>Prunus cf. spinosa</i>	deciduous tree	<i>Larix-Picea</i>	<i>Pinus cf. sylvestris</i>	pine	Total
4 -100	2		1				5	1			1	10
5 -80	5					3						8
5/2 -80	5	1	3	1								10
5 -120 (yellow layer)	1				2	1			7	1	1	13
6 -120	3											3
7 debris in the shaft	6				1	3						10
yellow layer with large stone fragments -130									5			5
total	22	1	4	1	3	7	5	1	12	1	2	59

Charcoals remains, exclusively belonging to larch or spruce (*Larix-Picea* group) were reported from layer 4 in the entrance of the cave, which seemingly confirmed the age of the layer and the human occupation predating the first Pleniglacial.¹⁰⁴ However, pieces of charcoal were also found in the inner chamber in 1970¹⁰⁵ and according to the field diary further fragments were observed e.g. in layer 4 of trench 3, where the first artefact (*Fig. 4.3*)¹⁰⁶ was found. Moreover, the report on the analysis of the charcoal pieces written in the Department of Applied Botany and Tissue Evolution of the Eötvös University, Budapest, and completed 5 December 1969¹⁰⁷ clearly shows that in the samples a number of species, basically of deciduous trees were recognised (*Table 3*). In fact, larch or spruce was identified only among the charcoal pieces collected from the sediment of the penultimate glaciation and in another one associated with two hornstone flakes (nr. 4–5 in *Table 2*). However, in this latter layer remains of maple, dogwood and common oak were also found. Otherwise, the deciduous trees were common in the other samples, which, together with the presence of the intrusive artefacts may raise the question of later mixing of pieces in the cave sediment.¹⁰⁸

After this short review it is clear that the age of the Palaeolithic assemblage from the Remete Upper cave is a very problematic question: the faunistic material has not been analysed in details and the palaeo-botanical data collected during the first excavation in 1969 and never published before reflects an unexpectedly complex picture. Several observations and indirect data suggest for the disturbance of the sediment, which were, however, not sufficiently documented. Bearing in our mind the low number of the lithic artefacts as well as the questions and doubts concerning their provenance, we conclude that this locality in itself is not adequate to define a distinct archaeological industry.

THE ASSEMBLAGE FROM THE BIVAK AND REMETE UPPER CAVE: JANKOVICHIAN, SZELETIAN OR A LEAF SHAPED INDUSTRY?

The recent review articles on the ‘Szeletian’¹⁰⁹ reflect a certain dichotomy from Hungary, based on the assemblages from two old excavated sites, the Szeleta and Jankovich cave. However, in 2003–2005 and 2007 1950 lithic artefacts including 32 typical tools and 10 retouched fragments of a Middle Palaeolithic industry with leaf shaped implements were excavated in a not disturbed artefact-bearing layer near Vanyarc, in the Cserhát Mountains.

¹⁰³ Interpreted as 4, 5, 5/2, 6 and 7 indicate the number of the trenches, -80, -100, -120 and -130 the depth in cm measured from the original surface.

¹⁰⁴ GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1983, 276; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1984, 12. – According to the information published in the monograph, the pieces collected in the little chamber were classified as belonging to the *Larix-Picea* group: GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1993, 61.

¹⁰⁵ See: note 80.

¹⁰⁶ In the Archives of the Budapest History Museum under the number of H 1405-2004.

¹⁰⁷ E.g. the pieces of charcoal collected from trench 4, approximately from the same level as the obsidian artefacts, suggest for an environment very similar to present day vegetation around the cave.

¹⁰⁸ MESTER 2014b; MESTER 2018.

¹⁰⁹ MARKÓ 2007; MARKÓ 2011a; MARKÓ 2012. – This way, the statement that ‘[beside the Szeleta and the Jankovich caves]... no more sites with rich collections in a stratigraphic position have been

The evaluation of the assemblage¹¹⁰ led to the description of the ‘Vanyarc type industry’ defined after the typological evaluation of the lithic tools as well as the observation on the use of the raw material types, with the emphasis on the extralocal rocks. Moreover, in the last years rich and well preserved assemblages were also excavated in the same region, at Szécsénke and Galgagyörk.¹¹¹ In our view, it is important to develop hypothesis and research questions from the well documented assemblages,¹¹² which make possible to raise an issue of the variability of the leaf point industries in Northern Hungary. From this aspect the ‘Jankovichian’ and ‘Szeletian’ are less well defined variants of the Middle or Upper Palaeolithic entities with single poorly documented sites.

Both the Szeletian and the Jankovichian industries have been defined on typological ground, i.e. after the presence of leaf shaped implements. As these artefacts are missing from the Pilisszántó rock shelter II, this site cannot belong to these entities.¹¹³ At the same time, the interpretation of the recently excavated assemblages from the Dzeravá skála cave pointed to an interesting problem. In the uppermost level of layer 11 a ‘raclette’ and a small flake from bifacial retouch,¹¹⁴ in the overlying layer 9 among others a flake from the flat retouching was found.¹¹⁵ The presence of the waste material from the manufacture of bifacial tools raises the question on the ‘[post]Leafpoint’ and ‘Aurignacian’ classification of the little assemblages, especially, that the associated 37 ka B. P. radiocarbon ages are very similar to the dates published from the Szeletian sites in Moravia.

The Bivak and the Remete Upper caves are lying at a large relative height above the bottom of the valley and most probably served for very short occupations (‘bivouac site’),¹¹⁶ similarly to the Istállóskő cave. Accordingly, the number of the excavated artefacts is low and their typological composition is rather one-sided: apart from the bifacial implements the formal tools are represented by side scrapers, and ‘Szeleta scrapers’ or ‘raclettes’, i.e. partly naturally modified pieces, partly reshaped blanks. The Middle Palaeolithic character of the assemblages is also reflected in the flakes with faceted base; however, in the absence of cores the technological evaluation is rather problematic.

Compared these assemblage to that one known from the Jankovich cave, the differences are found in the quantity and not the composition of the tools, suggesting that on this later site a palimpsest of very short occupations could have been excavated. However, the field works at this locality were not documented sufficiently.

It is important to stress the role of the extralocal rocks and pebble raw material used by the humans. In the Bivak cave, the three tools of radiolarite were made on three different macroscopic variants (including the Szentgál type¹¹⁷), one of them certainly of alluvial origin. In the Remete Upper assemblage, beside the artefacts of nummulitic chert¹¹⁸ (Fig. 5.1; Fig. 7.2), the tool of grey silex (Fig. 7.4) and at least one of the radiolarite artefacts (Fig. 5.3)¹¹⁹ were certainly made on pebble raw material. In this later case, the source area of the pebbles is most probably found in the south-western part of Budapest, lying at a distance of 15 km from the site, where large outcrops of the Lower Miocene Budafok formation were found. From the same region sand layers with abundant *Glycymeris* remains, dated to the Oligocene were also reported,¹²⁰ suggesting that the fossil shell could have been transported to the site together with the lithic raw material types.

uncovered so far. Our understanding of the Szeletian in Hungary is still based on the archaeological sequences from the two caves’ is not correct: MESTER 2018, 34; cf. MESTER 2014b, 160.

¹¹⁰ Excavations by K. Zandler and A. Markó. The field reports from these sites are under preparation.

¹¹¹ The average find density of the artefact bearing layer at Vanyarc was 37.5 pieces per square meters, while the maximum number of the pieces excavated in the Szeleta cave on 4 square meters in artificial levels of half meter in thickness was 29: MARKÓ 2012, 214–215; MARKÓ 2016, 24–27. – Although Zs. Mester thinks that it is meaningless to use the find density data for the Szeleta assemblages, these values reflect both the low number of the excavated artefacts and the factually low resolution of the documentation from the Szeleta, compared to the recent excavations: MESTER 2018, 35.

¹¹² For the same reason the assemblages from the Kecségsgalya cave in the southern part of the Bükk Mountains and the AH2 at the Willendorf II site do not belong to the Jankovichian and Szeletian, see: MESTER 2000; NIGST 2012.

¹¹³ KAMINSKÁ *et al.* 2005, 38, Fig. 18.1.

¹¹⁴ KAMINSKÁ *et al.* 2005, 34–35, Fig. 17.1.3.

¹¹⁵ DAVIES–HEDGES 2005, 60, Fig. 1, Table 1.

¹¹⁶ GÁBORI–CSÁNK 1983, 265; GÁBORI–CSÁNK 1984, 11.

¹¹⁷ This term has been used since 1984 for a characteristic macroscopic variant, named after its most important outcrop. However, beside Szentgál a number of occurrences of this type were reported from the Bakony mountains (Lókút, Hárskút and Bakonycsernye) and even from Gerecse (Pisznice), lying at a distance of 20–25 km from the Bivak cave and 35–40 km from the Remete Upper cave: BIRÓ 1984, 49.

¹¹⁸ At this raw material, the raw material of the artefacts without cortical surface are identified collected from secondary sources, as the primary outcrops of this special siliceous rock are not known. The occurrences of nummulitic chert pebbles were reported from several pebble bearing formations dated from the Oligocene/Miocene to the Holocene: MARKÓ–KÁZMÉR 2004.

¹¹⁹ Earlier Gábori–Csánk has taken into consideration the primary radiolarite outcrops around Dorog: GÁBORI–CSÁNK 1983, 269; GÁBORI–CSÁNK 1984, 13.

¹²⁰ FÖLDVÁRY 1929, 38–40.

Earlier we compared the Remete Upper cave assemblage to the uppermost artefacts from the Jankovich cave and to the Szeletian industry, after the presence of the pieces similar to the Moravány types.¹²¹

In a recent paper, however, we argued, that the name of this cultural entity is inappropriate, as it was not possible to define a well-defined assemblage from the eponymous site as the typical Szeletian material. Moreover, because of the problems with the excavations and the documentation of the Szeleta cave, as well as the questions concerning the site formation, we suggested to use 'Szeletian' exclusively for the localities of the Bükk Mountains.¹²²

Concerning the Jankovichian, one of the few characteristic pieces of the Jankovich cave are the Levallois flakes and points thinned on their ventral face.¹²³ Recently Zs. Mester, disputing this observation drew attention to the presence of a similar tool in the Háromkút cave (Fig. 8.1) in the Bükk Mountains.¹²⁴ Though not mentioned, Mester seemingly follows the view by J. Hillebrand by enumerating the Háromkút tool among the 'Protosolutréan' finds.¹²⁵ However, as similar pieces are not found in the Szeleta cave, the tool of the Háromkút cave is generally compared to the artefacts of the Transdanubian Szeletian or the Jankovichian and the Middle Palaeolithic 'rolled' industry of the Gudenus cave in Lower Austria.¹²⁶

M. Gábori was the first to mention from the same site a 'D shaped scraper'¹²⁷ or raclette made of Korlát-type material, also used in the Szeleta and Istállóskő cave (Fig. 8.2). Finally, according to the inventory book a less typical tool with alternating manufacture made on a tabular piece of metarhyolite/felsitic porphyry (Fig. 8.3) belongs to the same assemblage.¹²⁸ These later artefacts were suspected to be collected by Hillebrand in 1923,¹²⁹ however, according to the excavator, during this season no archaeological artefacts were found.¹³⁰ Apart from the uncertainty concerning the circumstances of the recovery of these artefacts, none of them can be regarded as a particularly typical form for the Early Szeletian of the Szeleta cave¹³¹ and this way, the assemblage of the Háromkút cave does not belong to this entity.

On the other hand, the Levallois blanks with ventral thinning at the tip of the tools were recently interpreted as half made tools.¹³² The scars on the artefact of nummulithic chert from the Remete Upper cave (Fig. 4.1),¹³³ however, shows an entirely different manufacturing strategy, starting with broad removals from the whole perimeter of the ventral side of the flake. Furthermore, ventral thinning at the tip of another bifacial tool from the same site, similar in its outline to the Moravány types¹³⁴ (Fig. 5.1) was clearly posterior to the large flat removals covering the entire ventral face.

In any cases, Levallois points and flakes with flat fine ventral thinning at the tip of the tools at their distal part, similar to the Jankovich and Háromkút items are missing from the studied assemblages. This way, the Jankovichian classification of Bivak and the Remete Felső caves is rather problematic.

In this paper several pieces were mentioned from the Remete Upper cave showing apparent typological similarities with the tools from Hont-Csítár or which were made on the raw materials known from the northern part of the Börzsöny Mountains. In 1964 the open-air site of Hont was discussed among the Mesolithic localities.¹³⁵ Five years later M. Gábori performed excavations on the site, but regrettably, no documentation is accessible from the fieldworks¹³⁶ and in 1976 an industry with both Middle and Upper Palaeolithic elements was shortly mentioned from Hont;¹³⁷ the Upper Palaeolithic and later artefacts were handed to the Palaeolithic collection of the Hungarian Na-

¹²¹ MARKÓ 2013a, 20.

¹²² MARKÓ 2016, 32.

¹²³ MARKÓ 2013a, 21.

¹²⁴ MESTER 2017, 86–87.

¹²⁵ HILLEBRAND 1935, 19–20.

¹²⁶ KADIĆ 1934, 66–67; VÉRTES 1965, 142; GÁBORI 1976, 80; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1983, 284–285; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1984, 20–21; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1993, 113; MARKÓ 2013a, 21.

¹²⁷ GÁBORI 1953, 29, Tabl. V, 10.

¹²⁸ VÉRTES 1965, 103–104, 142.

¹²⁹ REGŐS–RINGER 2003.

¹³⁰ 'Dr Kadić gelang es nach zweiwöchlicher Arbeit ein einziges Steinwerkzeug und dem Verfasser in ebenso langer Zeit nicht einmal ein Exemplar zu finden': HILLEBRAND 1935, 19.

¹³¹ Gábori compared the scraper to the Mousterian forms, Vértés to the pieces known from the Jankovich cave: GÁBORI 1953, 29; VÉRTES 1965, 103–104.

¹³² MESTER 2018, 87.

¹³³ There is a special problem concerning the artefacts from the Remete Upper cave, classified as half-made tools of extralocal nummulithic chert. Namely, the lack of flakes and chips suggests, that the first steps of the manufacture were made out of the cave and they were transported to the site, where no further tool making was practiced. Otherwise, the angular breaking pattern on one of the pieces (Fig. 6.2) does not permit further tool making.

¹³⁴ In the Moravany assemblage the points with partial ventral retouch at the tip of the tool are well represented: NEMERGUT 2010, 192, Tab V, 9, 11.

¹³⁵ GÁBORI 1964, 70–72.

¹³⁶ These excavations are not mentioned even among the yearly short reports on the archaeological research, listed in the volume 97 of the periodical *Archaeologiai Értesítő*. See: GÁBORI 1981, 100, note 13.

¹³⁷ GÁBORI 1976, 80–81. – cf. GÁBORI 1964, 70–72.

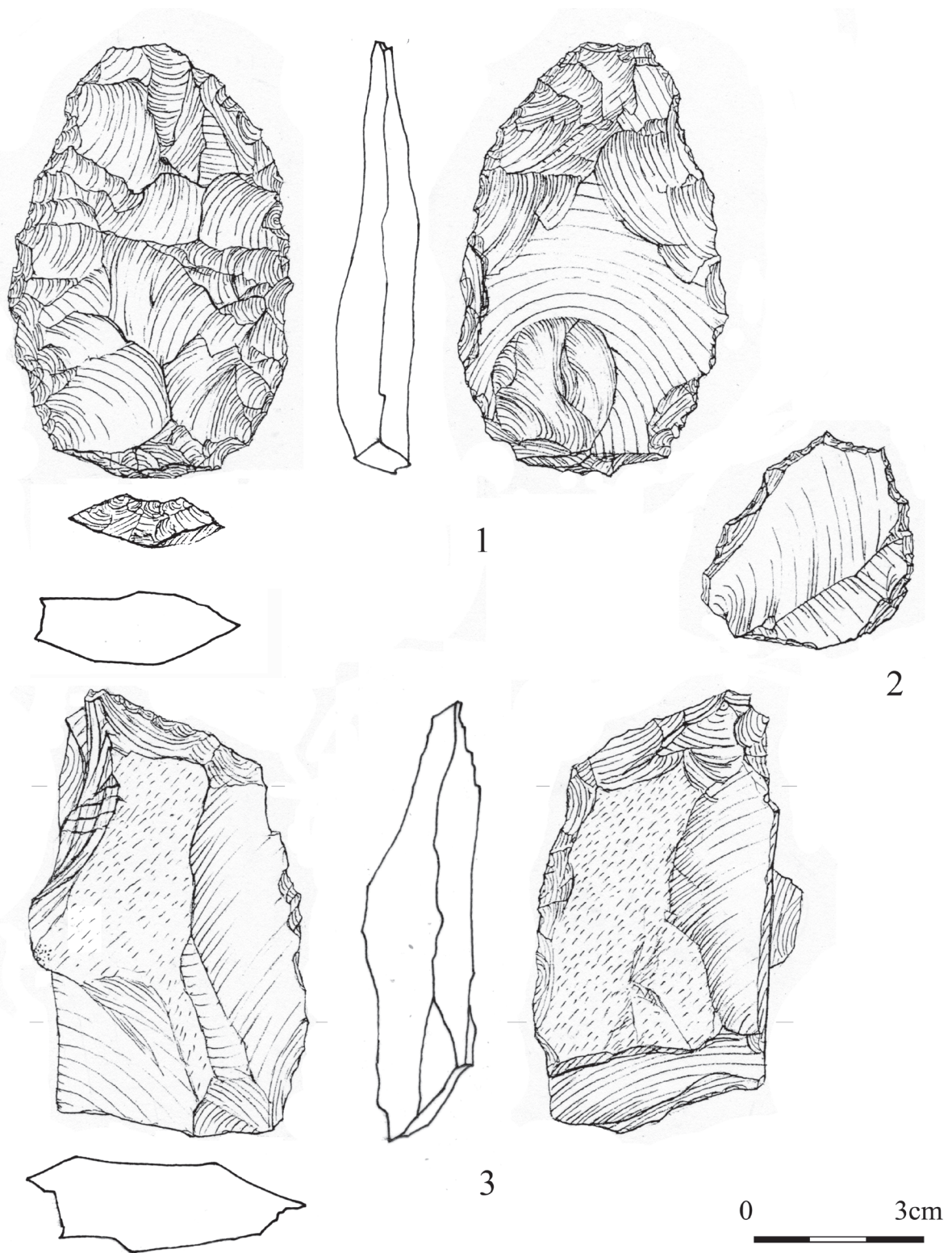


Fig. 8. Háromkút cave: artefacts from the site (drawing by K. Nagy)

tional Museum in 1973.¹³⁸ In connection with the Jankovichian, Hont-Csítár was mentioned along with other assemblages from the open-air sites in Northern Hungary,¹³⁹ but the bifacially worked and Middle Palaeolithic artefacts were added to the Palaeolithic collection only after the death of the excavator in 1996. Regrettably, some tools, published in 1964¹⁴⁰ were found together in the boxes with the lithics of the 1969 excavations, indicating the mixing of the artefacts.¹⁴¹ Luckily, the site was successfully re-identified in 2002 by K. Zandler, A. Péntek and A. Markó. This way, in the future it will be possible to organise control excavations on this important site with the aim of clearing the stratigraphy and the chronology of the artefact bearing layer, as well as the typological composition of the lithic assemblage. On the other hand, some new data concerning the cultural classification not only of this site but indirectly also of the Remete Upper cave assemblage is expected.

QUESTIONS OF THE CHRONOLOGY

The Early Würmian age of the Jankovichian industry, proposed by Gábori-Csánk was based on the mammal biostratigraphy, namely the composition of the faunal assemblages. The recent paleontological evaluations, however, suggest for a more recent age for the layers discussed in this paper, even if the systematic analysis of the faunal assemblage from the Remete Upper and probably the Bivak cave, too, may provide a new biochronological date of the sites.

The archaeological classification of the ‘Jankovichian’ industry is rather problematic. In 2017 M. Patou-Mathis and her colleagues seemingly refuting our idea pointed out that the lower layer of the Istállóskő cave does not belong to the Late Middle Palaeolithic Jankovichian industry.¹⁴² In the same year, one of the co-authors of the same paper, virtually arguing against our observation on the presence of the Moravány type leaf shaped tool in the Jankovich cave,¹⁴³ emphasised that in the Moravány–Dlhá assemblage blades and blade cores, missing from the Jankovich assemblage, are also represented.¹⁴⁴ However, on the same page Mester accepted that the artefacts found in the upper levels of the Jankovich cave can be dated to the Early Upper Palaeolithic period.¹⁴⁵

Finally, in a paper published in 2016, three co-authors by M. Patou-Mathis reported the presence of Late Gravettian artefacts from the Szeleta cave. Although in layer 5 asymmetric leaf shaped points attributed to the Jankovichian or Early Szeletian industry were also found, the conclusion, that this assemblage ‘...can represent a Late Gravettian with leaf points’,¹⁴⁶ suggests that ‘Jankovichian’ lithics in this layer of the Szeleta cave are found in association with the tools dated to the Middle Upper Palaeolithic.

On the other hand, without attaching great importance of the 13 bifacial pieces excavated in more than 950 cubic meters of sediment in the Szeleta cave, after excluding the bifacial tools wearing pseudo-retouch from the study the central hypothesis by Mester was refuted in this paper, as the majority of the asymmetric leaf shaped tools were found in the upper layers 5¹⁴⁷ and 6.¹⁴⁸ This way, these pieces are neither characteristic forms of the lower

¹³⁸ Including some earlier published pieces: GÁBORI 1964, Fig. XIX.7–14,17.

¹³⁹ GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1983, 285; GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1984, 21.

¹⁴⁰ GÁBORI 1964, Fig. XIX.1–4,15–16; cf. ZANDLER 2010, Fig. 8.3–5, Fig. 9.1–2.

¹⁴¹ In fact, the problems with the site and the assemblage started earlier: the locality, first mentioned under the name of Hont-Csítár is in fact identical with Hont-Babát following the present terminology, but not identical with the site excavated by M. Gábori: GÁBORI-CSÁNK 1958, 60–61, obr. 35; ZANDLER 2010, Fig. 33,1.

¹⁴² PATOU-MATHIS *et al.* 2017, 86. – Otherwise, this is a typical example for the straw man argument, as we never classified the given assemblage as Jankovichian: MARKÓ 2017, 194, fn. 14, 15.

¹⁴³ This was, however, suggested by J. Bárta more than fifty years ago: BÁRTA 1960, 310 – cf. HILLEBRAND 1926.

¹⁴⁴ MESTER 2017, 86. – In our view, the validity of the typological classification of a single artefact cannot be questioned or refuted by technological arguments based on another much larger as-

semblage. Moreover, the differences in the site function, i.e. hunting stand in a cave *versus* open-air workshop site makes the comparison of the assemblages rather difficult: NEMERGUT 2010, 190–191, 193.

¹⁴⁵ ‘Pour chaque gisement [i. e. both the Jankovich and the Szeleta cave], les pièces de la partie inférieure de la séquence peuvent appartenir à une industrie de Paléolithique moyen (tardif?), tandis que celles de la partie supérieure peuvent être d’âge du Paléolithique supérieur ancien.’: MESTER 2017, 86.

¹⁴⁶ LENGYEL *et al.* 2016, 181.

¹⁴⁷ At least in the side corridor of the Szeleta cave, where artefacts from layer 5 were documented, no important sediment mixture was observed. In our view, the composition of this assemblage undermines the scientific value of the results of the ‘technological approach’ in the case of the Szeleta and Jankovich caves: MARKÓ 2016, 24, 27–31.

¹⁴⁸ LENGYEL *et al.* 2016, 177, Table 5. – As a matter of fact, the numbers of leafpoints given in this table differ from those found in Table 1 and 4 of the same paper, cf. note 40.

layers of the Szeleta cave nor do they belong to the Early Szeletian and/or Jankovichian industry. Moreover, following the logic used at the Dzeravá skála assemblage, the 44–46 ka B.P. radiocarbon dates from layer 2 of the Szeleta¹⁴⁹ cave may imply a Micoquian affiliation,¹⁵⁰ showing that the asymmetric leaf shaped tools are equally known from the Middle, Early Upper and Middle Upper Palaeolithic layers, and these pieces are not exclusively typical for the Jankovichian and/or Early Szeletian entities.

Earlier we emphasised that in lower layer of the Istállóskő cave,¹⁵¹ as well as in the Jankovich and Bivak caves the Middle Palaeolithic type and bifacially manufactured lithic tools are associated with the Aurignacian-type osseous industry,¹⁵² presenting the typical case of the ‘observational contemporaneity’.¹⁵³ Without giving a comprehensive review of the Central European and Balkan sites¹⁵⁴ we refer to the recently published 36 ka BP radiocarbon age¹⁵⁵ from layer XI of the Obłazowa cave in the Polish Carpathians, where both the osseous point and refitted fragments of a bifacially manufactured leaf point were excavated in the same layer, relatively far from the disturbed part of ‘layer XXII’,¹⁵⁶ i.e. in an *in situ* position.

Finally, the 35.6 ka B.P. direct date of the chisel of antler from the Pálffy/Dzeravá skála cave¹⁵⁷ is slightly older than the previously published 31–31.6 ka B.P. dates of the points¹⁵⁸ from the same site and it seems to be consistent with the above mentioned ages of layer 9 and the uppermost level of layer 11, where bifacial technology is represented by characteristic waste material and a fragment of an osseous point was also excavated.¹⁵⁹ In our view, the osseous artefacts from the Bivak as well as the Jankovich cave will provide similar radiocarbon ages, dating the osseous artefacts to the Middle Würm, approximately to the same period as the Aurignacian sites.

CONCLUSIONS

In the 21st century the importance of the Szeleta and the Jankovich caves is found in their role of the Palaeolithic research in Hungary. The history of these sites and the ‘Szeletian’ and ‘Jankovichian’ industries clearly show that during the evaluation of the results, the data both from the technical literature and the unpublished research reports were often used selectively. Moreover, instead of systematic analysis, ad hoc arguments, informal fallacies and misstatements were also used during the reasoning. Reasoning and important differences in both the numerical data and the interpretation of the same assemblage are frequently noticed in the papers written by the same authors. The most important problem is, however, that the theories and the general reviews are based on the analysis of single pieces and not on the assemblages.¹⁶⁰

In the present paper we found that the Bivak cave is the single ‘Jankovichian’ locality, which was adequately documented using the standards of the age of the excavations. The analysis of the faunal assemblage from the Remete Upper cave may give a solid biochronological background of the archaeological artefacts in the future, however, the field observations concerning the lithic tools are largely missing. Finally, in our view, the recent pub-

¹⁴⁹ HAUCK *et al.* 2016, Tab. 4.

¹⁵⁰ KAMINSKÁ *et al.* 2005, 55; HAUCK *et al.* 2016. – Mester seemingly recognised this when he dated the Early Szeletian from the Szeleta cave to 44–41 cal. B.P., even if in the same paper he sorted the asymmetric pieces from layer 2 to the Early Szeletian assemblage: MESTER 2017, 86, cf. MESTER 2017, 78.

¹⁵¹ Mester suggested, that the leaf shaped scraper from the lower (‘Aurignacian I’) layer of this cave at a distance of 8–10 meters from the trenches where the majority of the bone (in fact: antler) points were documented. This is however, a misleading statement, as in trench VIII lying very close to place of recovery of the bifacial tool five osseous artefacts including two split based points were also excavated from the lower layer: MARKÓ 2017, 206, 216, Table 1, Fig. 9.3.

¹⁵² MARKÓ 2011a, 109–110; MARKÓ 2015, 28.

¹⁵³ MARKÓ 2013b, 199; MARKÓ 2015, 32. – The conjoined fragments (refit group VII) found in the upper and the lower layer of the Istállóskő cave clearly show the complexity of the site formation and/or the problems with the documentation: MARKÓ 2017, 200, Fig. 2, Table 1.

¹⁵⁴ MARKÓ 2013b, 196–197.

¹⁵⁵ LORENEC 2013.

¹⁵⁶ VALDE-NOWAK 2003, Fig. 26, 27, 1, 6.

¹⁵⁷ DAVIES *et al.* 2015, Table 8b.

¹⁵⁸ DAVIES–HEDGES 2005, Table 1; DAVIES *et al.* 2015, Table 8b, 8c.

¹⁵⁹ During the excavations by F. Prošek more than twenty osseous tools were excavated, clearly from the Szeletian layer (in the lower part of the greenish-grey – brownish grey layers 5–11 following the stratigraphy published in 1951 or layer 8 in 1953): PROŠEK 1951, 296, 297–298; PROŠEK 1953, 185, 191.

¹⁶⁰ The typical examples are the technological investigations of the leaf shaped implements, which, ultimately illustrate the return of the dichotomy of the leaf shaped implements on one hand and the accompanying industry (*Begleitindustrie*) on the other one. This rightly criticized approach was typical in the 20th century, see: MESTER 2018, 21 – In agreement with the view expressed earlier by Mester and rejected later without proper argumentation, the leaf shaped implements in themselves are not suitable for archaeological classification: MESTER 2011, 29; MESTER 2014a, 53.

lication on the artefacts from the Dzeravá skála cave allows supposing a leafpoint assemblage ('Szeletian') in layer 9 and 11.

Regrettably, the artefacts from the Jankovich cave were excavated almost exclusively without stratigraphic control and some pieces were erroneously attributed to this assemblage.¹⁶¹ Besides, a few pieces, collected in some cases as stray finds or without stratigraphic observation and having questionable cultural classification have been incorporated to the Jankovichian. This way, after the review of the assemblages excavated after the World War II in Hungary, it is clear that it was prematurely defined as a separate cultural entity. On the other hand, the use of the term 'Szeletian' should be restricted for the Bükk sites,¹⁶² where the occurrences of the asymmetrical leaf shaped tools are independent from the chronological or cultural classification of the similar pieces of the Jankovich cave.

From our part, we suggest to use the term 'leaf shaped industry' (*Blattspitzenindustrie*)¹⁶³ for the diverse lithic assemblages with Middle Palaeolithic elements from the cave sites in the Transdanubia and in the Bükk Mountains,¹⁶⁴ as well as for the recently excavated assemblages in the Cserhát Mountains. Beside the new excavations of the open-air sites and possibly, in the Istállóskő cave¹⁶⁵ the next step in this research can be the investigation of the 'modern traits' known from the assemblages: the intense use of the extralocal raw materials on the Cserhát sites and the presence of the osseous industry in the cave localities.

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¹⁶¹ MARKÓ 2013a, 17, note 29.

¹⁶² VÉRTES 1968; FREUND 1968; GÁBORI 1968; MARKÓ 2016, 32.

¹⁶³ BOLUS–RÜCK 2000, 168; BOSINSKI 2000–2001, 126–133; BOLUS 2004, 20.

¹⁶⁴ Including a part of the assemblage from the Szeleta cave, however, keeping in mind that the lithics, excavated in the upper

layers of this cave are most probably dated to the Middle Upper Palaeolithic: LENGYEL *et al.* 2016.

¹⁶⁵ MARKÓ 2017, 215–216.

¹⁶⁶ The original photograph is stored in the Archives of the Budapest History Museum under the number of H_1540-2004. We are grateful for the friendly help of the colleagues working for the Budapest History Museum.

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