
Technological Choices along the Early Natufian Sequence of el-Wad Terrace, Mount Carmel, Israel

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Abstract

The long sequence of the Early Natufian at el Wad enables us to see whether there are any temporal changes in the technological choices made by the inhabitant's knapping activities. Since many of the influential factors are similar – the provenance of raw material, the type and nature of the raw material, similar subsistence resources it is possible to see more clearly whether there is a change from the earlier to the later occupations of the Early Natufian at the site. The methodology used here is based primarily on attribute analysis of the lithics since refitting is not possible in such a site. In addition, a more in-depth analysis of the cores and core trimming elements was done. The study is still underway but preliminary results show that in all levels the dominant raw material type is a local one, found within the immediate vicinity of the site. This trend, of higher exploitation of the immediate area, is also visible in the stages of production. Large flake cores are absent; most of the blanks are probably the byproducts of the main sequence that was primarily aimed at producing bladelets. The endscrapers might have been brought as finished tools, and perhaps also constitute evidence of another reduction sequence, that was aimed at producing blanks specifically for endscrapers. Besides diachronic changes our study also regards spatial analysis of the various features at the site. Together they will provide a comprehensive picture of the technological choices made during the Early Natufian of this site.

Keywords: natufian, lithic technology, long term occupation

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