
Group identity and social networks in Gravettian. The case of perforated shells from Poiana Cireşului site, north-eastern Romania.

Elena-Cristina Nitu^{*†2,1} and Marin Carciumaru³

²Museum of Human Evolution and Technology in Palaeolithic, “Princely Court” National Museum
Târgovişte – 7 Justiţiei Street, Târgovişte 130017, Dâmboviţa County, Roumanie

¹“Princely Court” National Museum Târgovişte – 7 Justiţiei Street, Târgovişte 130017, Dâmboviţa
County, Roumanie

³“Princely Court” National Museum Târgovişte – 7 Justiţiei Street, Târgovişte 130017, Dâmboviţa
County, Roumanie

Résumé

Most of the Paleolithic art objects and adornments discovered in Romania come from Poiana Cireşului site. Recent investigations in this settlement have revealed four archaeological layers: one Epigravettian layer and three Gravettian ones. The oldest habitation, the third Gravettian layer, is dated to between $25,760 \pm 160$ BP (Beta Analytic 244073) and $27,321 \pm 234$ BP (ER 11859) (31,969 cal BP) and yielded lithic material, fauna remains and large combustion structures. The adornment items discovered in this layer are represented by 48 perforated gastropods shells belonging to the *Homalopoma sanguineum* (10 items) and *Lithoglyphus naticoides* (38 items) species. *Homalopoma sanguineum* is a red-coloured gastropod which belongs to the *Turbinidae* family and is found exclusively in the Mediterranean Sea. The discovery of this species at Poiana Cireşului, a site located in a mountain area specific for the region east of the Carpathians, 800 kilometers away from the nearest possible source, may have significant implications on understanding human groups mobility and vast spaced social networks. Poiana Cireşului is one of the very few Gravettian sites where perforated *Homalopoma sanguineum* shells were found. Furthermore, to our knowledge, the *Lithoglyphus naticoides* species was not being used for adornments in the Gravettian, the perforated pieces discovered in Poiana Cireşului being the only ones of this type. Except for the perforated shells, no other adornment item was discovered in this layer. The surprising facts are the morphology and morphometry of these two species, which may account for the reason behind their selection, as well as provide a clue to the identity of the group. This unique association of perforated shells, found in no other Gravettian settlement, contributes to the individualization of the Poiana Cireşului group’s identity through their adornments. In addition to describing the pieces of adornments and the contexts in which they were discovered, the presentation will comprise the result of the technical and functional analyses carried out on the perforated shells (microscopy, traces of use), as well as discussions regarding group identity and social networks in the Gravettian.

Mots-Clés: Gravettian, adornments, group identity, social networks, north, eastern Romania

*Intervenant

†Auteur correspondant: elenacristinanitu@yahoo.com