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# Sickles and "something more" in the copper age ditch enclosure of Camino de las Yeseras (Madrid, Spain). Threshing-boards, how micro-wear analysis discovers new production activities.

Juan Francisco Gibaja Bao<sup>\*1</sup>, Irene Ortiz Nieto-Márquez<sup>†‡2</sup>, Patricia Ríos Mendoza<sup>§2</sup>, Corina Liesau Von Lettow-Vorbeck<sup>¶2</sup>, and Concepción Blasco Bosqued<sup>||2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Institución Milá y Fontanals. CSIC (IMF-CSIC) – C/ Egipcíiques 15, 08001 Barcelona, Spain

<sup>2</sup>Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM) – Ciudad Universitaria de Cantoblanco · 28049 Madrid, Spain

## Abstract

Until recent dates, studies of lithic tools in Chalcolithic sites have been in the background, when they are still a very abundant record in many productive and funerary contexts. Nowadays, it is possible to go deeper into more aspects than the merely typological ones. Thanks to use-wear analysis it is possible to infer about the real functionality of certain lithic pieces, that until now were interpreted as sickles, using only typological analysis.

This research presents a partial study of laminar lithic tools and bifacial tools documented at Camino de las Yeseras site in San Fernando de Henares (Madrid, Spain). The lithic tools are very characteristic because they have been recovered in different types of domestic structures – houses, enclosures and different functionality pits. The results of their study is supported as well by the presence of millstones, rests of cereal grains, pollen and some other evidences of vegetal elements as spikes and straw.

We have made a techno-traceological study of laminar and bifacial pieces in order to identify their use and try to distinguish labors connected with farming activities. This research has provided important results able to infer that all bifacial pieces were not only sickles, but also threshing-boards. These traces on the tools confirm the implementation of a new farming technology on the site, which would favor a more efficient exploitation of vegetal resources, especially the importance of the cereal production that requires tools as complex and effective as the threshing-boards.

In conclusion, emphasize the important paper of use-wear analysis for some chalcolithic lithic tools, that typologically most of them are not only sickles, but incrustrated in threshing-boards. Up to now, some few Iberian sites are known with threshing-boards identified, and with Camino de las Yeseras results it confirms a new agricultural technology for central Iberia cereal exploitation during Chalcolithic.

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\*Corresponding author: jfgibaja@imf.csic.es

†Speaker

‡Corresponding author: irene.ortiz@uam.es

§Corresponding author: patricia.rios@uam.es

¶Corresponding author: corina.liesau@uam.es

||Corresponding author: concepcion.blasco@uam.es

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