
Middle Pleistocene raw-material procurement and use in the Aegean: a view from the Acheulean of Lesbos

Nena Galanidou*¹, Elli-Rodi Karkazi¹, and Andreas Magganas²

¹University of Crete (UOC) – Gallos University Campus, GR-74100 Rethymnon, Crete, Grèce

²National and Kapodistrian University of Athens – Athens, Grèce

Résumé

Rodafnidia in its volcanic setting near a large palaeo-lake, is a Middle Pleistocene open-air site on the island of Lesbos, yielding compelling evidence for Acheulean groups in the Aegean. Their toolkit comprised a variety of tools, amongst which number Large Cutting Tools (LCTs) with strong affinities with the Large Flake Acheulean. The industry was knapped on three types of chert, which is the main rock used, an andesitic tuff (ignimbrite), and volcanic rocks, such as basalt. The Acheulean finds derive from fluvio-lacustrine deposits at a locale with abundant fresh-water and lithic resources, near the shore of the present-day Kalloni Gulf. By virtue of its content and position at the junction between Anatolia, the Aegean Archipelago and the Balkan Peninsula, Rodafnidia links the Lower Palaeolithic archaeology of south-east Europe with that of west Asia and Africa. This paper presents the strategies of lithic raw material procurement and use at Rodafnidia. It brings together a coherent methodology for the study of Acheulean lithic raw material economy and consumption, founded on interdisciplinary research. The evidence from Lesbos is discussed in a comparative manner.

Mots-Clés: raw material, Acheulean, Lower Palaeolithic, Large Cutting Tools, Aegean, Bifaces

*Intervenant