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# Levallois points: are the same everywhere? A comparative analysis of the eastern and western middle Palaeolithic technologies

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## Résumé

The central area of the Iberian Peninsula is well known for its Lower and Middle Palaeolithic occupation, both in the river terraces of the main rivers of the region (Manzanares and Jarama) as well as for the inter-fluvial region dominated by quarries and catchment areas. The archaeological area of El Cañaveral (Madrid), is one of the most extensive archaeological areas related to flint catchment and knapping activities of Neanderthal groups. All of these sites share a great abundance of stone lithic remains associated with important flint outcrops and secondary deposits. This abundance of lithic resources is clearly related to a wide range of provisioning strategies (Baena et al, 2011; 2014) and with large knapping activities in the same context.

In particular, the Parcela 32 assemblage (El Cañaveral, Madrid-Spain), confirmed the existence of *Levallois* operative chains of recurrent centripetal and unipolar point production modalities. Some schemes presented similarities with those defined in the Near East and northeast Africa as Nubian technology (Crassard and Hilbert 2013). In this study and based on the examples from El Cañaveral, we evaluate the similarities and differences between the *levallois* points modalities between eastern and western Mediterranean, and discuss whether we are dealing with movements of cultural expressions or with independent technological concepts.

This case study approach together with the experimental comparison of technological schemes from Parcela 32, opens a new debate on the influence of the Near East in the Middle Palaeolithic of Iberia.

**Mots-Clés:** Levallois point, lithic assemblage, experimental archaeology, Near East, lithic technology

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