The first information about a possible Middle Paleolithic find in the territory of Serbia is related to the skull with characteristics of Neanderthal man as was explained at one time by N. Županić. This fossil skull, which had been found in a layer together with the teeth of *Elephas antiquus* near the one time Vidin Kapija in Belgrade in 1919, has been lost in the meantime, so the mentioned claims cannot be checked.

Felix Milleker published in 1937 a text about surface finds of Paleolithic artifacts from sites in At, Mesica Kanal and Kozluk, on the outskirts of Vršac. In his work, Milleker quoted interpretations of J. G. McCurdy and R. R. Schmidt who were of the opinion that these finds dated from the Mousterian-Aurignacian (At and Mesica Kanal) and from the Middle Stone Age (Kozluk).

In the beginning of the 1950s the first systematic investigations of the Paleolithic in Serbia also started at the site of the Jerinina cave near the village of Gradac. Archaeological material which was dated, thanks to sedimentological and paleontological analyses, to the Middle Paleolithic was discovered in the course of archaeological excavations carried out in that cave in 1950 and 1951. During 1952, investigations also started in the cave at Risovača on the outskirts of Arandjelovac. The results were equally interesting and archaeological material from the cave that was dated to the Middle Paleolithic was more precisely identified to be of Szeletian provenance. Excavations in the Jerinina and Risovača caves, besides being the first systematic investigations of the Paleolithic in Serbia to the south

---

**Abstract.** – Investigations carried out in Smolucka cave in the 1980s pointed to the presence of an important Middle Paleolithic station thus broadening our meagre knowledge about that period in the territory of Serbia. Owing to circumstances, material has not been completely published so we are presenting, in this work, a rather small group of chipped stone artifacts from the Eneolithic and Middle Paleolithic period in order to complete evidence about finds from the Smolucka cave.

**Key words.** – chipped artifacts, Eneolithic, Middle Paleolithic, Mousterian, Smolucka cave, Serbia.

---

1 Gavela 1956.
2 Milleker 1937.

---

* This text is the result of the project: *Archaeology of Serbia: cultural identity, integration factors, technological processes and the role of the Central Balkans in the development of European prehistory* (no OI177020) financed by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia.
of the Danube, are also important because of the recognition of the Szeletian facies in the Middle Paleolithic material and they mark the beginning of the establishment of a more comprehensive picture of the events that took place during the Middle Paleolithic in the territory of Serbia.4

Brodar wrote in 1955 about artifacts from the site Vršac–Zapadna Strana that have the characteristics of the Mousterian techno-complex.5 Medović published one Paleolithic artifact found at the site of Cigan near Irig6 and, although he dated the artifact as having Late Paleolithic provenance, sometime later that tool was dated to the Middle Paleolithic.7

A paper about segments of a large assemblage of chipped stone artifacts that had been gathered on the Danube bank, a few kilometres upstream from Zemun, was published in 1984. Although most of the material dates from the later prehistoric periods (Late Paleolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic) there is also one group of artifacts, which reveal characteristics of the Middle Paleolithic techno-complex.8

Papers had also been written regarding the first test trench excavations in Smolucka cave in 1984 and in the years following the publication of these works, investigations at the Paleolithic sites throughout Serbia have been conducted, so there are many more published texts with very important results.9

The results of excavations in the Šalitrena cave were published in 198610 and the results of investigations in the Smolucka cave were published between 1985 and 1987.11 One accidental, but very important, find of a Mousterian endscrapper from Rušanj was published in 1990.12 In 1993, Kaluderović published a comprehensive paper about Paleolithic in the light of more recent investigations,13 and in 1996, reports were published about excavations in the Drenăca cave, on Mt Medvednik,14 at Kremenac near Niš,15 in the Mirlovska cave,16 in cave habitations in the territory of Knjaževac17 as well as about site surveys in the Sokobanja valley.18 Synthesis work about the investigations of the Paleolithic conducted in the area of eastern Serbia was published by D. Mihailović, Lj. Đurđević and Z. Kaluderović in 1997.19 Investigations in the Hadži Prodanova cave near Ivanjica suggested the existence of Middle and Upper Paleolithic industry and these results were published in 2006.20 The most recent excavations at the Petrovaradin fortress near Novi Sad brought to light a rich Mousterian (and, to slightly lesser extent, Late Paleolithic) assemblage of chipped stone artifacts.21

The most recent data about Middle Paleolithic artifacts discovered in the territory of Serbia are related to finds from the Balanica cave that were published in 200822 as well as to the Middle Paleolithic finds from the open-air settlement Samaila – Vlaska Glava.23

Material from the site at Kremenac, which was published in 2011, reveals that besides the Lower Paleolithic characteristics, there are also, to some extent, the characteristics of very archaic and untypical Mousterian.24

The Smolucka cave was registered as an archaeological site for the first time in 1983 during the site survey conducted as part of the project “Archaeological site surveying and test trenching of the region of Tutin township” (Fig. 1). Small-scale test trench excavations were conducted on that occasion and it turned out that there were fragments of pottery already in the surface layers dating, most probably, from the Late Middle Ages or from the period of Turkish occupation.25

Where the fragments of prehistoric pottery discovered in deeper layers are concerned, the investigators concluded, on the basis of characteristic specimens, that two chronological horizons could be distinguished – one dating from the Early Iron Age and the other from the Late Eneolithic.

From the first arbitrary layers came only a few flint flakes and one endscraper made on a blade that

---

4 Gavela 1968.
5 Brodar 1955.
6 Medović 1970.
7 Marković, Mihajlović, Oches, Jovanović and Goudényi 2004.
10 Jež i Kaluđerović 1986.
12 Kaluđerović 1990.
13 Kaluđerović 1993.
14 Kaluđerović i Jež 1996.
15 Kaluđerović i Šarić 1996.
16 ђurčić 1996.
17 Sladić i Jovanović 1996.
18 Kaluđerović 1996.
19 Mihailović, Đurđević i Kaluđerović 1997.
20 Mihailović 2006b.
22 Mihailović 2008.
23 Mihailović i Bogosavljević-Petrović 2010.
24 Šarić 2011.
have not been dated as either from the Iron Age or from the Eneolithic.

Taking into account certain indications that the cave had been used for habitation, also in an earlier period, i.e. Paleolithic, and considering the lack of any data about Paleolithic sites in the area between Novi Pazar and Tutin and even wider, in the territory of the entire south and west Serbia, it has been decided to pay special attention to speleological features as locations offering a much better chance to discover Paleolithic habitations than is the case with open-air habitations.26

The Smoluća cave is situated in the area of the village of Smoluća, after which the cave was named, and a small river flowing below the cave. The size of the cave entrance is around 4.0 x 4.5 m and it opens into the first room, which is separated from the second one by a slightly raised stone cascade approximately 1 m high. In front of the cave is a rather small platform, a so-called talus, from which the path descends to the bottom of a canyon created by the Smoluća River. The position of the cave is very interesting. The entrance is on the right bank of the river on a vertical limestone cliff which, together with the cliff on the left bank, creates an entrance/exit for the small canyon (Fig. 2). Opposite the Smoluća cave, on the cliff known locally as Gurdelj (meaning abyss) and about 4 meters above the
bottom of the canyon, is a circular entrance to the cave canal, which is a segment of a more complex cave system. Segments of that system are also the Smolučka cave and the Čamilova cave whose entrance is some tens of meters above the entrance to the Smolučka cave. A segment of the cave system has been destroyed by strong erosion, enhanced by a period of certainly much more distinct activity of the Smolučka river, which nowadays, in dry periods, sinks into the ground at some spots and then, in the summer months, appears as a permanent and inexhaustible spring at the bottom of the canyon just below the Smolučka cave. A dry cave area with small temperature changes, a large and bright first room, a platform/talus in front of the entrance suitable for everyday activities and offering a good view of the surroundings, the proximity of drinkable water, a sheltered position in the forest, which must have surrounded the cave also during Middle Paleolithic and a steep and easily defendable approach made the Smolučka cave a convenient and desirable habitation for prehistoric man. Besides all the mentioned conveniences, the proximity of drinkable water was certainly a genuine blessing and one of huge importance in the process of choosing the habitation location.

Just such characteristics distinguished Smolučka cave as the most interesting archaeological site within the surveyed territory, and the first, rather large, test trench excavations were conducted in 1984 and continued in 1985. A depth of 2.2 meters was reached in the course of these excavations and nine geological sediments marked I, II, IIa, III, IV, V, Va, VI, VII, VIII and IX were encountered in the trench profiles.27

Material remains have been discovered in the sediments/layers I–III which were dated to the Eneolithic and Hallstatt period on the basis of registered pottery. Layers V and Va date, without doubt, from the Middle Paleolithic, layers VI and VII did not provide identifiable material except a small quantity of osteological finds and in layer VIII indications of yet another Paleolithic layer were recorded, while layer IX was not possible to define clearly. Layer IV, without pottery fragments but with osteological material and chipped stone artifacts, also remained insufficiently defined. Because of the small amount of chipped artifacts and their typologically indefinable nature, it was not possible to classify layer IV more clearly, but these artifacts were an indication that this layer also dates from the Paleolithic period.

Excavations carried out in 1986 in layer VIII (sq. F/9, F/10 I F/11) brought to light a well-preserved hearth and a stone structure which, following macroscopic analysis of sediments, confirmed that layer IV dates from interstadial Würm 2/3, while layer V with phase Va dates from stadial Würm 2. This provided decisive confirmation that Middle Paleolithic man inhabited the Smolucka cave.28

Investigations at the Smolucka cave also continued in 1987 via excavations inside the cave (sq. G/10, G/11 and sq. G/10’ and G11’) as well as at the entrance, i.e. on the so-called talus (sq. G/1, G/2 and sq. G/1’ and G/2’). It is important to mention that excavations did not reach the bottom of the cave at any place meaning that it is also possible to expect new cultural layers of the Middle Paleolithic in the remaining unexcavated geological sediments (Fig. 3).

The author of the excavations, Z. Kaluderović, assumed that a certain segment of the discovered chipped stone artifacts from later layers (I–III) date from Late Paleolithic, thus indicating an even longer period of habitation in this cave in the Paleolithic period, additionally increasing its importance. The most important finds excavated in 1987 are the chipped stone artifacts originating from layer IV in the cave interior and from the talus. Although the finds were not published separately, Z. Kaluderović identified them in his report as Levallois and pseudo-Levallois tools on the basis of technological characteristics. That also dated layer IV, which was, until then, of indistinct age, to the Middle Paleolithic.29

These tools, which Z. Kaluderović mentioned only summarily, will be presented in this work in order to establish, together with published material discovered during excavations in 1984–1985, a more complete picture about the cultural provenance of finds from Middle Paleolithic layers in the Smolucka cave and to also point to the importance of the Eneolithic horizon.

This study includes 29 artifacts in total and of that number, 21 artifacts come from the platform in front of the cave, the so-called talus, where the activities had always been more prominent than inside the cave. Eighteen artifacts from the talus area were found in layer 2, which certainly does not belong to the Paleolithic horizon and could be related to the Eneolithic layer (Fig. 4/1–18).30 The remaining 3 artifacts from the talus zone were discovered in layer 4, which is associated with layer 4 in the cave interior and they, without doubt, date from the Middle Paleolithic horizon (Fig. 4/18–21).

Eneolithic chipped stone artifacts are represented by small flakes and blades that are all fragmented. The reason for such fragmentariness could be the place it was found, i.e. the talus area, where human activities were more prominent during life in the cave, however, it could also be the result of natural phenomena such as gravitational transport or torrents during heavy rain, when rocks from higher positions rolled down and, while falling, they could have broken existing artifacts. The Eneolithic material contained mostly unretouched specimens (Figs. 4/1–3, 6–8, 10–18), with only one retouched blade (Fig. 4/4) and two retouched flakes which could be identified as lateral sidescrapers (Fig. 4/5, 9). Not a single Eneolithic artifact reveals any traces of use according to which it might be possible to define any distinct activity taking place in the cave. Unfortunately, a small number of chipped artifacts from the Eneolithic layer and their typological undifferentiation do not allow a complete picture to be formed of Eneolithic provenance.

---

28 Калучеровић 1986.
29 Калучеровић 1987.
30 During initial test trenching in the Smolucka cave only a few chipped stone artifacts were found in the top layers of the trench. The author of the excavations, M. Jevtić, did not define whether they belong to the Iron Age or Eneolithic horizon. The author of this text took part in later excavations as a member of Z. Kaluderović’s team. In the course of those excavations, no chipped artifacts were encountered in the upper layers when new areas were excavated. Specimens, which did not date from the Paleolithic horizon, also did not date from the Iron Age horizon, so they could be classified as certainly of Eneolithic provenance. If there was any mixing of material in the later prehistoric layers then it is more probable that some Eneolithic chipped stone artifacts have been found in the Iron Age horizon rather than authentic Iron Age specimens.
Fig. 4. Chipped artifacts from Eneolithic layer (1/18) and Middle Paleolithic layer (19–21)

Сл. 4. Окресаи артефакци из енеолитски слој (1/18) и средњоалеолитски слоја (19–21)
industry in the central Balkans on the basis of these finds. Where Eneolithic finds from the Smoluća cave are concerned, they represent only an additional indicator suggesting the importance of the cave as a habitation in the later prehistoric periods.

Much more interesting and important are the chipped artifacts from the Paleolithic layer. Although Kaluderović mentions around 200 specimens, only a few have been published and they, together with artifacts studied in this work, are not even close to that number. Considering the 13 specimens published in 1985 and the 11 specimens presented in this text, we only have 24 artifacts which are related to the Middle Paleolithic horizon at the Smoluća cave. It is unclear what happened to the remaining Paleolithic finds, so the specimens from this work, together with the already published artifacts, are the only evidence of the Mousterian horizon at the Smoluća cave.

The following Middle Paleolithic specimens came from the talus area:
– Unretouched flake (Fig. 4/19). Platform trihedral, of trapezoidal shape. The bulb of percussion is very prominent and with no visible scars. The right half and distal end are fragmented, with no noticeable traces of use. Hornstone of gray-olive colour, glossy surface, partially translucent. 2.0 cm x 2.6 cm x 0.4 cm. Sq. G/1, layer 4.
– Unretouched flake (Fig. 4/20). Platform of lentil shape with facets. The bulb of percussion and scar are well pronounced with no re-touching or traces of use. Siltstone (?) of black colour, matt surface, opaque. 2.9 cm x 2.9 cm x 0.5 cm. Sq. G/1, layer 4.
– Massive, asymmetrical, unretouched flake. The platform is not preserved and there is a conspicuous trace of a very pronounced bulb of percussion. Traces of use are indistinguishable. Silicified magnesite of gray-yellowish colour, matt surface, opaque. 5.9 cm x 8.0 cm x 2.2 cm. Sq. H/1, layer 4 or 5, x=0.40 m, y=0.15 m, z=2.35 m

The following Middle Paleolithic artifacts came from the excavated area within the cave:
– Fragmented blade (Fig. 5/1). The distal end and part of the right edge are missing. The platform is asymmetrical, triangular and with facets. The bulb of percussion and scar are well pronounced with no re-touching or traces of use. Hornstone of gray colour, matt surface, opaque. 4.6 cm x 2.6 cm x 0.6 cm. Sq. E/13, layer 4, point 135.

– Unretouched flake (Fig. 5/2). The remains of a river pebble cortex on the distal end. Although the proximal end is fragmented, a very pronounced bulb of percussion is conspicuous with no traces of use. Hornstone of gray-olive color, glossy surface, partially translucent. 4.4 cm x 3.1 cm x 0.6 cm. Sq. E/12, layer 4, point 149.

– Unretouched flake (Fig. 5/3). The striking platform is large, trapezoidal and concave. On the dorsal side is a scar of triangular flake from the distal direction. The bulb of percussion is very pronounced and asymmetrical with no traces of use. Hornstone of gray-olive colour, glossy surface, partially translucent. 2.8 cm x 2.2 cm x 1.3 cm. Sq. G/11, layer 5, x=0–20 cm, y=80–100 cm.

– Retouched flake (Fig. 5/4). The platform is large, of trapezoidal shape and dihedral. The bulb of percussion is slightly pronounced with a visible scar. The right half of the dorsal side is under a river pebble cortex. A direct, irregular lateral retouch was recorded on the left edge. The tool could be identified as a knife but also as a sidescraper with no visible traces of use. Siltstone (?) of black colour, matt surface, opaque. 5.0 cm x 3.1 cm 1.2 cm. Sq. G/11, between points 147 and 160.

– Unretouched flake (Fig. 5/5). The platform is triangular and dihedral. The bulb of percussion is well pronounced and the scar is indistinguishable. There are no visible traces of use. Quartzite of greyish-white colour, glossy surface, translucent. 2.7 cm x 2.0 cm x 0.9 cm. Sq. G/11, layer 5, x=0–20 cm, y=08–100 cm.

– Unretouched flake with characteristics of pseudo-Levallois technology of knapping (Fig. 5/6). The platform is narrow and of sinusoidal shape. The bulb of percussion is well pronounced and the scar is large with no visible traces of use. Hornstone of gray colour, matt surface, opaque. 3.7 cm x 3.6 cm x 0.6 cm. Sq. H/11, point 167, xy=130 x 12 cm

– Unretouched flake (Fig. 5/7). The platform is triangular and dihedral. The bulb of percussion is very pronounced and the scar is indistinguishable. The right half of the artifact is fragmented with no visible traces of use. Hornstone of gray colour, glossy surface, opaque. 2.3 cm x 1.7 cm x 0.6 cm. Sq. G/9, layer 4, point from 170 to 175.

– Unretouched flake (Fig. 5/8). The platform is of lentil shape and trihedral. The bulb of percussion is

31 Kaluderović 1993.
very pronounced and the scar is small. It is fragmented on both edges and on the distal end with no visible traces of use. Hornstone of dark brown colour, glossy surface, opaque. 2.0 cm x 2.4 cm x 0.4 cm. Sq. G/9, layer 4, point 172.

The only retouched specimen is the flake presented in figure 5/4. It is characterized by a lateral retouch with irregular facets executed on the left edge. The tool shape, as well as the retouch position, makes the possible use of this artifact as a blade or as a sidescraper. Traces of use, which might indicate one or other of the functions, have not been identified on this artifact. The tool was made of river pebble flake with the cortex preserved on the right half of the dorsal side. This is an indication of the rational use of all raw materials with suitable characteristics which were available in the immediate vicinity for the production of artifacts.

Unfortunately, all the specimens originating from the Paleolithic horizons excavated in the Smolucka cave in 1987 do not have sufficiently clear and distinct characteristics by which they could be unconditionally related to the Levallois techno-complex. The fact is that the author of the excavations, Z. Kaluderović, when he was working in the Smolucka cave and while he had in front of him a much larger quantity of artifacts, mentioned the large differences in size, the variation of shapes, thicker flakes, a large bulb of percussion and a large striking platform on the flakes as their main characteristics. All this points to the artifacts having resulted from direct core knapping. According to the cited characteristics, he identified that industry as one with certain characteristics of the Levallois techno-complex but without the possibility of establishing more precisely the level of use of Levallois technology. He also remarked that the appearance of blades is uncommon.32

The raw material used for the production of chipped artifacts by former visitors to the Smolucka cave does not reveal a great diversity of material used either in the Eneolithic or in the Middle Paleolithic, regardless of the large chronological interval between these two periods. This indubitably means that both populations were familiar with the same finding places, probably

32 Kaluderović 1985.
in the immediate vicinity of the cave from where they obtained the raw material for making chipped stone artifacts but that are not visible today on the surface. Artifacts dating from the Eneolithic horizon were made exclusively of good-quality hornstone of red, grey, grey-olive, brown or beige colour. One of the Middle Paleolithic artifacts from the talus zone is made of grey-olive hornstone (Fig. 4/19), one is of silicified magnesite of pale yellowish colour (Fig. 4/21). Out of eight indubitably Middle Paleolithic artifacts from the cave interior, six are made of hornstone of grey, grey-olive and dark brown colour (Fig. 5/1–3, 6–8), one is of fine-grained quartzite of greyish-white colour (Fig. 5/5), while one is of siltstone (?) of black colour (Fig. 5/4).

Certain specimens made of quartzite and silicified magnesite are indicators of the rational use of raw materials when, in the moments of the unavailability of good quality material, all easily obtainable rocks from the immediate vicinity were used in order to produce tools for the successful performing of distinct tasks. A rational attitude towards all available raw materials, which could have been used for the production of necessary tools at the given moment, is the characteristic of all prehistoric cultures. One of the indicators of this approach is the appearance of a river pebble cortex preserved on some artifacts and it confirms that raw material gathered from the Smoluća River had also been used. It is a raw material whose primary sources are somewhere upstream in the mountains from where it was transported by water current and used for the production of artifacts, regardless of the relatively small dimensions of the pebbles.

Along with earlier published artifacts from the Smoluća cave, it could be concluded that Middle Paleolithic (Mousterian) industry from that site is represented by the following basic types of chipped stone tools:

- unretouched flakes and blades (some of the specimens have distinctive traces of damage, which could be the result of use).
- retouched flakes and blades
- endscrapers on flakes
- knife (perhaps lateral sidescraper?)
- nosed sidescraper/knife

One should always bear in mind that typology, which we apply today in the process of classification of distinct chipped artifacts, does not necessarily mean that the tool had been used in the way that its name suggests. There are many examples that sidescrapers were in fact knives, blades were used as sidescrapers, burins were used as blades and many other artifacts also combined several functions.

If we take into account the number of basic types of chipped stone artifacts from the Middle Paleolithic horizon, it looks like a very small sample. However, we should not forget that only a small portion of the discovered material has been examined and that among the remaining material (today unavailable) there are most probably some more types of tools. Nevertheless, despite that limiting factor, it is conspicuous that the chipped stone industry from the Smoluća cave is represented by rather rudimentary and crude forms. A very small number of basic types of chipped stone artifacts defines the Smoluća cave itself in a distinct way. Even if we assume that from the cave have come 200 artifacts, (that could not be documented using available material) it is an exceptionally small number of artifacts in comparison with the total excavated area and the depth reached. On the basis of the number of available artifacts, their typology and the density of finds, the inference is that the cave was a temporary habitation in certain periods of the year, most probably in summer months when it was the station of a rather small community which was wandering about this area in search of vegetable and animal food rich in highly valuable proteins. In the winter time the approach to the cave was difficult. The Smoluća River could have been dry or the spring below the cave frozen and, because of low temperatures and the cold wind which gets stronger in the narrow canyon, to stay in the cave becomes unpleasant even in the present day climate, and it would certainly have been even more unpleasant in the former glacial periods.

Considering that the bottom has not been reached in any part of the cave, as we already mentioned, we could assume that all cultural layers have not been discovered. As much as this fact gives hope to future investigators, it does not make it any easier for present day investigators to draw any final conclusions about the cultural provenance of this speleological and archaeological feature.

Dating of charcoal fragments from the Middle Paleolithic layers at the Smoluća cave revealed the date of 38,000 years, thus assigning, with certainty,
this Paleolithic horizon to the Mousterian period and its later phases.\textsuperscript{34} Finds of chipped artifacts from stratified layers of the Smolucka cave and their indisputable dating to the Middle Paleolithic period still gives this site a distinct place among the Mousterian sites in the territory of Serbia. The geographical position of this speleological, archaeological and paleontological feature defines the Smolucka cave, for the time being at least, as the southernmost site with Mousterian finds in the territory of Serbia. The proximity of important Middle Paleolithic sites, including the Hadži Prodanova cave and Samaila–Vlaska Glava in Serbia, and Mališina Stijena in the canyon of Čehotina in Montenegro, indicate the possibility that former inhabitants of the Smolucka cave also belong to the segment of the population inhabiting the aforementioned sites. On the other hand, the relative proximity of the Adriatic region with the exceptionally important Mousterian sites in Montenegro\textsuperscript{35}, including also Mališina Stijena, possibly indicates the area from which the Middle Paleolithic inhabitants of the Smolucka cave, spreading further to the west and north, also arrived. On the basis of the small amount of chipped artifacts from the Smolucka cave and the absence of any complete sets of comparable C14 dates, it is, at the moment, impossible to draw clear parallels when we consider the chipped stone industries originating from the mentioned sites, so it is therefore impossible to draw any final conclusions about any mutual contacts between these Middle Paleolithic communities.

If investigations are ever to be continued in the Smolucka cave it is certain that new and important data will be obtained for the interpretation of Middle Paleolithic in the zone where the Adriatic region and its mountainous hinterland are connected. In that case it would be possible to establish clearly and unambiguously whether the contacts between populations from these two geographic areas existed or not and if they did, what their direction was, i.e. what the direction of colonisation and settling of the mentioned areas was.

If there are no further investigations, the Smolucka cave will remain as an important indicator that in the neighbouring areas abounding in caves in the limestone massifs, it should also be expected that new, equally important sites, could be found. The proximity of the Pešter plateau, which got its name from the numerous speleological features (pešter means cave in Serbian), is the region to which attention should be directed in future investigations.

Serbia was, until a few decades ago, a genuine blank area on the map of the Balkans where investigations of the Paleolithic sites are concerned. Excavations in the Jerinina cave and Risovača represented a breakthrough in the knowledge about Paleolithic in the territory of Serbia and investigations which have been intensified, particularly after the 1980s when the Smolucka cave was investigated, finally confirmed that the territory of present day Serbia had been inhabited during the Paleolithic period, and to much greater extent than anyone could have assumed in the early days of the investigations.

\textsuperscript{34} Hedges et al. 1990.
\textsuperscript{35} Basler 1967.
BIBLIOGRAPHY:


Josip ŠARIĆ, Smolucka cave – unpublished chipped stone artifacts from excavations in 1987 (9–21)


Смолуђка пећина је као археолошко налазиште први пут забележена 1982. године, приликом рекогносцирања обаљњених у оквиру пројекта „Археолошко рекогносцирање са содирањем подручја опширне „Тутина“. Недостатак било каквих података о палеолитским налазиштима на простору између Новог Пазара и Тутина, а шира и на територији целе јужне и западне Србије, још је основни разлог да се посебно пажња усмери на спелеолоšке објекте као локације које истраживачима нуде знатно веће шансе за проналажење палеолитских станишта него што је то случај са таквим стаништима на отвореном простору.

Смолуђка пећина налази се у атару села Смолуђа, по којем су име добили и пећина и реци која пролази под њом. Улаз у пећину има размере око 4,0 м x 4,5 м и кроз њега се ступа у прву просторију, која је од друге, нешто издигнутија, одвојена каменом каскадом висине око 1 м. Пред улазом се налази мања платформа, са које се стазом спусти на дно каньона који је формира Смолуђска пећина рачина.

Уз већ раној публикованим артефактима из Смолуђке пећине произлази закључак да је средњопалеолитска (мустеријска) индустрија тог локалитета заступљена следећим основним типовима налаза овог природног објекта:

- нерегулирани одбици и сечива (неки од примерака имају изражене трагове употребе),
- регулирани одбици и сечива,
- струтачи на одбицима,
- нож (можда латерална пострашка ?),
- куласти пострашка/нож.

Увек треба имати на umu da tipologija koju mi danas применjujemo priлиkom deфинисања одређених артефаката не значи неопходно и да је латика коришћена на наци који сам назив сутерен. Бројни су примери да су по- струше биле заправо ножеве, сечива су коришћена као пострашка, али су пострашка као резачи, а многи арте- факти су у себи сећањива и неолики функција. Веома скроман број основних типова палеолитских арте- факата и саму Смолуђку пећину дефинишу на посебан начин. Чак и уз претпоставку да из пећине потиче 200 арте- факата (што није документовано доступним подацима), рек је о сувоме малом броју артефаката у односу на ископа- вању површину и достигнуту дубину, без обзира на то што дно пећине није откривено, а самим тим нису у потпуности дефинисани сви културни слојеви.

На основу броја доступних артефаката, њихове типоло- гије и густине налаза, настаје се закључак да је пећина имала карактер привременог прибјешта у одређеним периодима, највероватније у летњим, а свакako не у зимском, када је приступ отежан, рачина пресушена или замрзнута, а због ниских температура и хладног ветра који се појављује на су- женом делу каньона, боравак у пећини постаје непријатан.

Датовање фрагмената древног угла из средњопалеолит- ског слојева Смолуђке пећине дошло је старост од 38.000 години, што тај палеолитски хоризонт сигурно опредељује као му- стеријенски. Налази из стратификованих слојева Смолуђке пећине и њихово несумњиво датовање у период средњег палео- лита изазвају ову локалитету посебно место између му- стеријенских локалитета на територији Србије. Географски по- ложај овог средњопалеолитског, археолошког и палеонтолошког објекта Смолуђку пећину дефинише, за сада, као најујуж- нију тачку са мустеријенским наноzem на територији Србије. Близина значајних средњопалеолитских налазишта, каква су Хаци Проданова пећина и Самила–Влашка глава, указу- ју на могућност да и некадашњи становници Смолуђке пе- ћине припадају популацији која је насељавала поменуте локалитете. С друге стране, релативна близина јадранске регије са изузетно значајним мустеријенским локалитетима на територији Црне Горе, указује на простор на ком је можда стигли и средњопалеолитски становници Смолуђке пећине проширивао се даље ка западу и северу. На основу малобројних окрашених артефаката из Смолуђке пећине данас не могуће повући јасне паралеле у вези са окрашеним носиоцима на територији Црне Гора, што указује на простор на ком су се можда стигли и средњопалеолитски становници Смолуђке пећине проширивао се даље ка западу и северу. На основу малобројних окрашених артефаката из Смолуђке пећине данас не могуће повући јасне паралеле у вези са окрашеним носиоцима на територији Црне Гора, што указује на простор на ком су се можда стигли и средњопалеолитски становници Смолуђке пећине проширивао се даље ка западу и северу.