

## SVOBODA SIRAKOVA

Emerita National Institute of Archaeology and Museum  
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences  
bodysirakova@yahoo.com

## PRESPA PUSHEVA

New Bulgarian University  
prespa\_pusheva@abv.bg

## ELENA NACHEVA

Department of Archaeology, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"  
la\_fillette@abv.bg

# LATE CHALCOLITHIC FLINT ASSEMBLAGE FROM THE PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENT OF TELISH-LAGA

## ABSTRACT

The paper presents the result of a techno-typological analysis of the flint implements from the archaeological investigation at the settlement Telish-Laga. The flint assemblage comes from the context of two geological horizons, which refer to the Late Chalcolithic culture of Krivodol-Salkutsa-Bubani.

The collection consists of 1398 artefacts. Typologically, it is divided as follows: specimens with traces of preparing the cores, cores, debitage products, and retouched forms. A detailed analysis of the flint assemblage suggests the following conclusions:

- relatively small number of cores,
- the debitage products were mainly obtained from unidirectional cores,
- the blades significantly prevail among the debitage products,
- relatively large number of retouched tools, as more than half of the tools are on blades,
- the end scrapers prevail in the composition of the assemblage,
- lack of typological variety in retouched tools.

The quantitative dominance of end scrapers in the assemblage and macroscopically visible traces of wear on

some of them indicate manufacturing is directly oriented on the processing of animal products, such as skin, meat, bone or horn. In general, the structure of the assemblage indicates that the preparation of the core was mainly carried out off-site. Other kinds of activities were performed on-site, including manufacturing flakes/blades from cores, retouches, repairs, and so on.

The settlement in Telish-Laga occupied a stratigraphic hiatus between the horizons II and III of the prehistoric settlement of Telish-Redutite. Both settlements refer to the so-called "altitude settlements", characteristic of the area of the Krivodol-Salkutsa-Bubani ethno-cultural complex. However, it is possible to accept a different hypothesis – the settlement from the locality of "Laga" may have continued Horizon II of Redutite.

In the technological and typological aspect, the assemblage of Telish-Laga finds analogies in certain Neolithic collections, such as Gradeshnitsa-Malo Pole, Gradeshnitsa-Lukanovo Darvo, or Zaminets. It also shares similarities with the late Neolithic-Early Chalcolithic assemblages of Altimir-Bresta and Gradeshnitsa-Gradishteto.

**Keywords:** Telish-Laga, flint assemblage, Late Chalcolithic, Pleven region, Bulgaria

The Late Chalcolithic settlement of Laga occupies an area of 5 acres located about 1 kilometre north of the village of Telish, Pleven region, at the end of a high plateau, 196 metres above sea level. About 1 kilometre to the south of it, on the same plateau, there is another site from the same period – Telish-Redutite. It was discovered in 1979 by Ventsislav Gergov. The excavations of the archaeological site of Telish-Laga were carried out on a total area of 275 square metres. The depth of the trenches varies between 0.5 and 1.2 metres. In accordance with the assumed research strategy, certain areas were selected for a detailed examination of their archaeological contexts, which led to determining that the site was inhabited several times. The flint assemblage comes from the context of two geological horizons which refer to the Late Chalcolithic culture of Krivodol-Salkutsa-Bubani.

### Raw materials

A system based on specific macroscopic characteristics – colour, structure, transparency, inclusions, smoothness, lustre, and cleavage – was used to describe the raw materials.<sup>1</sup> The following main types of raw materials could be distinguished:

BG-TL-F1 – wax-brown colour, matte, opaque, without inclusions, smooth fracture, partly light brown stripes, good cleavage.

BG-TL-F2 – light beige in colour, matte, opaque, inclusions in the form of white to beige dots, smooth fracture, slightly rough cortex in whitish colour, good cleavage.

BG-TL-F3 – light beige colour, matte, opaque, inclusions in the form of small dots and spots, smooth fracture, good cleavage.

BG-TL-F4 – brownish to dark brownish colour, matte, opaque, smooth fracture, inclusions in the form of small and large dots and spots in whitish colour, good cleavage.

BG-TL-F5 – light brownish to light greyish colour, matte, opaque, smooth fracture, whitish-brownish colour cortex, poor cleavage.

BG-TL-F6 – light brownish to dark brownish colour, matte, opaque, smooth fracture, inclusions in the form of dots and whitish stripes, dark reddish colour cortex, good cleavage.

BG-TL-F7 – light brownish with whitish yellow emulsion, matte, opaque, inclusions in the form of partly dark brown stripes, relatively good cleavage.

BG-TL-F8 – light grey colour, matte, opaque, smooth fracture, inclusions in the form of regular dots

of light/dark grey colour, amorphous formations, good cleavage

BG-TL-F9 – light grey colour, darker grey amorphous formations, matte, opaque, slightly transparent, grey-coloured cortex, good cleavage.

BG-TL-F10 – dark grey colour, matte, opaque, smooth formation, regular inclusions in the form of light dots, good cleavage.

BG-TL-F11 – dark grey, glossy surface, transparent, smooth fracture, partial inclusions in the form of dots, good cleavage.

BG-TL-K – quartzite, light colour, amorphous formation in yellowish colour, good transparency, poor cleavage.

BG-TL – igneous rock, greenish colour, average grained structure.

BG-TL-FOB1 – brownish to dark reddish, glossy, opaque, smooth fracture, inclusions in the form of light dots, thermal cracks, good cleavage.

The raw material used has an amorphous structure, with the light beige, grey-beige, and brown-yellow colour with whitish inclusions in the form of spots and small dots. The vast majority of lithic artefacts were made of flints F2, F5, and F6, which represent about 60% of the total number of investigated artefacts. The other types of raw materials provide an opportunity to divide them into two groups based on their usage – one with a more significant quantitative superiority and the other consisting of the raw materials used in equal or smaller amounts. All types of raw materials are represented in the most numerous technical-typological group of the assemblage – the debitage – as well as in the group of tools. Only in the manufacturing of the cores some of the raw materials are not represented.

Manufacturing of flint artefacts depends mainly on the quality of raw materials used to make them. The supply of raw materials was obtained mainly from deposits of local and meso-local origin. Diverse resources were available in different parts of Bulgaria. The high quality of raw materials during the Chalcolithic Period and the different raw materials used in the late Neolithic Period essentially determined the production of artefacts in these two epochs. Generally, the Chalcolithic is characterised by the manufacturing of blades, while during the late Neolithic, a significant number of flakes were still manufactured in parallel with blades. This aspect undoubtedly influenced the manufacturing represented in the assemblage.<sup>2</sup>

The flint collection from Telish-Laga consists of 1398 artefacts, which are divided into the following technological groups: specimens with traces of core preparation, cores, debitage products, and retouched forms.

<sup>1</sup> Pawlikowski 1990.

<sup>2</sup> Todorova 1986.

Table 1. The general structure of the Telish-Laga flint assemblage.

| techno-typological groups                           | number of finds | %      |
|---|-----------------|--------|
| cores and specimens with traces of core preparation | 49              | 3.5%   |
| flakes (and fragments)                              | 471             | 33.7%  |
| blades (and fragments)                              | 511             | 36.6%  |
| retouched forms                                     | 329             | 23.5%  |
| post-production remains                             | 38              | 2.7%   |
| TOTAL   | 1398            | 100.0% |

### Cores (49)

Exceptionally, cores in this group included also concretions, specimens with traces of core preparation, and pre-cores. Most of the concretions and massive fragments showed traces of “unorganised” blows with an idea of removing the cortex or “searching” for a place to locate a platform or flaking platform, without making the next specific technological processes. Resignation in the majority of cases was due to cracks (fractures) in the flint mass or failed blows. For the most part, the flint concretions are preserved with the cortex. The assemblage contains nine flint concretions, four of which are of enormous size and made of the raw material F9. Their lengths vary between 7.0 and 10.0 centimetres. Some of the specimens were secondarily used as hammers. The other five specimens are of the beige coloured F3 flints, with partially preserved cortex, and smaller in size, varying between 6.0 and 8.0 centimetres in length. Two of the specimens are shaped very similarly to hand axes.

### Pre-cores (10)

Six of the pre-cores were formed on flakes and the rest on flint concretions. The flakes are of medium size, with the cortex partially preserved on the dorsal surface. The ventral parts of the flakes were used as flaking platforms. In many cases, traces of preparation of platforms or flaking platforms are visible on the pre-cores. All of the pre-cores are unidirectional and meant for obtaining flakes. Most specimens show clear signs of attempted flaking platform preparation on the wider part of the concretions.

### Cores (30)

Seven cores were formed on flakes, including one on a fragment of a flake. The flakes are not large in size – they are about 5.0–6.0 centimetres long and the ventral surface of the fragment was used as a platform. Only one of the cores has a rounded (discoïdal) flaking surface and was used for blades.

Twenty-one cores were formed on concretions measuring between 3.5 and 6.0 centimetres in length, 4.0 to 7.0 centimetres in width, and 2.0 to 4.5 centimetres in thickness. The cores are preserved with prepared striking platforms as well as rear and side surfaces. The cores were meant chiefly for flakes, except for a single blade-oriented specimen.

Two cores are of small sizes and were deposited while in their final stages of exploitation, probably used for flakes.

The majority of the cores are preserved with single platforms formed with a single blow, but there are also specimens with platforms formed with multiple blows.

- the flaking surfaces are primarily wide, flat, less often semi-rounded/rounded, and are located on the wider side of the concretion. Only in two cases, the flaking surface was situated on the narrower side of the concretion;
- the cores have conical, rectangular, oval, and prismatic shapes and most are in an advanced phase of exploitation;
- the cores were used predominantly for manufacturing flakes.

### Debitage products (1020)

Thedebitage from the Telish-Laga flint collection includes: 294 flakes and 177 flake fragments, 511 blades (and fragments), and 38 undetermined fragments.

- flakes – 294 pieces with several subgroups distinguished in this category, based on the following criteria:
  - metric – the flakes were divided into four subgroups according to their length;
  - technological:
    - ♦ presence of cortex,
    - ♦ type of butt,
    - ♦ upper surface features;
- fragments of flakes (177), divided into distal, mesial, and proximal;
- undetermined pieces (38);
- blades and their fragments (511), divided into distal, mesial, and proximal.

Table 2. The general structure of the debitage products from the Telish-Laga flint assemblage.

| debitage               | number of finds | %      |
|------------------------|-----------------|--------|
| flakes                 | 294             | 28.8%  |
| flake fragments        | 177             | 17.4%  |
| blades                 | 97              | 9.5%   |
| blade fragments        | 414             | 40.6%  |
| undetermined fragments | 38              | 3.7%   |
| TOTAL                  | 1020            | 100.0% |

### Flakes (294)

The flakes measure from 10.0 to 82.0 millimetres in length and can be grouped into four categories based on this dimension. Flakes with length ranges of 10.0 to 30.0 millimetres and 31.0 to 50.0 millimetres are almost equally represented, followed by those of lengths from 51.0 to 70.0 millimetres. The flakes longer than 70.0 millimetres are rare.

In terms of width, the flakes range from 7.0 to 53.0 millimetres and could be grouped into six categories. The prevalent group are flakes measuring from 10.0 to 40.0 millimetres in width, constituting 95% of the total number of flakes. The other width ranges are represented sporadically.

The thickness of the flakes oscillates between 2.0 and 23.0 millimetres, with five categories based on this

dimension. The most typical thickness range for flakes is between 5.0 and 10.0 millimetres. Flakes thicker than 20.0 millimetres are poorly represented.

In the first metric category (10–30 mm) the dominant flakes are preserved without cortex (77%). In this category, all types of butts are represented, with significantly formed ones predominating, followed by linear and cortical ones. The butts of the flakes with less than 50% cortex remaining are mainly natural, formed, and linear. Dihedral and faceted butts are missing. The flakes with 50% and less than 50% cortex on the dorsal sides usually have formed butts with crust, while prepared, faceted, and dihedral ones are absent. The most scantily represented are flakes with fully preserved crust. Only formed and cortical butts are represented. For this metric group, flakes without cortex and with formed butts are particularly characteristic.

Table 3. Metric parameters of the entire collection of flakes from the Telish-Laga flint assemblage.

| length range (mm) | number of finds | %     | width range (mm) | number of finds | %     | thickness range (mm) | number of finds | %     |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------|------------------|-----------------|-------|----------------------|-----------------|-------|
| 10–30             | 130             | 44.2% | < 10             | 4               | 1.4%  | < 0.5                | 57              | 19.4% |
| 31–50             | 134             | 45.6% | 10–20            | 82              | 27.9% | 5–10                 | 184             | 62.6% |
| 51–70             | 28              | 9.5%  | 21–30            | 132             | 44.9% | 11–15                | 41              | 13.9% |
| > 70              | 2               | 0.7%  | 31–40            | 64              | 21.8% | 16–20                | 8               | 2.8%  |
|                   |                 |       | 41–50            | 9               | 3.0%  | > 20                 | 4               | 1.3%  |
|                   |                 |       | > 50             | 3               | 1.0%  |                      |                 |       |
| TOTAL             | 294             | 100%  | TOTAL            | 294             | 100%  | TOTAL                | 294             | 100%  |

In the second category (31–50 mm), the dominant flakes are without cortex and with formed butts. The rest of the flakes with other types of butts are less frequent, while faceted and linear butts are entirely missing. The butts of the flakes with no more than 50% cortex remaining are mainly formed. Flakes with other types of butts are missing or are poorly represented.

The flakes of the third metric category (51–70 mm) are a small group, in which the intact cortical flakes are absent, with flakes with formed butts being the dominant category.

Massive flakes (above 70 mm) are represented by only two specimens. One has less than 50% of the cortex remaining and a formed butt and the other

has more than 50% of the cortex preserved and a cortical butt.

The majority of the flakes have been removed from unipolar cores, small specimens show diverse negatives, whereas a few have bidirectional negatives.

The shape of the flakes is usually rectangular/square, which is true for about half of the specimens, while the remaining items are trapezoidal, oval, triangular, and irregular. Flakes with straight and convex profiles predominate.

The characteristics of the flakes in the Telish-Laga assemblage can be summarised as follows:

- the largest group are medium-sized flakes, measuring from 30.0 to 50.0 millimetres;
- the typical width of a flake ranges from 10.0 to 40.0 millimetres, which covers the medium-length flakes. The same applies to the thickness of the flakes;
- the most numerous categories are flakes with formed butts, with other categories much less frequent;
- most often the flakes have no cortex, and specimens with more than 50% or completely preserved crust are exceptional;
- the flakes are mainly oval or irregular in shape.

### Flake fragments (177)

Among the fragments of flakes, the frequency of the mesial ones is the highest, followed by proximal. The distal fragments are the least represented.

### Undetermined fragments (38)

This category included all finds that did not fit into other typological groups. These are mainly fragments which could not be reliably assigned to any particular category of flakes, fragments, or blades. They are of irregular, indeterminate shape and show traces of processing, but it is difficult to precisely determine their place in the *chaîne opératoire*.

### Blades and their fragments (511)

Intact blades are represented by 97 specimens, with the rest being fragments (414), which could be divided into distal, mesial, and proximal. Among them, the mesial ones predominate, and the group of distal fragments is the least numerous (Table 4).

Table 4. Technological subgroups of the blades from the Telish-Laga flint assemblage.

| technological subgroups |                 |      |
|-------------------------|-----------------|------|
| blades                  | number of finds | %    |
| complete blades         | 97              | 19 % |
| distal fragments        | 89              | 17%  |
| mesial fragments        | 179             | 35%  |
| proximal fragments      | 146             | 29%  |
| TOTAL                   | 511             | 100% |

The most frequently encountered blades have no cortical remains and those with preserved crust form less than 50% of the assemblage. The other categories are completely missing.

Regarding the types of butts, the majority are formed. Among the blades without crust, dihedral and cortical butts are not found. The next largest group are blades with natural, prepared, and cortical butts, which are represented almost equally. Blades without crust show the greatest frequency, followed by those with up to 50% of cortex remaining. Blades and their fragments with linear and faceted butts are the least frequent in the assemblage.

The lengths of the blades vary between 17.0 and 80.0 millimetres and could be divided into two categories. The most common length range is from 40.0 to 59.0 millimetres, followed by 20.0 to 39.0 millimetres. The second group includes also categories which are scarcely represented (Table 5).

The widths of the blades are mainly in the range from 6.0 to 39.0 millimetres, with the majority of artefacts measuring between 10.0 and 20.0 millimetres. The other width categories of blades are less common or only sporadically represented.

From the three categories of thickness, the first one is dominant (1–5 mm), followed by the second (6–10 mm). The last category is represented by a single specimen.

In conclusion, it should be emphasised that the majority of the blades are fragmented. The mesial fragments predominate, followed by the proximal ones. The analysis of traces on the dorsal surfaces convincingly showed that a great number of blades had been detached from unidirectional cores, except for a few specimens with traces of bidirectional cores. The majority of blades have parallel lateral edges, followed by the group of specimens gathered in the distal and, rarely, proximal parts. The

cross-sections are mostly triangular, with other variants less numerous. The profiles are often straight, rarely convex or S-shaped. In most cases, the blades bear traces of lateral fragmentation.

A comparison of the results of the analysis of the assemblage revealed a prevalence of the debitage without cortical remains and specimens with formed butts among the flakes and blades.

Table 5. Metric parameters of the blades from the Telish-Laga flint assemblage.

| length range (mm) | number of finds | %     | width range (mm) | number of finds | %     | thickness range (mm) | number of finds | %     |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------|------------------|-----------------|-------|----------------------|-----------------|-------|
| < 20              | 2               | 2.0%  | < 10             | 5               | 5.1%  | 1–5                  | 71              | 73.2% |
| 20–39             | 39              | 40.2% | 10–20            | 73              | 75.3% | 6–10                 | 25              | 25.8% |
| 40–59             | 44              | 45.4% | 21–30            | 18              | 18.6% | > 10                 | 1               | 1.0%  |
| 60–80             | 12              | 12.4% | 31–40            | 1               | 1.0%  |                      |                 |       |
| TOTAL             | 97              | 100%  | TOTAL            | 97              | 100%  | TOTAL                | 97              | 100%  |

### Retouched forms (329)

In any Stone Age collection, the retouched forms are of greatest interest. The tools are diagnostic markers for the cultural and chronological characteristics of a given archaeological assemblage. The study found that

the retouched forms represent 23.6% of the entire material and within that group end-scrapers are most frequently encountered, amounting to more than half of the retouched forms, followed by the retouched blades and fragments, while the other types of tools are scarcely represented.

Table 6. Typological distribution of the tools from the Telish-Laga flint assemblage.

| typological groups             | number of finds | %      |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|--------|
| retouched flakes and fragments | 53              | 16.2%  |
| retouched blades and fragments | 135             | 41.0%  |
| truncations                    | 14              | 4.3%   |
| end scrapers                   | 122             | 37.0%  |
| perforators                    | 2               | 0.6%   |
| burins                         | 1               | 0.3%   |
| bifacial retouched tools       | 2               | 0.6%   |
| TOTAL                          | 329             | 100.0% |

### End scrapers (122)

End scrapers are one of the numerous typological groups that include about half of the retouched forms. Generally, the end scrapers are formed on blades. Typologically, they can be divided into:

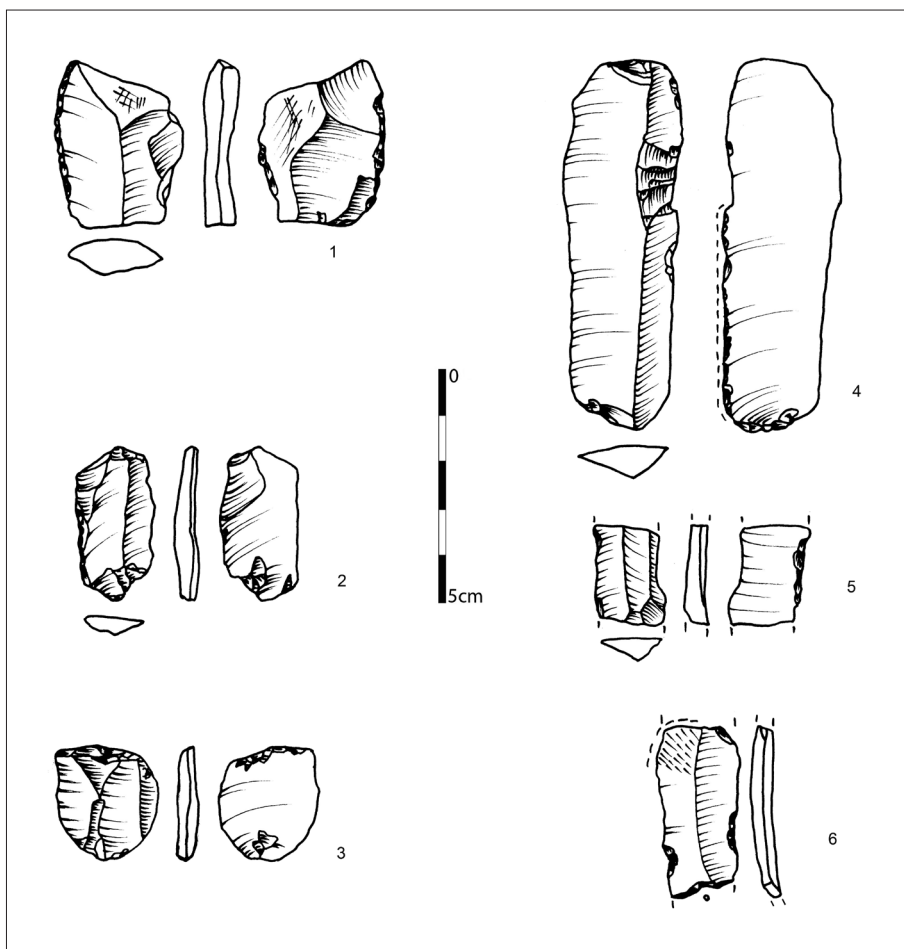
- end scrapers with convex fronts, shaped mostly with an abrupt and semi-abrupt retouch (Fig. 2.7, 10). In some cases, the specimens have a semi-abrupt retouch on one of the lateral edges. In other cases, the retouch

is abruptly denticulated on the ventral surface and with marginal retouch on both lateral edges;

- end scrapers with straight fronts, with an abrupt retouch (Fig. 2. 8,11), formed mainly on blades or blade fragments. Only five of these specimens are on flakes and fragments. Some of the end scrapers have semi-abrupt/abrupt retouches on both lateral edges;
- end scrapers with asymmetrical fronts, with an abrupt or, in some cases, semi-abrupt retouch. Three of the specimens are on flakes, the rest on blades or fragments.



Fig. 1. Telish-Laga. Chalcolithic flint assemblage: 1–3 – retouched flakes; 4–6 – retouched blades (drawing by Elka Anastasova).



Some of the end scrapers have semi-abrupt or abrupt retouches on either or both side edges (Fig. 2. 9).

The end scrapers typically have convex fronts, shaped with an abrupt and semi-abrupt retouch. A minimal number of them have straight fronts. End scrapers with a sharply arched and asymmetrical front are represented by only one specimen. Some of the end scrapers have a small, marginal, semi-steep bilateral retouch.

The analysis of end scrapers suggests that those with a convex front and an abrupt retouch are characteristic for the discussed assemblage. Only 13 specimens were retouched on the lateral edges.

### Retouched blades and blade fragments (135)

Blades and blade fragments with various types of retouches applied most often to the lateral edges belong to this group. Fragments of blades predominate, and mainly the mesial ones. According to the type and location of retouches, they can be divided into the following categories:

- blades with a semi-abrupt or abrupt denticulated retouch (Fig. 1. 6) on either or both lateral edges. Only in one case was the retouch found on the ventral side of the blade;
- blades with fine, marginal retouch on either or both lateral edges. Some of the specimens are mesial and proximal blade fragments;
- blades with a semi-abrupt or abrupt retouch on either lateral edge (Fig. 1. 5) on the ventral side or on both edges (Fig. 1. 4). The majority of specimens are fragments of blades.

### Retouched flakes and flake fragments (53)

- flakes with notches, formed by an abrupt or semi-abrupt retouch, mainly on one of the lateral edges. In one case, the notch is located on the ventral side of the flake;
- flakes with an alternative retouch on both lateral edges (Fig. 1. 1);

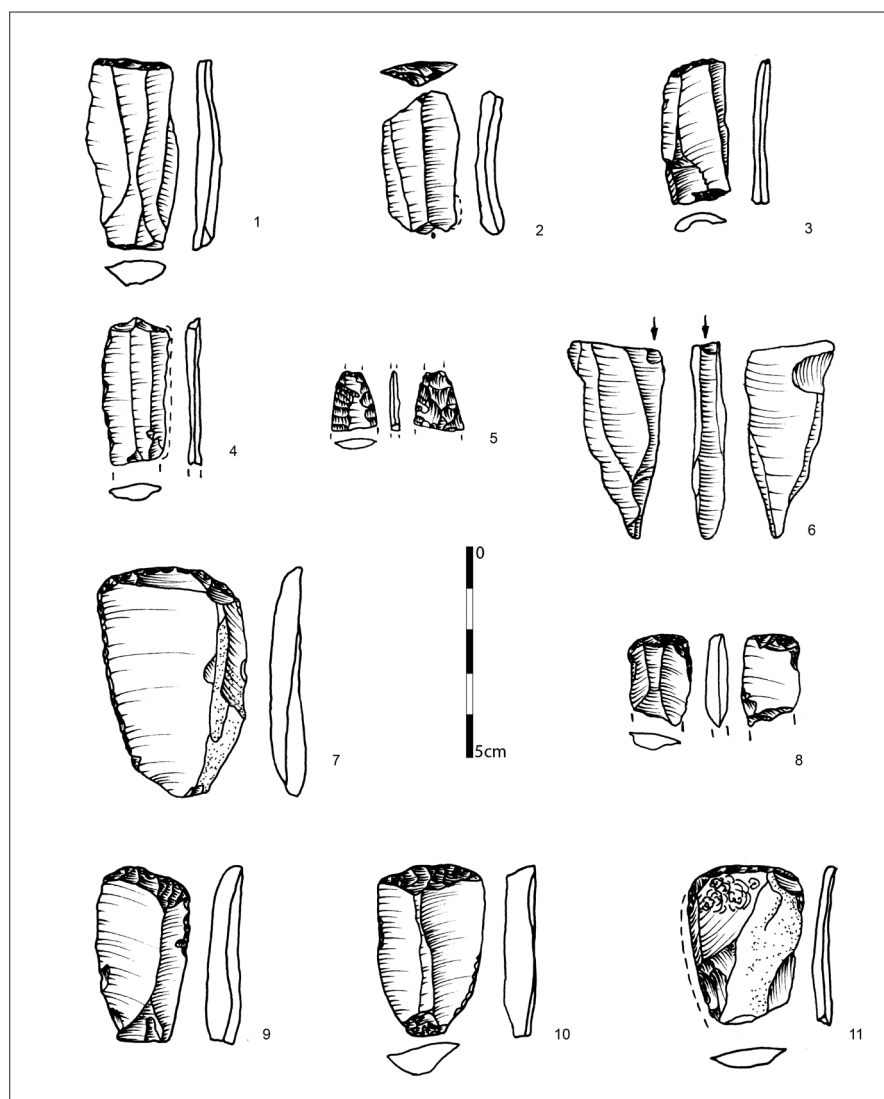


Fig. 2. Telish-Laga. Chalcolithic flint assemblage: 1–3 – truncated tools; 4 – perforator; 5 – arrow-head fragment; 6 – burin; 7–11 – end scrapers (drawing by Elka Anastasova).

- flakes with fine, marginal retouch on either or both lateral edges on the ventral side (Fig. 1. 2,3).

### Truncated tools (14)

All of the truncated tools are formed on blades. Only four specimens have oblique truncation (Fig. 2. 1,2). The rest have straight truncation (Fig. 2. 3). The majority of the blades have unidirectional cores and straight profiles. Some of the specimens were retouched on either or both lateral edges. Others are notched, formed by an abrupt or semi-abrupt denticulated retouch.

### Bifacial tools (2)

One of the specimens is a fragment of a tool and the other is a distal part of an arrow. They have been formed

on fragments of blades. The retouches are usually flat and covered (Fig. 2. 5).

### Burin (1)

It is a single burin on a proximal fragment of a blade (Fig. 2. 6).

### Perforators (2)

One of the perforators is on a mesial fragment of a blade with a symmetrical pointed tip formed with a semi-abrupt retouch. The other specimen is on a flake with a formed butt, a well-exposed pointed tip with an abrupt retouch (Fig. 2. 4).

The techno-typological structure of the Telish-Laga flint assemblage suggests the following conclusions:

- a relatively small number of cores;



- from a technological point of view, the debitage products were obtained mainly from unidirectional cores;
- the blades significantly prevail among the debitage products in the assemblage;
- the examination of the butts of debitage and the retouched tools indicated (proved) the formed butts as the most numerous groups of finds, which is directly connected with the preparation of the cores;
- relatively large number of retouched tools. More than half the tools are on blades. The end scrapers prevail in the assemblage. In most cases, the end scrapers have convex fronts, shaped by abrupt and semi-abrupt retouches. Still, another large group contains retouched blades with steep, semi-steep, on one or two lateral edges;
- lack of typological diversity in the retouched tools.

Comparing the results of the technological analysis of the flakes and blades in the assemblage, it can be concluded that the frequency of mesial blades and mesial flake fragments is the highest. The prevalence of end scrapers in the assemblage, as well as traces of wear macroscopically visible on some end scrapers, indicate manufacturing activities directly oriented towards processing animal goods, such as skin, meat, bone, and horn. In general, the structure of the assemblages indicates that the basic processing and preparation of the cores was mainly carried out off-site. Within the site area, other kinds of processes occurred, such as manufacturing flakes or blades from cores, retouching, repairs, and so on.

The study of the manufacturing cycle and an attempt to reconstruct it are essential to the flint assemblage analysis.<sup>3</sup> To reconstruct the manufacturing cycle for a given assemblage, it is necessary to include key components in its structure:

- The first stage – testing of the raw materials; initial shaping of the pre-cores took place outside the settlement, in the proximity of the sources of raw materials or in workshops in their vicinity;
- The second stage – the final preparation of the cores as well as manufacturing of the blades, flakes, and retouched forms probably took place inside the settlement.<sup>4</sup>

The flint assemblage from Telish-Laga undoubtedly possesses the characteristics necessary to link it to the Chalcolithic Period. The most numerous among the tools is the group of end scrapers, formed with a semi-abrupt or abrupt retouch typical for that period.<sup>5</sup> The flint assemblage also includes tools typical for the period, such as retouched blades, truncations, backed tools, and others.

The settlement in the locality of Laga occupied the stratigraphic hiatus between the horizons II and III of the prehistoric settlement of Telish-Redutite. Both sites belong to the so-called “altitude settlements”, characteristic for the area of the Krivodol-Salkutsa-Bubani ethno-cultural complex. However, it is also possible to accept a different hypothesis – the settlement from the locality of Laga may have continued Horizon II of Redutite.<sup>6</sup>

In the technological and typological aspect, the assemblage of Telish-Laga finds analogies in certain Neolithic collections, such as Gradeshnitsa-Malo Pole, Gradeshnitsa-Lukanovo Darvo, or Zaminets.<sup>7</sup> It also shares similarities with the late Neolithic–Early Chalcolithic assemblages of Altimir-Bresta<sup>8</sup> and Gradeshnitsa-Gradishteto (Kaletto).<sup>9</sup>

The present study of the flint assemblage from Telish-Laga represents a step towards enriching our knowledge about the nature of flint production in the discussed area.

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<sup>3</sup> Sirakov *et al.* 2006.

<sup>4</sup> Gatsov 1992.

<sup>5</sup> Gergov *et al.* 1985.

<sup>6</sup> Gergov 2001.

<sup>7</sup> Sirakova *et al.* 2010.

<sup>8</sup> Sirakov *et al.* 2006.

<sup>9</sup> Sirakova *et al.* 2010.