

JERZY LIBERA

Professor Emeritus of the Institute of Archaeology, UMCS in Lublin

jlibera@o2.pl

ORCID 0000-0002-5233-9124

NEW FINDS OF THE LYNGBY-TYPE TANGED POINTS IN THE INTERFLUVE
OF THE MIDDLE VISTULA, BUG, AND LOWER SAN RIVERS

ABSTRACT

In the interfluvium of the middle Vistula and Bug rivers, as well as around the lower San, among various types of Late Palaeolithic tanged points, a dozen or so specimens stand out morphologically referencing the Lyngby-type. Among these, more than half are specimens of considerable size – with lengths in the range of 70–110 and widths of 17–42 mm. The weight of the largest specimens is in the range of 28–36 g. They are mostly stray finds, also with an unclear cultural

context, made of local flint raw materials (Świeciechów, Rejowiec, Mielnik types), in a few cases perhaps made of Volhynian flint. Regardless of whether we consider them as manifestations of influences /links with the Lyngby culture (= Bromme; = Bromme-Lyngby; = Bromme-Segebro), they undoubtedly belong to unconventional forms among the Tanged Points Technocomplex dated from the second half of Alleröd until the first half of Dryas III.

Keywords: Lyngby tanged points, Tanged Points' Technocomplex, Vistula-Bug-San interfluvium, Alleröd, Dryas III

Among the numerous Late Palaeolithic tanged points found in the interfluvium of the middle Vistula, Bug and lower San rivers, dominated by Swiderian, and to a much lesser extent Ahrensburgian and post-Swiderian ones, the tanged points defined as the Lyngby-type stand out. Taking morphological and metric criteria into account, Wolfgang Taute divided them into large points – more than 55 mm long and 17 mm wide, small points, less than 55 mm long, and less than 17 mm wide.¹ Irrespective of their size, they all have to varying degrees a distinct tang retouched most often (semi) steeply towards the upper (dorsal) side, occasionally to the underside, and rarely also with an inverse retouch. Sometimes the bulb of the tang is abraded with a flat retouch. The tip is formed either by natural edges or by retouched ones, on one or both sides. In the former case, their shape resembles an oblique truncated blade, in the latter – a perforator. There are also specimens with a tip formed by a burin blow.²

The presence of Lyngby-type tanged points (and similar specimens) in the area between the middle

Vistula, Bug, and lower San rivers was first brought to our attention at the end of the last century.³ Subsequent Museum research and chance finds have broadened the base of these sources (Libera 2015, catalogue, Fig. 1c). Currently as many as 15 items of that form are known, among which more than half are specimens of considerable size – their metric values oscillate between 70–110 mm in length and 17–42 mm in width (cf. summary).

Among the most impressive are the unpublished, relatively stocky points from Hedwiżyn (110 x 33 x 13 mm; Fig. 1: 1) and Zubowice (92 x 42 x 7 mm; Fig. 2: 1) – weighing 36 and 28 g, respectively. Both were formed from irregular flakes. The former was detached from a double-platform core, and the latter from a single-platform core. Both have massive, well-isolated, tapered tangs formed with a semi-steep retouch on the dorsal side. Only the point from Hedwiżyn is slightly retouched on the ventral side. The edges of the relatively broad tips are flaked with a steep retouch resembling a truncated piece. Only the specimen from Zubowice has two medium-sized retouched niches on the opposite tip.

¹ Taute 1968, 11–12; a subdivision challenged by Karol Szymczak 1991, 174, as well as Michał Kobusiewicz 2009, 85.

² Taute 1968, Tafel 68:3; 93:2; 151:2.

³ Libera 1990, with earlier literature; 1995, 26, map 5; 1998, catalogue; Siemaszko 1990; they were previously unknown in the study area (cf. Kocoń 1987, map 3).

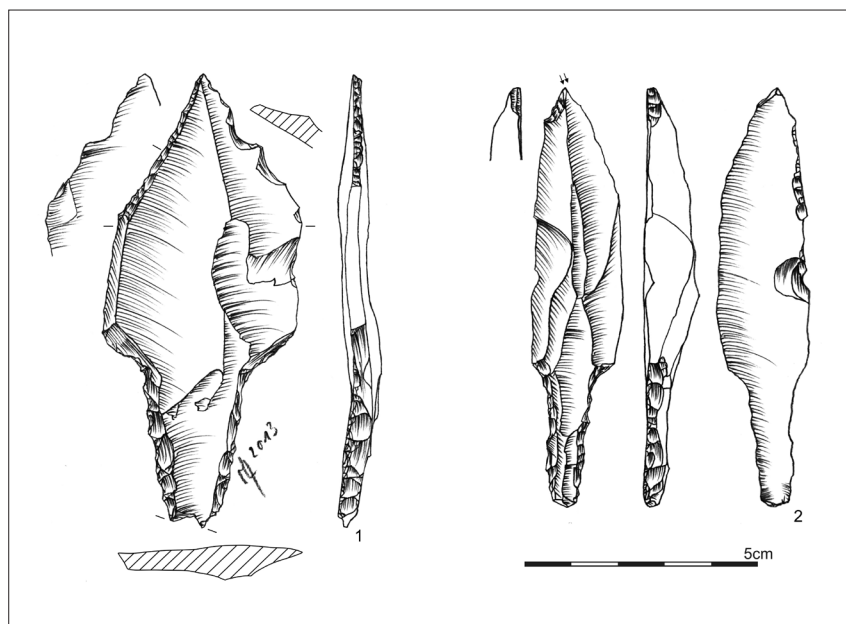


Fig. 1. Tanged points from Zubowice, Zamość County (1) and Zakrzew, Lublin County (2). Fig. J. Libera; compiled by P. Mączyński.

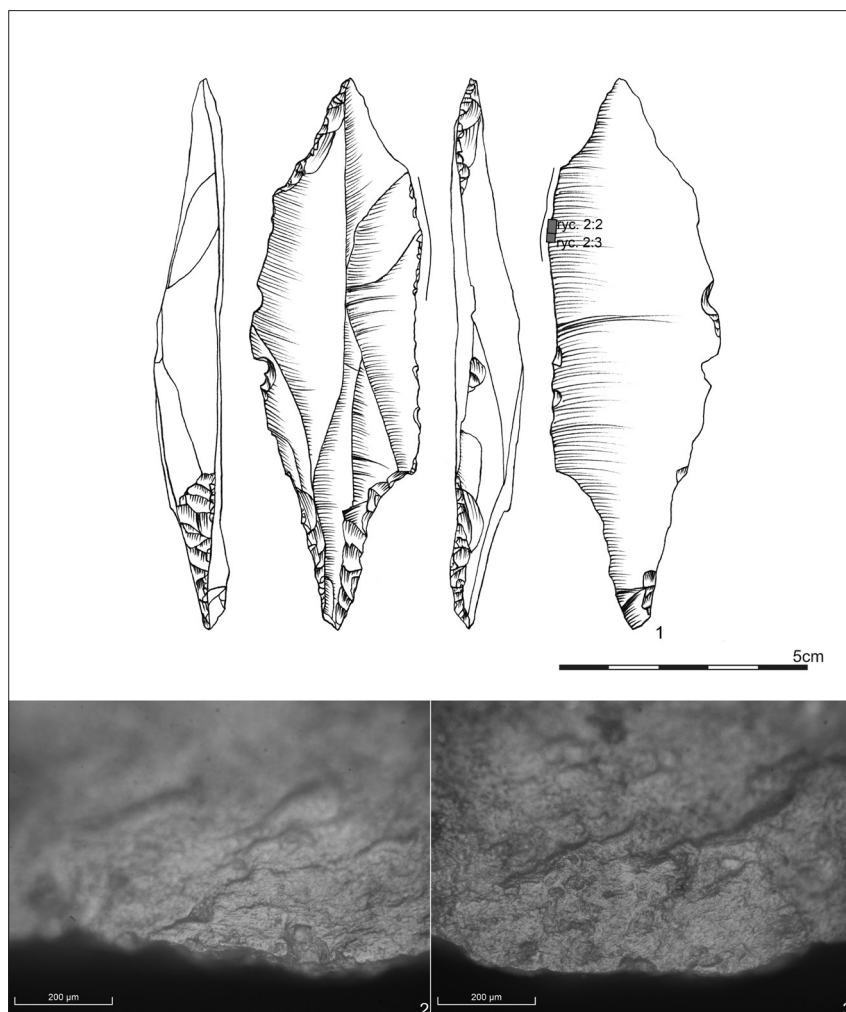
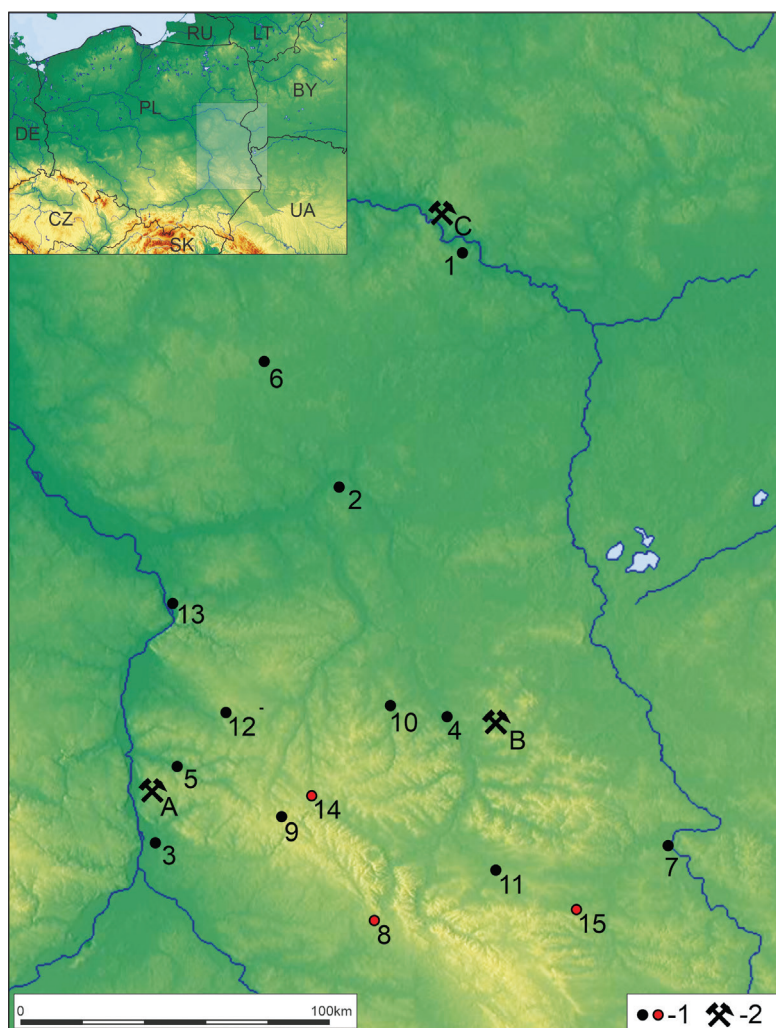


Fig. 2. Tanged point from Hedwiżyn, Biłgoraj County. Drawn by J. Libera, photo by P. Mączyński; compiled by P. Mączyński.

Fig. 3. Distribution of Lyngby-type tanged points in the interfluvium of the middle Vistula and Bug rivers and the lower San River (1–15 – numbering according to the list in the text; illustrated blades are marked in red) and the regions of flint deposits: Świeciechów (A), Rejowiec (B), Mielnik (C). Map background <https://maps-for-free.com>. Compiled by P. Mączyński.



Whereas, the micro-retouch of the tang, and the truncation are intensely worn. Different in form and metric proportions is another specimen found in the Zakrzów area (90 x 20 x 11 mm; Fig. 1: 2) made from a massive but slender blade detached from a single-platform core, with a tang flaked with a steep retouch towards the dorsal surface, and the tip surmounted with a central burin on truncation formed by two blows.⁴

The leading technique for obtaining debitage in the Lyngby knapping technique was the exploitation of single-platform volumetric, or (sub)conical blade flake cores with an angle of percussion close to 90 degrees, and also the cores with doubled striking surface. In both cases,

hard and soft hammers were used.⁵ Both of these techniques are confirmed in the analyzed sources. The core preparation resulted in specific debitage (preferential flakes), which formed the basis, especially for the massive/stocky Lyngby-type tanged points.⁶

The distribution of Lyngby-type tanged points in the interfluvium of the middle Vistula and Bug rivers and the lower San is limited to areas of the Lublin Uplands, in one case also the Volhynia Uplands. Others come from the lowland zone: northern Dorohucz (Volhyn Polesie) and Czemierniki and Borsuki (Southern Podlasie Lowland), including the southern parts like Chwałowice and Hedwiżyn (Sandomierz Basin) – (Fig. 3).

⁴ All three specimens are stray finds, now originating from the collections of: the Museum of the 24th Cavalry Regiment, Branch of the National Museum in Lublin (Zakrzów); the Institute of Archaeology of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin (Żubowice); and the Biłgoraj Land Museum in Biłgoraj (Hedwiżyn).

⁵ E.g. Szymczak 1991, 170; Migal 2007, 187 *et al*; Kobusiewicz 2009, 84.

⁶ E.g. Migal 2006; 2007, 190; also, Przeździecki 2019, 62 *et al*, fig. 12.

Several points were made of excellent quality Świeciechów flint raw material, which indicates a connection with deposits of this flint in the area of the Rachów anticline located in the region of Świeciechów, Nowy Rachów or Wymysłów⁷ – in a distance between 15 km (Dzierzkowice-Wola) and 20 km (Chwałowice) to 80 km (Hedwiżyn). The presence of this raw material in the Late Palaeolithic inventories of the Lublin Uplands and the nearby Sandomierz Basin is widespread and well documented, both in outcrop areas, e.g. the workshops located near the Kopiec mine,⁸ and beyond.⁹ It is much more difficult to attribute the location of the remaining specimens to the regions of the deposits, as specimens from the Volhynian (Gródek, Sitaniec Wolica, Zakrzew and Zubowice), Cretaceous (Dorohucz and Trzciniec) and erratic (Włostowice) materials often have similar characteristics in terms of texture, degree of crystallinity, and mass colour. In the case of the analyzed area, it was possible to retrieve local rocks – both mined (Rejowiec) and erratic flint, occurring in large areas of the Chełm Hills,¹⁰ distant from the above-mentioned finds from 20 km (Dorohucz) to over 90 km (Trzciniec). Here, too, we have a well-recognized workshop and direct settlement base possibly relating to the Late Palaeolithic tanged point technocomplex. Numerous workshop sites based on Rejowiec Flint are concentrated in three regions of the Chełm Hills: I – Rejowiec region (in the area of two towns – Rejowiec and Rejowiec Fabryczny), II – Krobonosz region (Sawin commune) and III – Tarnów region (Wierzbica commune).¹¹ In the isolated case of the tanged point from Borsuk, it is most likely that the flint for its manufacture came from a deposit in the Mielnik area, less than 10 km away. Taking into account the dispersion of Lyngby-type tanged points in the area of western Ukraine and Belarus,¹² it is possible that the raw material from Volyn, whose rich deposits are located in the upper Horyń and Styr basins, or possibly Cretaceous flint occurring over Russia, is involved.

The presence of Lyngbian tanged points in the zone of the Baltic Lowlands has been analysed from various cultural aspects.¹³ An opinion was also expressed about their utilitarian character as a manifestation of specialisation in hunting. “The Lyngby tanged point – spearhead or arrowhead – was simply an excellent, effective invention as a hunting weapon. It belonged to the hunting toolkit of all hunters. Originating in the late Madelaine

of Western Europe, the invention spread throughout the Lowlands. [...] The differences in size and form are due to the different purposes (spearhead or arrowhead), and the abundance of raw material. The largest Lyngby blades are known from Denmark and the upper Volga – in both cases from areas abundant in good flint. Probably the shape of the wares was also influenced by the individual tastes and abilities of their maker”.¹⁴

Interesting observations were made during functional analyses of the specimen from Hedwiżyn. As a result, traces were registered on the edge of one of the sides, indicating its use as a knife for cutting soft material, most probably meat or leather. Significantly, no marks indicating the use of the tanged point as a ranged weapon were detected. It is worth noting, however, that such changes are usually produced by striking the blade on hard material (wood, bone), whereas when hitting a soft target (meat, internal organs) the level of damage may be very low, even undetectable, with the methods used. Therefore, the results obtained do not completely negate the interpretation that the points at some stage may have acted as the head of a projectile weapon, although this is less likely.¹⁵

Regardless, of whether we consider the analyzed tanged points as a manifestation of influences/links with the Lyngbian culture (= Bromme; = Bromme-Lyngby; = Bromme-Segebro), or as creations “representing a cross-cultural asset”, they undoubtedly belong to unconventional forms among other Late Palaeolithic groups with tanged points. Their occurrence in the interfluvial basin of the middle Vistula and Bug rivers, as well as the lower San, extends to the foreland of the Carpathian Mountains.¹⁶

Although the analysed Lyngby-type lithics are mainly loose specimens or of indeterminate cultural context, e.g. Gródek 1C, or Dzierzkowice-Wola,¹⁷ they undoubtedly represent unique sources in the upland zone and its forelands between the Vistula and Bug rivers. They represent an extension of the ‘Lyngbian’ finds of the left bank of the Vistula (Nowy Młyn Ia; Nowy Młyn Ib; Jacentów 10; Grzybowa Góra X/59+IV/60) towards similar finds in western Ukraine.¹⁸ So far it has not been possible to specify their chronology. Generally, they are referred to the Tanged Points Technocomplex and dated to the second half of the Alleröd and the first half of Dryas III or to the last Dryas only.¹⁹

⁷ E.g. Libera, Zakościelna 2002.

⁸ E.g. Libera 2002b, 33 ff.

⁹ E.g. Libera 2015, catalogue.

¹⁰ E.g. Libera *et al.* 2014.

¹¹ Cf. Libera 2006, fig. 5; Libera, Szeliga 2006.

¹² E.g. Kobusiewicz 2009, Fig. 2 some sites in south-eastern Poland were erroneously located; also, Заліззяк 2021, fig. 1.

¹³ E.g. Szmyczak 1995, 31; Sobkowiak-Tabaka 2016, 190 *et al.*

¹⁴ Kobusiewicz 2009, 85.

¹⁵ The traseological research was carried out by Dr Piotr Mączyński of the Institute of Archaeology of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, for which the author would like to thank him.

¹⁶ Pakoszówka, Sanok County; Rydlewski 1990, fig. 5: b.

¹⁷ Libera 1990.

¹⁸ Kobusiewicz 2009, fig. 2; also, Заліззяк 2021, fig. 1.

¹⁹ Kobusiewicz 2009, 73, among others.

A compilation of Lyngby-type tanged points in the middle Vistula and Bug rivers and the lower San:

| | | | |
|---|-----------|------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Borsuki, municipality Sarnaki | 85x28x10 | kred | Siemaszko 1990 |
| 2. Czemierniki, municipality loco | 48x23x? | | Libera 1990, 17, fig. 2:b |
| 3. Chwałowice, municipality Radomyśl | 61x24x6 | św | Libera 1990, 17, fig. 2:a |
| 4. Dorohucza, municipality Trawniki | 41x19x5 | kred | Libera 1990, 18, fig. 2:c |
| 5. Dzierzkowice-Wola, municipality loco | 71x17x9 | św | Libera 1990, 14–17, fig. 1:a |
| 6. Dziewule, municipality Zbuczyn | | | Szymczak 1995, 34, pl. XVII:4 |
| 7. Gródek, municipality Hrubieszów | 87x30x? | woł | Libera 1990, 18–19, fig. 3:a |
| 8. Hedwiżyn, municipality Biłgoraj | 110x33x13 | św | – |
| 9. Majdan Grabina, municipality Zakrzówek | 55x22x5? | | Libera 2016, 225 |
| 10. Piaski Wielkie, municipality Piaski | 42x14x5? | | Libera 2016, 226, fig. 2:f |
| 11. Sitaniec Wolica, municipality Zamość | 42x14x6 | woł | Libera 2016, 227, Fig. 2:h |
| 12. Trzciniec, municipality Chodel | 63x18x7 | kred | Libera 1995, pl. LXXVII:6; 1998, 94 |
| 13. Włostowice (Puławy-Włostowice) | 28x17x3 | narz | Libera 1990, 17–18, fig. 2:d |
| 14. Zakrzew, municipality loco | 90x20x11 | woł? | Libera 2016, 227–228 |
| 15. Zubowice, municipality Komarów-Osada | 97x42x7 | woł? | Libera 2016, 228 |

Bibliography:

- Kobusiewicz M. 2009 Czy istniała kultura Bromme?, *Folia Praehistorica Posnaniensia* 15, 75–91.
- Kocoń L. 1987 Problem obecności kultury ahrensburgskiej na wschód od Odry, *Acta Universitatis Wratislaviensis* 771, *Studia Archeologiczne* XV, 81–124.
- Libera J. 1990 Liściaki typu Lyngby w inwentarzach krzemiennych z międzyrzecza środkowej Wisły i Bugu, *Lubelskie Materiały Archeologiczne* III, 13–28.
- Libera J. 1995 *Późny paleolit i mezolit środkowowschodniej Polski. Część pierwsza. Analiza*, (Lubelskie Materiały Archeologiczne IX), Lublin.
- Libera J. 1998 *Późny paleolit i mezolit środkowowschodniej Polski. Część druga. Źródła*, (Lubelskie Materiały Archeologiczne XI), Lublin.
- Libera J. 2002a Przedneolityczne osadnictwo wschodniej części północnego Podkarpacia od Böllingu do końca okresu atlantyckiego: zarys problematyki, (in:) J. Gancarski (ed.), *Starsza i środkowa epoka kamienia w Karpatach polskich*, Krosno, 189–231.
- Libera J. 2002b Wykorzystanie krzemienia świciechowskiego i gościeradowskiego w paleolicie schyłkowym i mezolicie w międzyrzeczu Wisły i Bugu oraz w dorzeczu Sanu (zarys problematyki), (in:) B. Matraszek, S. Sałaciński (eds), *Krzemień świciechowski w pradziejach: materiały z konferencji w Ryni, 22–24.05.2000*, (Studia nad Gospodarką Surowcami Krzemiennymi w Pradziejach 4), Warszawa, 29–49.
- Libera J. 2006 Kraina krzemieniem usiana, (in:) E. Banasiewicz-Szykuła (ed.), *Badania archeologiczne na Polesiu Lubelskim*, (Skarby z Przeszłości 8), Lublin, 49–60.
- Libera J. 2015 Resources for Studies on Palaeolithic Settlement in the Lublin Upland Area Post-last Glacial Maximum, (in:) T. Wiśniewski (ed.), *Klementowice. A Magdalenian Site in Eastern Poland*, Lublin, 215–231.
- Libera J., Dobrowolski R., Szeliga M., Wiśniewski T. 2014 Flints in Glacigenic Sediments of the Chełm Hills, Eastern Poland. Prehistory and Geology / Krzemienie w osadach glacigenicznych Pagórów Chełmskich: prahistoria – geologia, *Sprawozdania Archeologiczne* 66, 57–82.
- Libera J., Szeliga M. 2006 Late Palaeolithic Workshops in the Lublin Region, Based on the Local Cretaceous Flint Resources, through the Prism of New Discoveries. An Overview of the Issue, *Archaeologia Baltica* 7, 160–177.
- Libera J., Zakościelna A. 2002 Złoże krzemieni turońskich w przełomowym odcinku Wisły, (in:) B. Matraszek, S. Sałaciński (eds), *Krzemień świciechowski w pradziejach: materiały z konferencji w Ryni, 22–24.05.2000*, (Studia nad Gospodarką Surowcami Krzemiennymi w Pradziejach 4), Warszawa, 93–109.

- Migal W. 2006 On Various Methods of Lyngby Point Production, (in:) A. Wiśniewski, T. Płonka, J. M. Burdukiewicz (eds), *The Stone: Technique and Technology*, Wrocław, 137–147.
- Migal W. 2007 On Preferential Points of the Final Paleolithic in the Central European Lowland, (in:) M. Kobusiewicz, J. Kabaciński (eds), *Studies in the Final Paleolithic Settlement of the Great European Plain*, Poznań, 185–200.
- Przeździecki M. 2019 Studium technologiczne materiałów krzemienych ze stanowiska Wołkusz 3 w północno-wschodniej Polsce. Koncepcja produkcji ostrzy preferencyjnych, *Archeologia Polski* LXIV, 39–71.
- Rydlowski J. 1991 Z badań nad kulturą świderską w północnych Karpatach, *Acta Archaeologica Carpathica* XXIX (1990), 5–31.
- Siemaszko J. 1990 Ślad kultury lyngbijskiej na stanowisku 3 w Borsukach, woj. białskopodlaskie, *Lubelskie Materiały Archeologiczne* III, 9–12.
- Sobkowiak-Tabaka I. 2016 Hunter-gathers in the Alleröd Forests, (in:) J. Kabaciński (ed.), *The Past Societies. Polish Lands from the First Evidence of Human Presence to the Early Middle Ages, 1, 500,000-5,500 BC*, Warszawa, 170–198.
- Szymczak K. 1991 Kultura perstuńska w paleolicie schyłkowym niżu europejskiego, *Światowit* XXXVIII, 143–188.
- Szymczak K. 1995 *Epoka kamienia Polski północno-wschodniej na tle środkowoeuropejskim*, Warszawa.
- Taute W. 1968 *Stilspitzen-Gruppen im nördlichen Mitteleuropa. Ein Beitrag zur Kenntnis der späten Altsteinzeit*, (Fundamenta, F, Band 5), Köln-Graz.
- Залізняк Л. 2021 Балтійське мезолітичне підґрунтя найдавніших індоєвропейців Європи, (in:) О. Білинський (ed.), *Археологічні студії: здобутки та перспективи 2021. Тези онлайн-конференції*, Київ, 5–7.