

PROGRAM AND ABSTRACTS OF THE 12TH MEETING OF THE ASIAN PALEOLITHIC ASSOCIATION



SYMPOSIUM:

EARLY UPPER PALAEOLITHIC IN ASIA:

COMMONALITY AND DIVERSITY AFTER THE IUP

2025

DATES: June 20th – 24th, 2025

VENUE: TOHOKU UNIVERSITY



ORGANIZED BY
JAPANESE PALAEOLITHIC RESEARCH ASSOCIATION
ASIAN PALEOLITHIC ASSOCIATION

**PROGRAM AND ABSTRACTS OF
THE 12TH MEETING OF
THE ASIAN PALEOLITHIC ASSOCIATION**

*SYMPOSIUM:
EARLY UPPER PALAEOLITHIC IN ASIA:
COMMONALITY AND DIVERSITY AFTER THE IUP*

Edited by
Katsuhiro Sano

Japanese Palaeolithic Research Association
2025

The 12th Meeting of the Asian Paleolithic Association

Dates: June 20th – 24th, 2025

Venue: Tohoku University

Organizing Committee:

Hiroyuki SATO (President of APA, Emeritus Professor, The University of Tokyo)

Katsuhiro SANO (General Secretary, Program Committee, Tohoku University)

Masami IZUHO (Program Committee, Tokyo Metropolitan University)

Kazuki MORISAKI (Program Committee, The University of Tokyo)

Yu HIRASAWA (Program Committee, University of East Asia)

Miho SUZUKI (Meiji University)

Yoshitaka KANOMATA (Tohoku University)

Masayoshi OBA (Yamagata Prefectural Center for Archaeological Research)

Akira IWASE (Tokyo Metropolitan University)

Takashi TSUTSUMI (President of JPRA, Meiji University)

Organized by

Japanese Palaeolithic Research Association

Asian Paleolithic Association

Supported by

Center for Northeast Asian Studies, Tohoku University

Gradual School of Arts and Letters, Tohoku University

Sendai Tourism, Convention and International Association

Sendai City Tomizawa Museum

Sendai City

Ukitamu Fudoki no Oka Archaeological Museum

Yamagata Prefectural Center for Archaeological Research

Takahata Town

Program and Abstracts of the 12th Meeting of the Asian Paleolithic Association

Editor

Katsuhiro Sano

Published by

Japanese Palaeolithic Research Association

Kawauchi 41, Aoba-ku, Sendai, 980-8576, JAPAN

© Japanese Palaeolithic Research Association

The Middle Paleolithic lithic industry of Taglar Cave, Azerbaijan, in the South Caucasus

Yoshihiro Nishiaki¹, Azad Zeynalov^{2,3}, and Yagub Mamadov^{2,4}

- 1) The University Museum, The University of Tokyo
- 2) Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences
- 3) Museum of Natural History, Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences
- 4) Department of History and Archaeology, Khazar University

Taglar Cave is a karst cave site that opens into the foothills of the Lesser Caucasus Mountains, Khojavand, in Southern Azerbaijan. Discovered in 1960, it was extensively excavated by Mamadali Huseynov for 12 seasons between 1964 and 1986, with his collaborators including Mansur Mansurov and Asadulla Jafarov. The site is unique for its more than 5-meter-thick Middle Paleolithic cultural deposits, whereas most cave sites in the region have relatively thin deposits. Furthermore, excavators noted that the lithic assemblages at Taglar resembled those of the Zagros Mousterian in Southwest Asia—an innovative proposition in Caucasian archaeology at the time. To evaluate this interpretation and investigate the stratigraphic changes in the Middle Paleolithic lithic assemblages, we resumed excavations at Taglar Cave in 2023. The first two seasons focused on identifying the remaining primary deposits, establishing their stratigraphy, and sampling the archaeological remains. This study presents the preliminary results of these analyses.

The site is situated in the Kuruchay Valley near Fuzuli City. The Kuruchay is a tributary of the Araxes River, which flows into the Caspian Sea. The region connects the southern coasts of the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea, likely serving as an east-west corridor for the eastward dispersal of Neanderthals from Europe to Asia. This paper also includes a techno-typological comparison of the Middle Paleolithic assemblages from Taglar Cave with those from Southwest and Central Asia, contributing to a better understanding of the Neanderthal dispersal process.

Keywords: Middle Paleolithic, Zagros Mousterian, Neanderthal dispersals, Caucasus corridors, Southwest Asia

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| Program..... | i |
| Special lecture | |
| <i>Prof. Xing Gao</i> | |
| Paleolithic industries in China and implications for hominin evolution trajectories in East Asia..... | 3 |
| Session 1: Recent progress in studies on lithic technology and paleoanthropology of genus <i>Homo</i> in Asia | |
| <i>Yousuke Kaifu, Chih-Hsing Lin, & Yu-Lin K. Chang</i> | |
| Paleolithic seafaring in East Asia: Theory, experimental voyage, and simulation | 7 |
| <i>Chengqiu Lu</i> | |
| Discovery and research at Xuertangliangzi, the Yunxian Man site | 8 |
| <i>Wenting Xia & Shejiang Wang</i> | |
| Lithic technological continuity and innovation in the late Middle Pleistocene: A case study from the Longgangsi Locality 1 in the Hanzhong Basin, Central China..... | 9 |
| <i>Xiaoling Zhang, Shejiang Wang, & Xing Gao</i> | |
| Paleolithic discoveries and research on Tibetan Plateau | 10 |
| <i>Yongwook Yoo & Minsoo Kim</i> | |
| Late Pleistocene handaxe assemblages from the Korean Peninsula: Their age and regional characteristics | 11 |
| <i>Yoshihiro Nishiaki, Azad Zeynalov, & Yagub Mamadov</i> | |
| The Middle Paleolithic lithic industry of Taglar Cave, Azerbaijan, in the South Caucasus..... | 12 |
| <i>Arina M. Khatsenovich, Evgeny P. Rybin, John W. Olsen, Alexey Klementiev, Junyi Ge, Snezhana Zhilich, Dashzeveg Bazargur, Yadmaa Tserendagva, Byambaa Gunchinsuren, Daria Marchenko, & Irina Vishnevskaya</i> | |
| Lithic industries, climatic background and chronology of Middle Paleolithic in Mongolia..... | 13 |
| <i>Ke Shen, Feng Li, & Xing Gao</i> | |
| Exploring the Middle to Upper Paleolithic transition in Northern China: Technological variations at the Xujiacheng site and Shixiakou Loc. 2 | 14 |
| Symposium: Early Upper Palaeolithic in Asia: Commonality and diversity after the IUP | |
| Keynote lecture | |
| <i>Prof. Robin Dennell</i> | |
| Settlement, survival and extinction in the steppe during and after the IUP in MIS 3 | 17 |
| <i>Nicolas Zwyns, Masami Izuho, Tsendendorj Bolorbat, Clea Paine, Guunii, Lkhundev, Davakhuu Odsuren,</i> | |

Fumito Akai, Igor Djakovic, Damien Flas, Jovan Galfi, Giulia Gallo, J. Christopher Gillam, Fumie Iizuka, Corey L. Johnson, Timothée Libois, Madison McCartin, Yuichi Nakazawa, Solange Rigaud, Shunsuke Totsuka, Peiqi Zhang, Byambaa Gunchinsuren, & Sahra Talamo

The Early Upper Paleolithic at Tolbor-17 and its significance for the regional cultural sequence 18

Evgeny P. Rybin, Arina M. Khatsenovich, Dmitry V. Kobylkin, Kseniya A. Kolobova, & Byambaa Gunchinsuren

Cultural transfers and shifts in the Early Upper Paleolithic of North-Central Mongolia..... 21

Feng Li

What happened after Initial Upper Paleolithic in Northern China: An overview of the regional lithic technological variations between 40 to 25 ka BP 22

Peiqi Zhang, Nicolas Zwyns, Fei Peng, Sam C. Lin, Corey L. Johnson, Jialong Guo, Huiming Wang, & Xing Gao

After the blades: An Early Upper Paleolithic core-and-flake assemblage at Shuidonggou Locality 2, North China 23

E. Andrew Bennett

The genetic landscape of Upper Paleolithic Northeast Asia 24

Kaoru Otani & Eunjeong Kim

Lithic reduction patterns and assemblage diversity in the Early Upper Paleolithic of the Korean Peninsula 25

Shunsuke Totsuka, Kazuki Morisaki, Masami Izuho, & Katsuhiko Sano

Origin, population dynamics, and cultural complexity of the Japanese early Upper Palaeolithic..... 26

Masaki Fujita

Human, culture, and nature in the Ryukyu Islands after Early Upper Paleolithic..... 27

Session II: Early Upper Palaeolithic technology, fauna, and site formation in Asia

Yueshu Zhang, Feng Li, & Christopher Miller

Site formation of the caves in the steppe region: A case study on a Middle to Upper Paleolithic sequence at Jinsitai by means of micromorphological analyses 31

Yixiao Li, Xiaomin Wang, Kelian Zhao, & Feng Li

Diachronic subsistence strategy changes at the Jinsitai Cave, North China 32

Fei Peng & Guo Chen

Beyond Shuidonggou onset of the Late Paleolithic in North China 33

Wencheng Li

Technological transition of small-sized flake tool industry in the Chinese Central Plain at ca. 45 ka BP 34

Sujin Gwon

Diversity of raw materials use during the EUP on the Korean Peninsula..... 35

Jihyo Park

| | |
|--|----|
| Zooarchaeology intersects with "Zoogeography": A prospective comparative study of Northeast Asian fauna through the diversity of the MIS3 megafauna on the Korean Peninsula..... | 36 |
| <i>Hirofumi Sato</i> | |
| New explanation of the beginning of the Upper Paleolithic in Japan | 37 |
| <i>Noriyoshi Oda, Kazuki Morisaki, Akira Iwase, Dai Kunikida, & Minoru Yoneda</i> | |
| Deciphering the palimpsests and identifying the earliest Upper Paleolithic occupation level in Musashidai site, Central Japan | 38 |
| <i>Yoshitaka Kanomata</i> | |
| Modern human behavior at the Odaino Site Group I: Hunting activities and mineral use | 39 |
| <i>Vladimir Kharevich, Alena Kharevich, Ekaterina Bocharova, Anton Anokin, & Elena Akimova</i> | |
| The Early Upper Paleolithic of the Yenisei River Basin (Southern Siberia)..... | 40 |
| Session III: A close look at Upper Palaeolithic variabilities in Asia | |
| <i>Radu Iovita, Abay Namen, Aristeidis Varis, Emily Coco, Tobias Sprafke, Carlos Cordova, Miriam Belmaker, & Zhaken Taimagambetov</i> | |
| Settlement and climate fluctuations in the Upper Paleolithic of Kazakhstan: New data from the PALAEOSILKROAD project | 43 |
| <i>Miroslaw Masojć, Grzegorz Michalec, Przemyslaw Bobrowski, Maciej Jórdeczka, Byambaa Gunchinsuren, Rafal Sikora, Davakhuu Odsuren, Marcin Szmit, Dashzeveg Bazargur, Józef Szykulski, & Patryk Muntowski</i> | |
| Gobi Desert dwellers in the Upper Pleistocene – Early Holocene: Discontinuity of inhabitation based on new absolute chronology (Mongolia) | 44 |
| <i>Ting Xu, Junyi Ge, & Hanfei Zhang</i> | |
| New progress in archaeological excavation of Helong Dadong Site | 45 |
| <i>Kazuki Morisaki & Akira Iwase</i> | |
| Demography, climate, and culture change in the Japanese Upper Paleolithic | 46 |
| <i>Kyung Jin Kim & In Sun Seo</i> | |
| Techno-functional analysis on the obsidian burins and burin spalls from Paleolithic sites in South Korea | 47 |
| <i>Valeriya Mikhienko, Maxim Kozlikin, & Natalia Belousova</i> | |
| Microblades and bladelets technologies in the Upper Paleolithic industries of Denisova Cave, Altai Mountains..... | 48 |
| <i>Ekaterina Bocharova, Pavel Chistyakov, & Ravil Zhdanov</i> | |
| Composite slotted technologies of Eastern Siberia in the Final Upper Paleolithic | 49 |
| <i>Yanhua Song</i> | |
| Studies on the construction and function of hearths in Shizitan 29, North China..... | 50 |
| <i>Aleksei V. Tetenkin</i> | |
| Late Upper Paleolithic culture of the population of Baikal-Patom Uplands in the end of Last Glacial | |