# **ANATOLIAN EPI-PALEOLITHIC PERIOD ASSEMBLAGES:**

### Problems, Suggestions, Evaluations and Various Approaches

#### Abstract

There are a number of problems and considerable deficiencies on the chronology, terminology and data about the Anatolian Epi-paleolithic period. It has been necessary to offer some suggestions for the above mentioned queries. And we hopefully addressed to them with this paper. Some mistakes have been determined and new opinions will be offered by us especially on the chronology and terminology with the comparisons between the previous and current research in Anatolia. It is clear that the new efforts will bring to light the question: "between 20.000 B.P. and 10.000 B.P., what was the exact cultural picture of Anatolia like, taking the Levant and Europe into consideration?"

Although the dates of some Anatolian Epi-paleolithic assemblages are quite earlier than the European Mesolithic assemblages, the Levantine Epi-paleolithic assemblages are approximately contemporary with the Anatolian Epi-paleolithic period. Consequently, we prefer to use the term "Epi-paleolithic" instead of "Mesolithic" for the being mentioned period in Anatolia taking the recent data into consideration. On the other hand, the intention of this paper is to avoid making the Levantine connections, at least for the present, whether it is true or not. However, this is only one of the problematic matters to bring into light for Anatolia.

#### Introduction

The Öküzini and Karain caves, which display Epi-paleolithic the Anatolian period stratigraphically, are the settlements that have been discussed the most. Extensively besides Öküzini and Karain caves, the other Epipaleolithic settlements including Thrace; Yarımburgaz cave and Ağaçlı, Domalı-Alacalı, Gümüşdere-Kilyos, Tepecik, Değirmenlik, Kefken, Avşa Adası-Manastır, Haramidere and Pasa Alanı open-air settlements in the Marmara Region: Güzeloba, Kızılin, Çarkini, Beldibi, Belbaşı, Belpinar and Üçağızlı caves and together with Baradiz open-air settlement in the Mediterranean Region; Tekeköy-A cave in the Black Sea Region; Sarklı and Malaliki caves together with Biris Mezarlığı, Uluk Mevki, Söğüt Tarlası, Mucid Deresi and Camuz Tepe open-air settlements in the Southeast Anatolia Region; Macuncay and Pınarbaşı open-air settlements in the Central Anatolia Region and finally Asarkaya openair findings have also indicated assemblages related to the mentioned period (Fig. 1).

The Anatolian Epi-paleolithic has been of growing interest over many years. The reasons for this are some questionable approaches, which were encountered, in previous research, the new finding areas and the beginning of food production phase.

Firstly, it would be more appropriate to mention the approaches relating to previous research, and which are supposedly questionable.

# Previous Research; Problems and Some Suggestions

Unfortunately various biases such as poorly documented excavations and data or inaccurate dating make the data impossible to compare. However, there are also various problems regarding the terminology related to this period, which we often come across in previous studies. The aforementioned problems are being vised within the new research and the most accurate terms are being introduced to the archaeological terminology gradually. Basically, the chief problem is that the assemblages regarding the previous investigations have not been reevaluated.

The assemblages from Beldibi, Belbası and Belpinar in Antalya, can be considered as the best examples to address problems. Bostanci published the articles regarding the three aforementioned assemblages<sup>1</sup>. My intention is to avoid rewriting what had previously been written in his articles. However, we are challenged to comment on various strata within these assemblages, which were presented as upper Paleolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic by the author. It is necessary to review these assemblages and apply technotypological studies to them. The number attachments and language analysis on the microliths found in this area show us that care must be taken of the subject regarding all the information that had been mentioned by the writer.

The studies in Sarklı Cave located in Gaziantep are one of the most problem-laden of the previous research. It is an important assemblage with its 9-meter deposit. According to Bostancı, microlithic elements were found in the Mesolithic level<sup>2</sup>. Bostancı gave the correct descriptions for some geometric microliths that could only be deduced from the drawings. However, I strongly disagree with him over the functions of these elements and the hypotheses<sup>3</sup> called "Paleoanthroponumerology" and "Paleoanthropolanguagelogy" which he posited himself with the evidence from these microliths. Just like in Beldibi and Belbaşı

caves; the random organization of the microliths, unnecessary numbering and the language analysis on them caused archaeologists to overlook the technical and typological characteristics of Şarklı Cave assemblages. In this case, it is impossible to adopt a confident approach. The disappointing aspect is that these studies were ever undertaken.

The lithic findings of Macunçay in Ankara were considered to be Mesolithic by Kansu and Ozansoy<sup>4</sup>. The researchers stated that over a 1000 microliths were collected in this area. As a result of the studies on a few Macuncay collections at Ankara University, Prehistory Department Laboratory, it turned out that they were not microliths and none of them (except only a truncated blade) had an archaeological value at all. In this case, it is clearly understood that the Macuncay findings, which are a part of the department collection, are not the microliths mentioned by the authors. There is also no evidence as to where these findings are. Therefore, we consider the Macuncay findings as questionable.

As a result of the previous research, the Tekeköy (in Samsun) lithic assemblages were also issued and linked to the Mesolithic period by Kansu<sup>5</sup>. Originally this site, with the exception of the Epipaleolithic elements found by Özdoğan in the borders of the Marmara Region, was of great importance which indicates a unique Epi-paleolithic settlement along the Black Sea coast towards the Eastern Black Sea Region. It is still unknown where these previously mentioned findings are. As we can see in the Kansu's paper, those findings have Epi-paleolithic characteristics. However, it is preferable to be cautious rather than mentioning a specific period.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Bostancı 1962; 1967a; 1967b; 1975.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Bostancı 1984, 52.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Bostancı 1984, 58-59; 1978a, 133-146; 1978b, 147-190.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Kansu – Ozansoy 1952, 388.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Kansu 1944, 681.

Within the Ankara University Prehistory Department collection, only one microlithic element was determined after re-examination of the few lithic elements, which were found in the Baradiz open-air settlement located in the southwest of Isparta. There is little that can be said about a single microlith. It is also unknown what happened to the other lithic findings from this area. According to Kansu, the microliths found in this area were linked to the Epi-paleolithic period<sup>6</sup>. It is extremely surprising that Kansu used the term Epipaleolithic to describe Baradiz. Therefore, we do not exactly know which characteristics were considered to be upper Paleolithic, Epipaleolithic or Mesolithic about the postpleistocene assemblages in the 1940s.

Professor Kökten procured some of the lithic collections, and are in Prehistory Department Laboratory, for the Board of Prehistoric Studies, which I mentioned above. The lithic assemblages in the cited finding areas are insufficient in number to enable us interpret them. Therefore, observations have been limited as well.

#### **Current Research and Various Opinions**

If recent Prehistory studies in Turkey are taken into consideration, it is extremely pleasing and encouraging to see the new data being connected to the past data; however, even this is still insufficient.

In Central Anatolia, elongated scalene triangles were discovered from the Level A short-term sequence of the finding area in Pınarbaşı near Çatalhöyük (Konya)<sup>7</sup>. These layers were dated to 8.500-8.000 ca. B.C.<sup>8</sup>. However, these dates are late for the Epipaleolithic period. This area houses the best collection of the Neolithic period in Anatolia. Douglas Baird mentioned that the microliths found during the survey around Pinarbaşı

could be dated between 17.000 and 8.000 B.C.<sup>9</sup>. These microliths found on the surface had an extremely wide time-range and could only be dated typologically; these are an indication that the Epi-paleolithic characteristics of Pinarbasi and its surroundings could be determined with more careful research.

The Aegean Region has scarce assemblages from the Epi-paleolithic period. However, the lack of any research on the Epipaleolithic in this region is an important factor. An additional substantial factor is that the west part of the region covered with alluvial sediments carried by the rivers. Even if there were an Epi-paleolithic settlement, that would have been covered with alluvion. Until now, only in one place, Asarkaya in Kütahya, various findings discovered by Turan Efe could belong to the Epi-paleolithic or PPN period<sup>10</sup>. It is imperative that this region should be reexamined with greater care.

The findings in Southeast Anatolia Region dated to Epi-paleolithic period are discovered in Biris Mezarlığı<sup>11</sup>, Söğüt Tarlasi<sup>12</sup>, and Uluk Mevki<sup>13</sup> near Bozova in Şanlıurfa; and Malaliki Cave<sup>14</sup> near Çatakköprü in Batman. What was obtained from these studies was not accurate because the studies were not focused on that period. Furthermore, a bladelet core was found in Örencik Village Mucid Stream area, 15 km. distance from Sanliurfa in the northeast, most probably belonging to the Epipaleolithic period<sup>15</sup>. Various lithic findings were discovered during Paleolithic Era surveys in Kargamış Dam Lake area, into the south of Birecik in Sanlıurfa (Cicekalan

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Kansu 1944, 676-677

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> D. Baird, Personal communication 2002

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Watkins 1996, 52.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Baird 2002, 142-143.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Efe 1990, 408-409.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Harmankaya – Tanındı 1996.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Harmankaya – Tanındı 1996.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Harmankaya – Tanındı 1996.
 <sup>14</sup> Rosenberg 1992, 448-449.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Demir *et al.* 2001.

Village on the Euphrates, 2 km. from the Syrian border in the north). The authors mentioned that the flakes, blades-bladelets, prismatic cores and various types of endscrapers could be dated to the end of the upper Paleolithic and/or possibly the Epipaleolithic period<sup>16</sup>. On the other hand, no Epi-paleolithic period findings were found in the Sehremuz Tepe excavation and the surveys around it near Samsat-Adıyaman. However, some negative blade scares on the blade cores indicate that it could have been possible to have the technology and the potential to produce micro-tools<sup>17</sup>. We are not exactly sure whether these findings belong to the upper Paleolithic or Epi-paleolithic period.

The Epi-paleolithic period findings in the Marmara Region, supported by the recent studies, have become more coherent. In particular, Mehmet Özdoğan and Ivan Gatsov studied this matter and published the results. It is quite interesting that the findings have been collected around İstanbul. However, we believe that if the studies were carried out in different areas, there would be an increase. We can sum up the studies in this field as follows: As stated in the publications, the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 7<sup>th</sup> layers of the Yarımburgaz Upper-Cave was dated to the upper Paleolithic and Epi-paleolithic by Özdoğan<sup>18</sup>. However, Özdoğan states that there is a lack of accurate data, also whether these findings are genuinely Epi-paleolithic, and there is concern over these questionable data<sup>19</sup>. Taking this into account, we should consider the so-called Epi-paleolithic findings in Yarımburgaz Cave as conflicting.

The Epi-paleolithic period findings in Ağaçlı on the Black Sea coast, on the European side of İstanbul, have the characteristics of the Crimean Epi-paleolithic. It is interesting to see the geometric microliths among the lithic pieces found in this area<sup>20</sup>. Once again, some of the open-air findings in Gümüşdere-Kilyos on the Black Sea coast and the European side were also dated to the Epi-paleolithic period<sup>21</sup>.

On the Asian side of İstanbul in Domalı-Alaçalı, on the Black Sea coast, geometric microliths were discovered as well as the technological findings connected to the conventions of micro-blade production. According to Gatsov and Özdoğan, these findings were also dated to the Epipaleolithic period<sup>22</sup>.

With the exception of these findings, Kefken on the Black Sea coast to the north of Adapazarı; Paşa Alanı on the European side in the southwest of Ağaçlı discovery area; Haramidere on the Marmara coast in the west of İstanbul and Avşa Adası-Manastır open-air find-spots in the southern Marmara Region were dated to the Epipaleolithic period by Özdoğan<sup>23</sup>. We can not say much about these areas, as there were few archaeological findings<sup>24</sup> from these places.

Another find-spot, which was excavated and completed recently, is the Üçağızlı Cave in Hatay. According to Steve Kuhn, who worked on the lithic pieces, the microgravettes from the Epi-paleolithic period sequence put a date on these layers to the early phases of the period<sup>25</sup>. These layers were dated to  $17.530\pm140^{26}$ . Due to the collapse of the roof of the cave, the Epipaleolithic sequence resulted in erosion and

<sup>22</sup> Özdoğan 1986a, 411; Gatsov – Özdoğan 1994, 108-109.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Taşkıran – Kartal 2001, 491.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Kartal 1998, 165.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Özdoğan 1988, 331.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> M. Özdoğan, Personal Cummunication 2002

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Özdoğan 1985, 222; Gatsov – Özdoğan 1994, 104-106.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Gatsov – Özdoğan 1994, 107.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Özdoğan 1999, 171.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> M. Özdoğan, Personal Communication 2002

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Dinçer et al. 2001, 1-2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Dinçer *et al.* 2001, 4.

only a few of the old layers remained intact, which reflect the findings of the Near East Ahmarian tradition and the early upper Paleolithic period<sup>27</sup>. In this case, it is better to obtain the typological descriptions and typelists of the Epi-paleolithic period findings that were eroded and lost their "*in situ*" positions by evaluating their surface collection. Thus, we agree that we can at least bring the technotypological characteristics of these assemblages, located on the Levant and Anatolia road, into light.

Many of the rock shelters near the sea approximately 3-4 km. to the east of Güzeloba village in the south of Aksu, to the east of Antalya, were discovered by Yalçınkaya in 1984. As a result of the surface collection that can be found as Güzeloba findings in the literature; various cores, flakes, blades and bladelets, a micro-point, end scrapers and a backed bladelet were found. It is known that these findings could be dated to the late upper Paleolithic<sup>28</sup>.

As a result of the excavations that have been carried out until the present, the real Epipaleolithic layers in the cultural sequence of the Karain Cave were originally found in the chamber B. These layers, having a dense sequence unlike the Öküzini Epi-paleolithic, contain extremely important records as they were found in a stratigraphic position. The Karain Cave chamber B Epi-paleolithic layers are considered to have a pre-dominance of non-geometric microliths. Backed bladelets are also commonly found. Because of their similar appearance with the bottom layers of the Öküzini Epi-paleolithic<sup>29</sup>, Karain Cave was dated to 16.250 B.P. with the C 14 dating taken from these layers<sup>30</sup>. The Epi-paleolithic period studies in the Karain Cave are still being carried out. If we take the Epipaleolithic sequence of chambers A, B and C

in this cave into consideration, it is fascinating to see that it has a wide extent of settlement. In this case, it is clear that the Epi-paleolithic period findings of Karain Cave will produce a lot more information in the following years.

However, the other caves and open-air settlements around the Karain Cave, which have the same ecological features, are also gaining importance. Carkini and Kızılin caves have been two of the most important find spots. In the 1950s, Prof. Kılıç Kökten carried out a test excavation in the Çarkini Cave. According to him, the assemblage, which is a part of our study, was considered Paleolithic Aurignacian<sup>31</sup>. as upper However, at the end of Yalçınkaya's studies, various types of findings were discovered amongst the Carkini lithic surface elements which could have been Epi-paleolithic<sup>32</sup>. Yalçınkaya also states that the lithics obtained from Kızılin have the characteristics of the Epi-paleolithic<sup>33</sup>. In this case, it would be assumed that this area reflects a complex structure of the same period, where different groups probably might have co-existed.

Öküzini Cave, which is approximately 31 km. to the northwest of Antalya, is the settlement where the most Epi-paleolithic research in Anatolia has been carried out until the present day. The Öküzini Cave assemblages are of major importance for Anatolia because of their stratigraphic position. In addition, the first chronological stratigraphy of the Epi-paleolithic period in Anatolia was successfully unearthed through the excavation of this cave (Fig. 2). We believe that many discoveries similar to this will be brought into light through the new prehistoric research, which are still being carried out.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Güleç *et al.* 2002, 255-256, 258.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Yalçınkaya 1986, 433-434.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Yalçınkaya 1992, 60.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Albrecht et al. 1987, 137.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> Kökten 1959, 12-13.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> Yalçınkaya 1995, 64.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Yalçınkaya 1995, 63.

With this in mind, it would be better to enlighten the reader about the Öküzini Cave because of its characteristics, which we mentioned above.

The studies of microliths showed that it is possible to classify the assemblages mainly into 4 different phases. According to this, Unit I, which is the oldest dated to 17.000-16.500 B.P., produced a large amount of microliths that were mainly non-geometric. The important microlith types in the unit are backed bladelets, retouched bladelets, microgravette points and elongated scalene triangles<sup>34</sup> (Fig. 3, 4).

Unit II, just like the layer below, exhibits the phase of non-geometric microliths as well as geometric microliths increasing in number. The dominant microlith type of this layer dated to 15.500-14.200 B.P., is the backed bladelet. Apart from this, obliquely truncated backed bladelets and micro-points are the other essential non-geometric microliths found here. In addition to these, another characteristic of this layer is the first appearance of trapezes, isosceles triangles and crescent-shaped geometric microliths<sup>35</sup>.

Unit III reflects an Epi-paleolithic assemblage with geometric microliths increasing in number. In this unit, dated to 13.200-12.000 B.P., crescents are dominant (Fig. 5). These crescents are followed by isosceles triangles (Fig. 6), trapezes in various shapes (Fig. 7), narrow micro-points and backed bladelets according to their quantities<sup>36</sup>. In these layers, the microburin technique was used. Grinding stones which were not in common uses by hunter-gatherers and immigrant societies were also found at these levels as well as various sizes of grinding stones<sup>37</sup>. It is surprising to see these findings in the Öküzini Cave because there so far has been no piece of proof of the means of food production. The artistic work on the objects was produced by engraving the shapes on pebbles and various bones and these findings are the findings relevant to this level<sup>38</sup>. Perforators, in other words awls made on bone, are found in this level in large numbers as in all the other units.

If we take the findings into consideration, the last level, Unit IV, presents the uppermost layers of the cave is dated from a mixture of Epi-paleolithic-Neolithic-late Neolithic to early Chalcolithic period. This confusion was caused by the graves that were dug after the Epi-paleolithic sequence. The broken potteries and the pottery fragments found in the graves are the presents in Neolithic-late Neolithic-early Chalcolithic style<sup>39</sup>. The beads, which were made of stones and "dentalium", are typical discoveries of both the Epi-paleolithic and other later periods<sup>40</sup>. The Epi-paleolithic period artifacts pre-dominantly geometric microliths and these layers are dated between 10.000 B.P. and 7.900 B.P.<sup>41</sup>. However, the estimated dates of the graves are between 11.202 ca. B.P. (the oldest) and 5.047 ca. B.P. (the most recent)<sup>42</sup>. In addition to this, the pieces of Roman Period tiles found in the top layers of the cave bring the Historical Period of the cave to a much closer period. It is also possible to see a similar structure in the top layers of Karain.

Obviously, the Anatolian Epi-paleolithic period assemblages indicate that there are many find-spots in addition to the great number of tools that are necessary to be studied. It can be clearly seen how important the Prehistoric Archaeology is if

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> Kartal 1999, 168; 2002, 235.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> Kartal 1999, 168-169; 2002, 236.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Kartal 1999, 169; 2002, 236.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> Yalçınkaya 1992, 59.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> Otte *et al.* 1995, 941.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> Kartal – Erek 1998, 556.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> Yalçınkaya *et al.* 2000, 31.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> Kartal 1999, 169-170.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> Kartal – Erek 2002, 349.

we take the undiscovered assemblages into consideration.

### General Evaluation and Various Approaches

It seems extremely difficult to produce a map of all the Epi-paleolithic assemblages in Anatolia at present. The reason that the assemblages mentioned above are concentrated in certain places is that the research is intensive in these areas. Consequently, it is still premature to postulate between the Epi-paleolithic settlements in different regions, if a connection is possible at all.

Nonetheless, throughout history, Anatolia has always been a bridge between the Middle East and Europe. Consequently, it is possible that there would have been influences from both spheres. However, when we consider the remains of the materials dating about 17.000 B.P., Anatolia has symptoms of the Epipaleolithic period that is beyond the upper Paleolithic period in Europe. It is pertinent to determine these Anatolian assemblages, which are described either as Aurignacian and/or Mesolithic in many different occasions in previous investigations, whereas these Anatolian assemblages are later than upper Paleolithic and earlier than European Mesolithic taking the dates into consideration. The same situation is also valid for the Levantine Epi-paleolithic. Bar-Yosef comments on this subject that the Levantine Epi-paleolithic is approximately between 20/18.000 B.P. and 10.000 B.P., and this period is mostly contemporary to the European upper Paleolithic<sup>43</sup>. Thus, these Anatolian assemblages with a concentration of microliths were labeled as Mesolithic by the previous scholars in terms of directly applying the European terminology and chronology. Because the microliths are the main features of both cultures, this creates an ambiguity and puts the Anatolian Epipaleolithic and European Mesolithic in the same era. However, there are major chronological differences between them. We should always keep in mind that the end of the microlithic industries in Anatolia approximately coincides with the beginning of the intensive microlithic industries in Europe. In other words, it could be considered this way for the time being. In some European Mesolithic cultures, apart from microliths we also encounter with harpoons made of bones or antlers, fishhooks, variously shaped axes, picks and hoes including the first examples of primitive pottery. However, such implements are not found in the Anatolian Epi-paleolithic.

The Greek complexes that coincide to the Anatolian Epi-paleolithic houses the assemblages with upper Paleolithic and late Paleolithic characteristics. upper Consequently, the Greek Mesolithic assemblages are younger than the Anatolian Epi-paleolithic period. For instance; the Greek Mesolithic period layers in the Theopetra Cave were dated to 10.000-8.000 B.P.<sup>44</sup>, the Preveza Region Mesolithic layers to 10.500-9.400 B.P.45 and the Boila Shelter Mesolithic layers Rock to 10.190±90 B.P.<sup>46</sup>. Perlès states that the Mediterranean Mesolithic assemblages in Greece, including the Franchthi Cave, are very poor in microliths. However, he also comments that it could be possible to find microliths in central areas because of the presence of hunting activities<sup>47</sup>.

According to the studies along the Black Sea coast by Gatsov and Özdoğan, it has been proved that the Marmara Region shows closer similarities to Bulgaria and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> Adam 1999, 266.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> Runnels *et al.* 1999, 126.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> Kotjabopoulou *et al.* 1999, 198.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> Perlès 1999, 315.

Crimea. The findings of this region are important because of their location between Anatolia and Europe. Because the findings discovered by Gatsov and Özdoğan had indicated no signs of stratigraphy, they could be dated, but technological and not typological comparisons were implemented. It is necessary to ascertain a settlement with stratigraphy to prove an accurate-dated Epipaleolithic assemblage in the Marmara Region. It would be possible to locate Thrace where it belongs between the Balkans and northern Europe by chronological and cultural methods. The results of Öküzini studies show that this assemblage could be compared to the Levant better than any others could. In reality, the dating tests validated an identical circumstance. This phenomenon does not have to mean that this relation could only be obtained through Levant. The studies that are to be carried out can also bring out a different system just like Taurus-Zagros.

The other subject we mentioned at the beginning of this paper is about the transition to the first food production phase. We are faced with many queries and problems at this stage. The new phenomena, like big heavy stone tools (ground-stones) and equipment, we started to see in the tool kit of the mobile hunter-gatherer communities through the end of Epi-paleolithic make more detailed studies focused on human behavior, life style and adaptations. The presence of heavy stone tools makes us believe that they are the signs of more sedentary rather than a nomadic life style (i.e., these humans might have improved their skills in using ground stone industries to process cereals as a part of their diet). In other words, one must be careful not to disregard the possibility that some Epi-paleolithic groups might have led a semi-sedentary life. Due to this, seasonal migrations came to mind. Consequently, similar type of tools of an Epi-paleolithic community, which moved in accordance with environment, would be seen in more than one place. On the other hand, the marine-derived archaeological

findings that are found in inland areas far from the sea raise the question of whether there was trade between these groups or whether these people had covered long distances. As a matter of fact, the beads made of "dentalium" found in Öküzini Cave prove that these people were somehow familiar with the sea. At this point, the Beldibi and Belbaşı findings gain a greater importance considering the Karain, Öküzini and the surrounding caves. As a matter of fact, Taskıran shows that there is a greater probability that there are connections between the upland (Mount Katran and the Karain surroundings) and the Antalya coast line settlements in the Paleolithic period<sup>48</sup>. Similar connections could also be true for other regions considering the Epi-paleolithic period.

We believe that understanding the Anatolian Epi-paleolithic will provide us with the information about subsistence patterns of the last mobile hunter-gatherer communities in Anatolia. Through this information the differences and similarities between Balkans and the Levant cultures will become more explicit. However, series of problems about Anatolian Epi-paleolithic and the transition from the Pleistocene to the Holocene are still not far from being a mystery.

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# **List of Figures**

**Figure 1.** The principal Anatolian Epipaleolithic sites: 1 Öküzini, 2 Karain, 3 Kızılin, 4 Çarkini, 5 Güzeloba, 6 Beldibi, 7 Belbaşı, 8 Belpınar, 9 Baradiz, 10 Üçağızlı, 11 Pınarbaşı, 12 Macunçay, 13 Tekeköy-A, 14 Asarkaya, 15

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> Taşkıran 1996, 107.

Biris Mezarlığı, 16 Söğüt Tarlası, 17 Uluk Mevki, 18 Mucid Deresi, 19 Camuz Tepe, 20 Şarklı Mağara, 21 Malaliki, 22 Yarımburgaz, 23 Haramidere, 24 Paşa Alanı, 25 Ağaçlı, 26 Gümüşdere-Kilyos, 27 Domalı-Alaçalı, 28 Kefken, 29 Avşa Adası-Manastır, 30 Tepecik, 31 Değirmenlik.

Figure 2. The main section of Öküzini Cave.

**Figure 3.** Öküzini microliths: 1, 2 retouched bladelets and 3-10 backed bladelets.

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**Figure 4.** Öküzini microliths: 1-3 various micropoints; 4-6 microgravette points; 7, 8 short scalene triangles; 9 elongated scalene triangle and 10-12 obliquely truncated bladelets.

Figure 5. Öküzini crescents.

**Figure 6.** Öküzini isosceles triangles.

Figure 7. Various trapezes from Öküzini.

## Kaynakça / References

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Figure 1



Figure 2





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