Colloquium Anatolicum

22 2023

TÜRKİYE CUMHURİYETİ'NİN YÜZÜNCÜ YILI
KUTLU OLSUN

INSTITUTUM TURCICUM SCIENTIAE ANTIQUITATIS
TÜRK ESKİÇAĞ BİLİMLERİ ENSTİTÜSÜ

INSTITUTUM TURCICUM SCIENTIAE ANTIQUITATIS
TÜRK ESKİÇAĞ BİLİMLERİ ENSTİTÜSÜ

Colloquium Anatolicum

22

• 2023 •

INSTITUTUM TURCICUM SCIENTIAE ANTIQUITATIS
TÜRK ESKİÇAĞ BİLİMLERİ ENSTİTÜSÜ

Türk Eskiçağ Bilimleri Enstitüsü
İstiklal Cad. Merkez Han, No:181 Kat:2 34435 Beyoğlu-İSTANBUL
Tel: 0090-212-2920963
E-mail: colloquiumanatolicum@gmail.com - www.turkinst.org

COLLOQUIUM ANATOLICUM
22

ISSN 1303-8486

COLLOQUIUM ANATOLICUM dergisi, TÜBİTAK-ULAKBİM Sosyal Bilimler Veri Tabanında taranmaktadır.

COLLOQUIUM ANATOLICUM dergisi uluslararası hakemli bir dergidir, yılda bir kez yayınlanmaktadır.

Kapak Fotoğrafı
Cevdet Merih Erek, Direkli Mağarası

Atatürk fotoğrafı için Nezih Başgelen'e teşekkür ederiz

Baskı/Printing
Oksijen Basım ve Matbaacılık San. Tic. Ltd. Şti.
100. Yıl Mah. Matbaacılar Sit. 2. Cad. No:202/A Bağcılar-İstanbul
Tel: +90 (212) 325 71 25 Fax: +90 (212) 325 61 99 - Sertifika No: 29487

Yapım ve Dağıtım/Production and Distribution
Zero Prodüksiyon Kitap-Yayın-Dağıtım Ltd. Şti.
Tel: +90 (212) 244 75 21 Fax: +90 (212) 244 32 09
info@zerobooksonline.com www.zerobooksonline.com

INSTITUTUM TURCICUM SCIENTIAE ANTIQUITATIS
TÜRK ESKİÇAĞ BİLİMLERİ ENSTİTÜSÜ

Bilim Kurulu / Consilium Scientiae

13 Nisan 1934 Bergama'nın güneybatısındaki antik sağlık ocağı Asklepieion'un tiyatrosunda Mustafa Kemal Atatürk ve beraberindekiler (Arkeoloji ve Sanat Yayınları arşivi).

SUNUŞ

Cumhuriyetimizin 100. yılında, *Colloquium Anatolicum*'un 22. sayısını yayınlamaktan kıvanç duymaktayız. 2023 yılının sadece ülkemiz için değil Dünya için türlü türlü zorluklar ile yaşanmış olmasına karşın, geleceğe umutla bakmaya devam etmekteyiz.

Dergimizin bu sayısındaki ilk beş yazı, Enstitümüzün 10 Mayıs 2022'de düzenlediği "Mağara Kazılarıyla Anadolu Prehistoryası" başlıklı çevrimiçi çalıştaya katılan meslektaşlarımıza aittir. Anadolu'nun değişik bölgelerinde farklı dönemlere ilişkin mağara kazı ve araştırmaların, ülkemizde özgün yöntemlere sahip yeni bir alanının gelişmesine katkı sağladığı açıkça görülür. Kuşkusuz arkeolojideki saha uygulamaları araştırma soruları, dönem ve buluntu yerlerinin yapısal özelliklerinin yanı sıra alanın coğrafi ve jeolojik özellikleri dolayısıyla da çeşitlilik gösterir. Ülkemizde arkeolojik bilgi üretiminin gelişimi için dönemsel ve bölgesel çeşitlilik kadar, bu durum da büyük önem taşır.

Türkiye'deki arkeoloji geleneği, Osmanlı İmparatorluğu'nun son dönemlerinde başlayan arazi çalışmaları ve gelişen müzecilik anlayışıyla yüz yılı aşkın bir süredir bilgi üreten, Cumhuriyet'in kuruluşu ve Mustafa Kemal Atatürk'ün çabalarıyla da bu üretimi evrensel değerler çerçevesinde sürdürme gayreti içinde olan bir geçmişe sahiptir. Ülkemizdeki arazi çalışmalarının başlangıcı ile Dünya'da arkeolojinin bilimsel bir disiplin olarak gelişimi esasında koşut bir süreç izler. Üniversitelerimizde 1930'lu yıllardan itibaren açılmaya başlayan arkeoloji, eskiçağ tarihi ve eskiçağ dilleri bölümlerinde, başlangıçta yurt dışında yetişen genç Türk araştırmacı ve ağırlıklı olarak Alman bilim insanları tarafından yetiştirilen kuşaklar, bugün ülke topraklarının genişliği ve tarihsel derinliği bakımdan hâlen yetersiz de olsa çok sayıda araştırma yapmakta ve ülkemizde bilimsel açıdan canlı bir ortam bulunmaktadır. Bütün bu süreç boyunca, arkeoloji ve tüm eskiçağ bilimleri belki de diğer hiçbir alanda olmadığı kadar uluslararası iş birlikleri ve ortak çalışmaların çeşitliliğiyle disiplinin evrensel çerçevesini korumayı başarmıştır.

Cumhuriyet'in ilk yıllarında olduğu gibi, ikinci yüzyılda da bilimin ulusal kimliklerden bağımsız, evrensel değerler ve bilimsel önceliklerle belirlenen bir çalışma ortamında sürdürülmesi temennisi ile...

Saygılarımızla,
Editörler Kurulu

İçindekiler

A Terminal Natufian Technocomplex on the Boundary of the Middle Taurus Mountain Range And Pazarcik Plain: First Results From Yusufun Kayasi Cave in Kahramanmaraş*

Orta Toros Sıradağları ve Pazarcık Ovası Sınırında Bir Son Aşama Natufian Teknokompleksi: Kahramanmaraş'taki Yusufun Kayası Mağarası'nın İlk Sonuçları

Cevdet Merih EREK

DOI: 10.58488/collan.1138789

Keywords: *Near East, Kahramanmaraş, Prehistory, Epipaleolithic, Pre-Pottery Neolithic.*

Yusufun Kayası Cave is located 45 km east of the city of Kahramanmaraş. Material with parallels to that of the Natufian culture were defined in the study region during the project. Despite the location of the Natufian tradition in the southern Levant, far from the Taurus mountains, our work suggests technological parallels extended over a much wider geography. From this, we also ask whether technological features of the Harifian, or terminal Natufian culture, could also be characterized by a wider geographic distribution. Based on this notion, we suggest that the elements of the lithic material from Yusufun Kayası cave, including lunates, backed bladelets, end scrapers, points, perforators, sickle elements (on fragments of blade and flakes), denticulated and notched tools, have parallels with the Harifian complex of the southern Levant. At the same time, there are also traces of technological innovations associated with plant processing and agriculture, including grinding stones and pulverizing tools recovered from the cave deposits.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Yakındoğu, Kahramanmaraş, Tarihöncesi, Epipaleolitik, Çanak-Çömleksiz Neolitik.

Yusufun Kayası Mağarası, Kahramanmaraş ilinin 45 km doğusunda yer almaktadır. Çalışma alanında Natufian kültürüyle paralellik gösteren malzemeler tespit edilmiştir. Araştırmalarımız, Natufian geleneğinin Toros dağlarından uzakta, güney Levant'ta yer almasına rağmen, teknolojik paralelliklerin çok daha geniş bir coğrafyaya yayıldığını göstermektedir. Buradan hareketle, Harifian veya Son Natufian kültürünün teknolojik özelliklerinin daha geniş bir coğrafi dağılımla karakterize edilip edilemeyeceğini sorgulamaktayız. Bu düşünceden yola çıkarak, Yusufun Kayası Mağaras'ındaki yarımay, sırtlı dilgicik, ön kazıyıcı, uç, delici, orak elemanları (dilgi ve yonga parçaları üzerinde), dişlemeli ve çentikli aletler gibi yontmataş unsurlarının Güney Levant'taki Harifiyen kompleksi ile paralellikler taşıdığını öne sürmekteyiz. Mağara çökeltilerinde öğütme taşları ve öğütücü aletler de dahil olmak üzere, bitki işleme ve tarımla ilişkili teknolojik yeniliklerin izleri de bulunmaktadır

* Peer Review: October 13, 2022; Accepted: August 26, 2023
Cevdet Merih Erek, Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University, Faculty of Letters, Archaeology Department, Ankara, Türkiye, cevdet.erek@hbv.edu.tr, ORCID: 0000-0002-0259-5111

Introduction

The northern and southern coasts of the Anatolian geography are bordered by high mountains extending parallel to the sea, while the western coasts are bordered by mountains oriented perpendicular to the sea. As a result of the large corridor formed by these parallel mountains and the effects of the sea from the west to the interior, Anatolia has been an attractive geography for human occupation since the Pleistocene. This situation is reflected in early evidence for hominin colonization and expansion outside of the African continent (Kuhn *vd.* 2015:581). The reflections of this productive geographic setting are clearly observed in archaeological research carried out in the Pleistocene and Early Holocene periods within the Anatolian region. Yarımburgaz Cave, reflecting the earliest cultural periods of Anatolia (Hovasse 1927; Özdoğan 1987; Arsebük *vd.* 1990; Arsebük *vd.* 2010); Karain Cave (Yalçınkaya 1986); Öküzini (Kökten 1959; Yalçınkaya 1992) and Üçağızlı (Déroche 1992; Kuhn *vd.* 1999) caves are the defining locales of the Middle and Upper Paleolithic, and Epipaleolithic periods. After these, the Anatolian Epipaleolithic period chronology was established with the excavations of Direkli (Erek 2017) and Kızılin (Erbil *vd.* 2021) caves.

In the research focused on the Paleolithic periods mentioned above, scholars have described in detail the elements of material culture left behind by bio-culturally diverse groups. Quantitative variability in material culture from these sites reflects cultural diversity and is described as representing a variety of techno-complexes. Flannery (1969) refers to changes in techno-complexes as "long-term sociopolitical changes". Considering long-term sociopolitical changes as a reflection of gradual adaptations, the adaptations evident in the early Holocene can be attributed to the exploitation of a greater number of small animals and increased plant food diversity (i.e. broad spectrum revolution), and eventually to the development of agricultural production and domestication of plants and also livestock species (see Stutz 2019:5198-5199). The increase or decrease in economic diversity reflected in the early Holocene was associated with regional demographic change and it can be said that the adaptation asserted by Binford in the "balance" model changes with the deterioration of the balance between population and environment (see Binford 1968).

Considering that adaptation is a regional problem, it should be accepted that Epipaleolithic traditions such as the Natufian or any subsequent cultural development can emerge with differences despite being situated in geographies close to each other. These differences reveal not only the change of cultures, but also the adaptation differences in some intertwined regional traditions. It would be productive to look at the criteria for defining the Late Natufian or Harifian cultures in this way and maybe even to examine the definitions of the Late Natufian and Pre-Pottery Neolithic A period.

For now, it is possible to describe three important sites of the late Epipaleolithic Natufian period and the cultures immediately following it on the Central Taurus Mountain range. These include Direkli Cave, Eşek Deresi Cave and Yusufun Kayası Cave. It is known

Figure 1. *Location of Yusufun Kayası Cave in Anatolia and Near East*

that Direkli Cave is associated with a lithic industry with Early Natufian characteristics. On the other hand, Eşek Deresi (Altınbilek-Algül *vd.* 2022) and Yusufun Kayası Caves are still new excavations, so it is too early to describe a specific typological affiliation. However, both have material evidence reflecting distinct periods that differ from each other in some significant ways. At this point, Yusufun Kayası Cave appears as a reflection of a unique regional adaptation due to its location and cultural materials.

Yusufun Kayası Cave is located in Pazarcık District of Kahramanmaraş Province (Fig.1). The cave is at an altitude of 790 m above sea level and is northeast of Kartalkaya Dam Lake. The cave complex consists of three separate chambers on the western edge of the Aksu Stream. These chambers, called A-B and C, face to the northwest. Although the

entrances of all chambers are wide-mouthed, they do not have much depth inward.

Yusufun Kayası Cave was discovered in 2008 as part of the "*Prehistoric Survey of Kahramanmaraş Province Project*". Subsequently, in 2009, the cave was visited again and the first mapping took place. During this visit, the existence of numerous illicit excavation pits was documented and appreciable archaeological materials was collected from those looter pits located on the terraces of the A-B chambers. These materials include grinding stones, backed bladelets, ornaments, and bone tools. Chamber C is almost entirely composed of bedrock, and no finds that can be associated with prehistoric periods were found on the terrace in front of it (see Erek 2011).

The chipped stone finds of Yusufun Kayası Cave are also important in terms of revealing the prehistoric potential of the region. Archaeological excavations were started in 2020 under the leadership of the Kahramanmaraş Museum Directorate in order to introduce this potential to the scientific world and to prevent further damage to the site due to illegal excavations.

2020-2021 Excavations

In 2020, the terrace in front of Chamber A was designated as the "excavation area" and the grid system was first established in the area. Afterwards, when the surface cleaning was carried out, a large number of animal bones, chipped stone materials, and fragments of grinding stones were recovered. The plan squares are 2x2m in size and each archaeological level was excavated in 10 cm increments. During the 2020 excavation season, six grid-squares were studied and four archaeological levels were excavated. Throughout the 2021 excavations, in addition to the grid squares excavated in the previous season, four more grid squares were added in the excavation area and the excavation of an archaeological level in the entire area was completed. After two seasons of work, recovered materials were classified as chipped stones, grinding stones, animal bones, human bones, ornaments, and miscellaneous.

One of the important discoveries made during the excavations carried out in Yusufun Kayası Cave A section is the identification of a simple architectural element, which is described as the 'structural arrangement'. This arrangement consists of a single row of arc-shaped stones, approximately 4x6 m in size, at the mouth of chamber A, close to the cave wall. During the excavations carried out inside and outside the building in 2021, it was understood that the stone sequence did not merge with the cave wall in the west, and therefore this gap provided an entrance opening to the space. In addition, a human skull, various long bone fragments and human teeth were recovered from grid-square C12, located within the structure (Fig. 2). Understanding the use of such early simple architectural arrangements requires detailed analysis. It is known that some of these arrangements were created in accordance with needs such as burial applications and some of them for storage. For example, in Hayonim Cave in western Israel, plant remains such as wild barley, almonds, and broad beans were found among the round structures uncovered there

(see Hopf, Bar-Yosef 1987). The building remains revealed at both Direkli Cave (Erek 2017:308) and Yusufun Kayası Cave consist of single rows of stones and based on material culture elements date between the Final Pleistocene and Early Holocene.

Chipped Stone Industries

A total of 3405 chipped stone materials were recovered from the excavations between 2020 and 2021. Preliminary analyses of these materials were carried out focusing on describing the technological and typological features. The raw material of the chipped stone industry is chert with a frequency of 99.72%; the other raw materials including limestone (0.20%) and obsidian (0.08%). Production residues and unidentifiable components constitute the most abundant group at 71.26% in the whole industry of the Chamber A. Based on the data from two seasons, we can talk about the existence of a chipped stone industry where flake production is dominant. The distribution of all blanks within the collection is shown in Table 1.

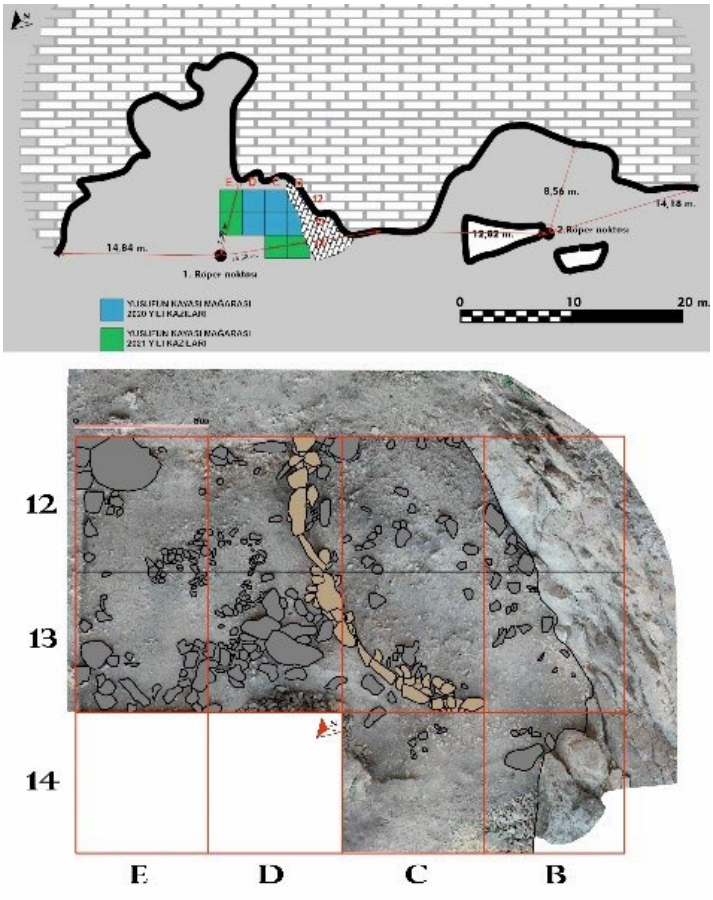

Figure 2. *Excavation area including the remains of an arc-shaped structure (light brown)*

Blanks	Number	Per cent
Flake	676	82,13%
Blade	21	2,55%
Bladelet	113	13,73%
Technological components	13	1,59%
TOTAL	**823**	**100%**

Table 1: *Number and proportional distribution of blanks in the industry from excavation plan squares*

As the cave complex is close to a natural chert source, it is not surprising that the dominant raw material group in the chipped stone industry is chert. Flakes are more abundant than other tool types, the production residues and undefined pieces are high in number, and the *chaîne opératoire* was carried out on the terrace in front of the cave with the hammers found in the sediments.

During the excavations carried out in chamber A, 34 cores were found. They range widely in regards to size and generally do not show regular knapping. Except for the unipolar cores, only one bipolar core was recovered (Fig. 3). In addition, 6 large flake-cores were found, the negative removals scar surfaces of which were reused as striking planes.

It is noteworthy that although the flakes are high in quantity, the tool industry includes many microliths made on bladelets. The microliths are geometric and non-geometric. A total of 38 microlithics have been identified, of which 31 are geometric and 7 are non-geometric microliths. Except for one triangular and trapezoidal microlithic, all of the remaining geometric microliths are crescent shaped. Six of these crescents exhibit Helwan retouch (Fig. 4).

Other identifiable tools types include end scrapers, denticulated, denticulated-notched tools, and stone drills. Retouched flakes, blades and bladelets, which can be defined as *ad hoc* tools, are the most crowded tool group after microliths. Apart from these, backed and truncated pieces and points considered as weapons were also found. In addition, silica glossing was observed in two of the retouched flake and blade tools in the find group

Figure 3. *Example of a core with a single striking (left) and a double striking platforms (right)*

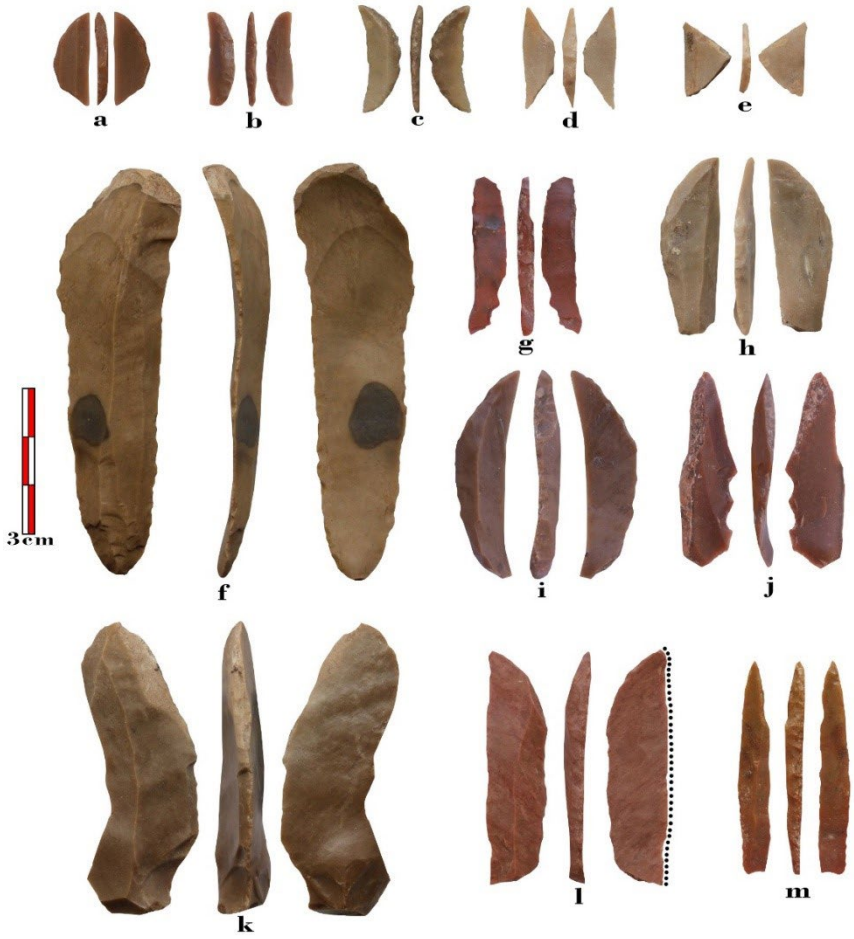

Figure 4. *a-c: Crescent (b-c Helwan retouched), d: Trapezoidal, e: Triangle, f/k: Retouched blade, g/i: backed bladelet, h: retouched bladelet, j: denticulated tool, l: silica polished backed bladelet and m: stone drill*

(Table 2). Evidence recorded as this type of silica gloss has been known since the Early Natufian (Boyd 2018:66). Early examples of these sickle elements made on irregular blanks are found at Ein Gev I and Ohalo II sites in the Near East dating to the late Pleistocene (see Groman-Yaroslavski *vd.* 2016). It should not be forgotten that this type of use-wear trace samples, which are generally defined by gloss, are not only of vegetable origin.

As a result of the analyses carried out on the chipped stone materials, eight materials with different patina were identified. The difference between the retouches and surface patina of two of them indicates that the materials have undergone secondary retouching. During the fieldworks around the Cave we found open air sites such as Atatan Copse and Çiçekalan Mevkii which yielded Middle Paleolithic period materials. It can be said that the above mentioned two pieces are early period chipped stone materials that were probably collected for secondary use from these locales. As a similar example, core, flake

and Mousterian type side scrapers were found among the Epipaleolithic period levels of Öküzini Cave (Yalçınkaya 1993:50).

	Number	Percent
Microlithic	38	34,86%
Ad hoc	35	32,11%
Point	4	3,66%
End scraper	3	2,75%
Stone Drill	2	1,83%
Denticulated and Notched	4	3,66%
Truncated	6	5,54%
Backed	15	13,76%
Sickle elements	2	1,83%
TOTAL	**109**	**100%**

Table 2: *Number and proportional distribution of the chipped stone tool industry*

Ground Stone Industry

There are grinding stones, stone spheres, pestles and a perforated weight in the ground stone industry (Fig. 5). In this industry, both upper and lower parts of the grinding stones are present. All of these tools were recovered in broken condition. Of the 34 grinding stones, 14 were recovered from the surface cleaning of the cave and its surroundings, and 20 from the excavated plan squares. Except for the serpentine and basalt raw materials, all of them were produced from local stones around the cave.

"Stone Spheres", which have a spherical or spherical form, are also known as slingshot stone due to their ergonomic structure. It is a matter of debate how these materials were used. Two stone spheres were found during the excavations. These were probably collected from the nearby Aksu Stream and are similar in form to each other.

A material was recovered in situ that can be evaluated in the grinding stone industry has been defined as " disc-shaped perforated weight". There is a symmetrically drilled hole in the center of the disc-shaped weight, which is 8.6 cm long, 7.1 cm wide and 1.4 cm thick (Fig. 5d).

Ornaments

Within the 68 ornamental objects identified, the most abundant group is made from the pedipalps (claws) of freshwater crabs with both ends cut off. Beads produced from various molluscs such as *Nassarius*, *Dentalium*, and *Columbella* of marine origin constitute approximately half of all ornamental objects. There are also rare specimens such as *Theodoxus fluviatis* and *Theodoxus jordani* (Table 3). A single example of *Melanopsis* has been identified although it has not been considered as an ornament object because there is no perforation. No beads made of bone or stone have been found so far.

Figure 5. *Ground stone samples (a: basalt grinding stone (bottom), b: serpentine grinding stone (top), c: upper grinding stone, d: disc-shaped perforated weight, e-f: lower-top grinding stone)*

	Number	Per cent
Nassarius	17	%25,00
Dentalium	11	%16,17
Theodoxus	4	%5,88
Columbella	3	%4,41
Pedipalp pieces	33	%48,54
Total	**68**	**%100**

Table 3: *Number and proportional distribution of detected ornamental objects*

It has been observed that some of the pedipalps and mollusc shells were exposed to high temperatures and their color was changed. It is thought that this process was done intentionally by humans in order to transform the color of the beads (Fig. 6g).

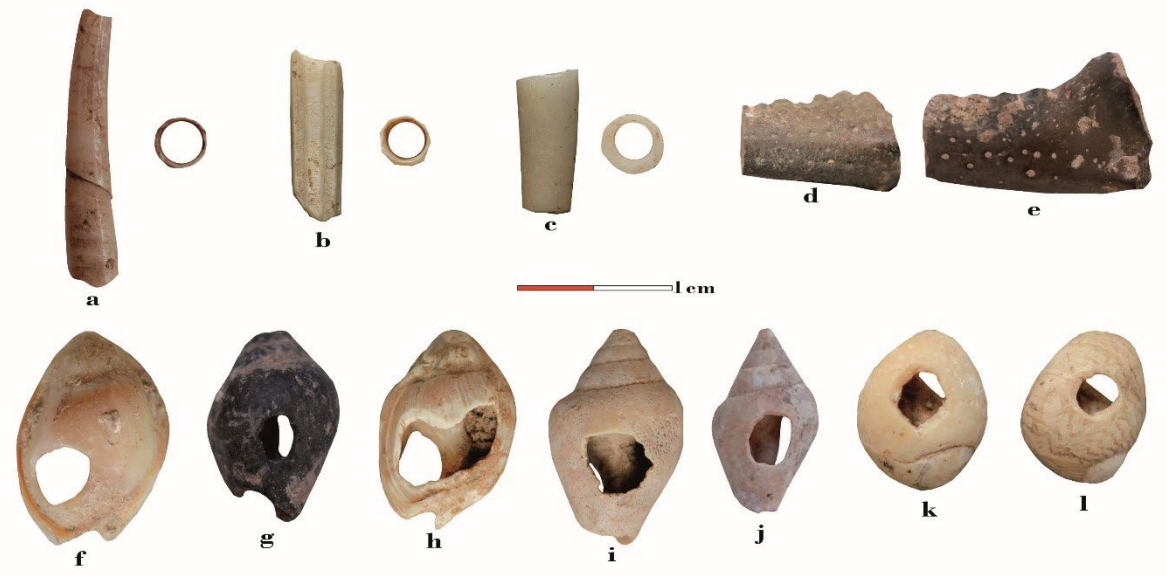

Figure 6. *Various ornamental objects (a-c: dentalium, d-e: pedipalps (pincers of scorpion or crab) pieces with both ends cut off., f-h: Nassarius, i-j: Columbella and k-l: Theodoxus)*

Miscellaneous

There are ceramics, stone vessel fragments, hammers, bone tool fragments and late period materials cultural within these group of finds. Other finds from Yusufun Kayası Cave excavations include a small number of ceramic and stone vessel fragments. It is understood that all of the ceramic specimens were late period ceramics that were shaped by wheel and badly fired. This situation can be associated with the many Roman burial areas around Yusufun Kayası Cave. Yusufun Kayası Cave may have been used for different purposes including as an observation point in this period as well. Late use of the cave is further supported by a copper coin recovered during a 2019 visit to the cave which dates to the period of Byzantine emperor Johannes I (AD 969-976).

During excavations, two stone vessel fragments were found. It was observed that they have been intentionally perforated, drilled from the inner towards the outer surface, near the edge of the rim. This technique is quite consistent with stone vessels of the Pre-Pottery Neolithic Period. These specimens with various fractures show intense wear marks and are devoid of any decoration (Fig.7b).

As mentioned above, the cave complex is close to the raw material source required for chipped stone production. Besides the cores, transports and production residues showing that the chipping activity was carried out in the settlement area, hammer stones provide another important source of data. As a result of the excavations, three similar flint hammers were found which also show that flake production was done in the settlement (Fig.7c).

Figure 7. *Other finds (**a**: bone tool (awl), **b**: stone vessel fragment, **c**: flint hammer and **d**: oval plate)*

Considering the cultural materials recovered, the bone tool industry is scarce in Yusufun Kayası Cave. The only example of a bone tool recovered from excavation was an awl, darkened by fire. Its pointed end is broken, presumably from use, resulting in its discard (Fig.7a).

Finally, an example of flat or oval limestone slab, a rare type of object from this period, was recovered from Yusufun Kayası Cave. Although it is claimed that this tool, which has abrasions on its edges and middle parts, was used for various purposes, it is not possible to make an inference about use from the single example recovered here (Fig.7d). Goring-Morris (1991:197) interpreted similar examples of these tools from Harifian sites in Israel as stone slabs related to leather processing.

Discussion and Conclusion

Yusufun Kayası is in a position to provide easy access to a variety of different ecological regions. The cave complex, located at a modest altitude, covers an area of more than 560m^2. In addition, due to access to rich faunal and floral resources, raw material sources such as flint and basalt, and year-round fresh water access, the cave may have been inhabited for long periods of time by groups that could even be considered semi-sedentary. Although the excavation seasons were short in duration to date, it has already been possible to see evidence of long-distance exchange networks and mobility. Evidence from multiple late Epipaleolithic sites in Anatolia reflects regular movements over quite long distances. For instance, ornamental objects of marine origin have been identified in settlements such as

Direkli Cave, Pınarbaşı-B and Yusufun Kayası located in far inland. Moreover, chipped stones artifacts at each of these sites made from raw materials similar to Göllü Dağ obsidian further emphasize inter- and intra-regional connectivity.

When the material cultural remains of Yusufun Kayası Cave are examined (especially the chipped stone industry, the presence of grinding stones, an architectural space, ornamental objects and stone vessel fragments), it is seen that they reflect the late Epipaleolithic or early Pre-Pottery Neolithic Period. In the Southern Levant, especially in the Negev Region, the culture that defined this period is called the "Harifian". This period, named after the Harif context, is known from different types of settlements dated to 10.750-10.000 BC (Goring-Morris 1991:177). It has been argued that the definition of this culture as 'Epipaleolithic' or 'Neolithic' is controversial, as the Harifian cultural materials are historically parallel to those of early Neolithic communities (Shea 2013:209). Although Harifian is a cultural adaptation characteristic of the Negev region of the southern Levant, it shares many common points with the Natufian culture. Here, the problem of regional adaptation is clearly visible. The fact that the features of Natufian described in the Near East appear with a different model, as in Yusufun Kayası settlement in Anatolia, must be accepted as a reflection of the natural interaction between human populations and the environment, as local adaptation and technological evolution. However, material culture remains seem generally more compatible with the preceding Epipaleolithic period rather than the Neolithic. Still, some elements not inherent in the Epipaleolithic, such as stone vessel fragments and oval plates, suggest that we are seeing the transition from Epipaleolithic to Neolithic technologies. At Yusufun Kayası Cave in Anatolia, we are probably catching the early clues of a cultural phase that has moved away from earlier Epipaleolithic practices and has adopted some features of emerging Neolithic communities. Additional excavation seasons are needed to further clarify the cultural and technological affiliations of Yusufun Kayası Cave and to better link this site to sequences in neighboring regions. In particular, a program of C^{14} dating will help us more precisely understand the temporal context of the occupation of the cave. But for now, it would be appropriate to evaluate the Yusufun Kayası settlement from the point of view of a local, but not isolated, late Epipaleolithic culture of the Central Taurus mountains with strong connections to the Late Natufian.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the General Directorate of Cultural Heritage and Museums of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Türkiye, Kahramanmaraş Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism, Kahramanmaraş Museum Directorate, Pazarcık Municipality, and the team members who participated in the challenging field studies for the 2020 and 2021 excavations of Yusufun Kayası Cave. Finally, I would like to thank my dear friend and colleague Benjamin Arbuckle for his editorial assistance.

Bibliography

Altınbilek-Algül, Ç. , Kaycı, O. H. , Balcı, S. 2022
A New Epipalaeolithic Site in the Central Taurus Mountains: Eşek Deresi Cave (Mersin/Turkey). *ArchéOrient - Le Blog* 18, ArchéOrient-Le Blog: février 2022, [**En ligne**] https://archeorient.hypotheses.org/17313.

Arsebük, G. , Howell, F. C. , Özbaşaran, M. 1990
Yarımburgaz 1988. *XI. Kazı Sonuçları Toplantısı* (I): 9-38.

Arsebük, G., Howell, F. C., Kuhn, S. L., Farrand, W. R., Özbaşaran, M., Stiner, M. C. 2010
The Caves of Yarımburgaz: Geological Context and History of Investigation. *Culture and Biology at a Crossroads: The Middle Pleistocene Record of Yarımburgaz Cave (Thrace, Turkey),* F. C. Howell, M. C. Stiner, G. Arsebük, M. Özbaşaran, S. L. Kuhn (eds.), Ege Yayınları, İstanbul: 1-27.

Binford, L. R. 1968
Post-Pleistocene Adaptations. *Archaeology in Cultural Systems*, S. R. Binford, L.R. Binford (eds.), Aldine Transaction Publishers, Chicago: 399-439.

Boyd, B. 2018
Settled? Recent Debates in the Archaeology of the Epipaleolithic and Pre-Pottery Neolithic of Southwest Asia. *Asian Archaeology* 1: 63-73.

Déroche, A. M. 1992
Üçağızlı Mağarası Kazıları ve Çevre Araştırmaları. *XIII. Kazı Sonuçları Toplantısı* (I), 71-83.

Erbil, E., Kartal, G., Ağırsoy, Z. B. 2021
A New Settlement from the Epi-paleolithic Period: The Operational Sequence and Techno-Typology of Knapped Stone Industry at the Kızılin Site (Antalya,Turkey). *Lithic Technology* 46/2: 143-163.

Erek, C. M. 2011
Kahramanmaraş İli Prehistoryası. *Işın Yalçınkaya'ya Armağan,* H. Taşkıran, M. Kartal, K. Özçelik, B. Kösem, G. Kartal (eds.), Bilgin Kültür Sanat Yayınları, Ankara: 113-126.

– 2017
Direkli Mağarası Epi-paleolitik Dönem Yaşamsal Alan Düzenlemeleri Üzerine Bir Değerlendirme. *Seleucia* VII: 377-396.

Flannery, K. V. 1969
Origins and Ecological Effects of Early Domestication in Iran and the Near East. *The Domestication and Exploitation of Plants and Animals,* P. J. Ucko, G. W. Dimbleby (eds), Aldine Transaction Publishers, Chicago: 73-100.

Goring-Morris, N. 1991
The Harifian of the Southern Levant. *The Natufian culture in the Levant,* O. Bar-Yosef, F. R. Valla (eds), International Monographs in Prehistory, Ann Arbor:173-234.

Groman-Yaroslavski, I., Weiss, E., Nadel, D. 2016
Composite Sickles and Cereal Harvesting Methods at 23,000 Years Old Ohalo II, Israel. *PLos One* 23 11(11): 1-21.

Hopf, M., Bar-Yosef, O. 1987
Plant Remains From Hayonim Cave, Western Galilee. *Paleorient* 13-1: 117-120.

Hovasse, R. 1927
Yarımburgaz Mağarası - La Grotte de Yarim Bourgas, *Darülfünun Fen Fakültesi Mecmuası*, İstanbul, 5, 1-19 (French), 396-422 (Turkish)

Kökten, İ. K. 1959
Tarsus-Antaly Arası Sahil Şeridi Üzerinde ve Antalya Bölgesi'nde Yapılan Tarihöncesi Araştırmaları Hakkında. *Türk Arkeoloji Dergisi* VIII: 10-16.

Kuhn, S. L., Dinçer, B., Balkan-Atlı, N., Erturaç, M. K. 2015
Paleolithic Occupations of the Göllü Dağ, Central Anatolia, Turkey. *Journal of Field Archaeology 40*(5), 581-602.

Kuhn, S. L., Güleç, E., Kılınç, F. 1999
Exploratory Excavations at Üçağızlı Cave, Hatay Province. *XX. Kazı Sonuçları Toplantısı (I)*: 63-75.

Özdoğan, M. 1987
Yarımburgaz Mağarası 1986 Yılı Kazı Çalışmaları, *V. Araştırma Sonuçları Toplantısı* Ankara, 323-346.

Shea, J. J. 2013
Stone Tools in the Paleolithic and Neolithic Near East a Guide. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Stutz, A. 2019
Near East (Including Anatolia): Geographic Description and General Chronology of the Paleolithic and Neolithic State of Knowledge and Current Debates. *Encyclopedia of Global Archaeology*, C. Smith (ed.) Springer, Cham :5182-5208.

Yalçınkaya, I. 1986
1985 Yılı Karain Kazıları. *VIII. Kazı Sonuçları Toplantısı (I)*, 21-37.

– 1992
1990 Yılı Öküzini Kazısı. *XIII. Kazı Sonuçları Toplantısı (I)*, 55-70.

– 1993
1992 Yılı Öküzini Kazısı. *XV. Kazı Sonuçları Toplantısı (I)*, 43-61.