

IV.11. Taxon Hf: Points on flake/blade
 (7 items; #1051–1057)

#1051. Item no. 465-9926

Exc. nr.	Discovery date	Square-subsq.	Depth range Z(D)	Depth Z(datum)	UTM E (x)	UTM N (y)	Stratum	Stratig. comp. (SC)
X12	02/02/2016	K4-S	-1.92/ -2.13	-2.05	283922.91	2724532.77	1212	C
Taxon code	Taxon definition	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Weight (g)	Raw material class		
Hf	Point on flake	39.5	18	6.6	5.84	V		



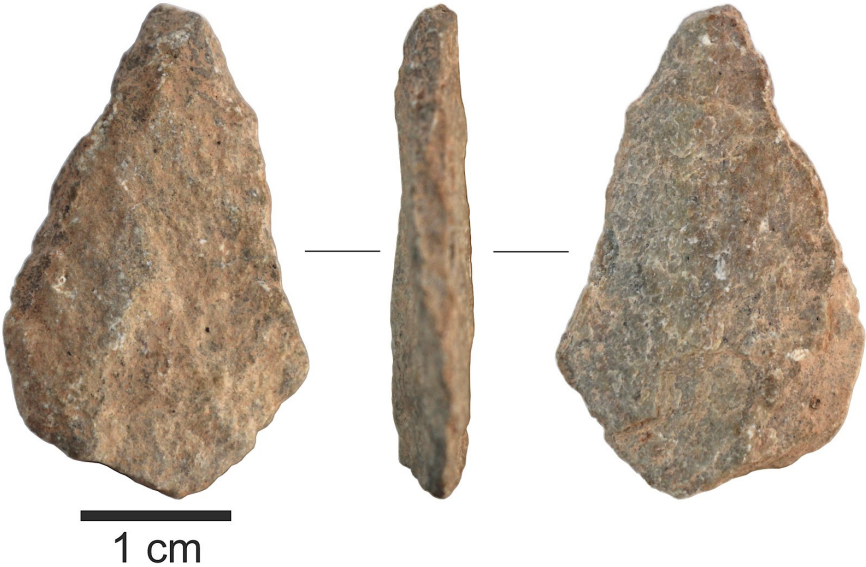
Characterization. This artefact is an interesting and unique unifacial stemmed tool, presumably a point or point effigy, made on a thick flake extracted from a tabular core of fine-grained green limestone, coated by fine, light-hued sediment. The point has a remarkable lateral symmetry. Seen from above its dorsal side, it has two sloped, beveled edges, and a central triangular surface. The upper flat surface of the dorsal face and the left sloped plane are both natural, part of the original nodule. The right “slope” - much steeper, almost vertical - is artificial, created by abrupt flaking. The ventral side is almost flat and seemingly cortical, with no anthropic interventions. The main distinctive feature of this point is its stemmed proximal end. The stem was formed by two symmetrical notches, both produced by percussion impacts that came from the ventral side and removed the corners of the blank, creating this stemmed

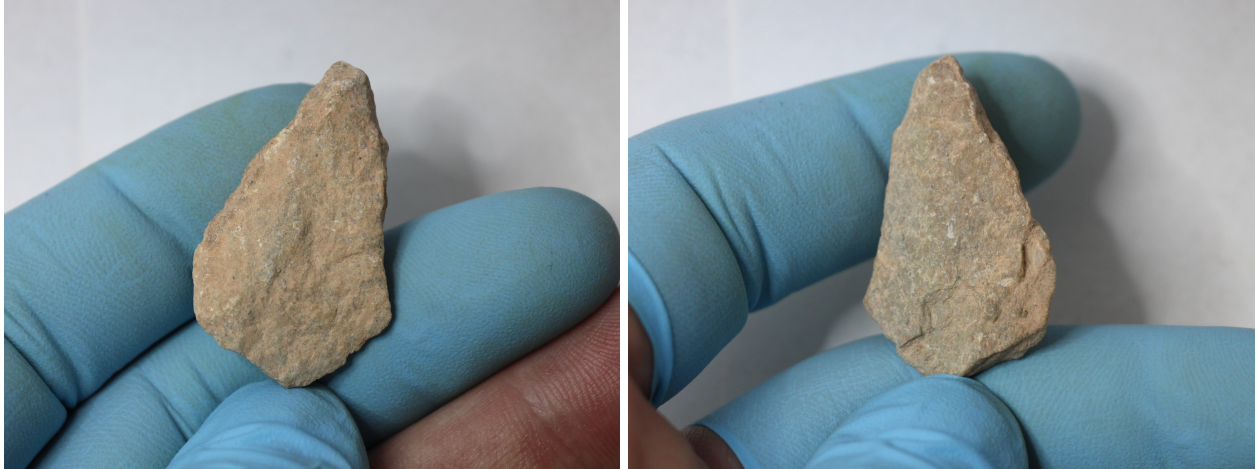


shape. The left notch was made by a single impact. The right one required two consecutive hits to obtain a similar result.

#1052. Item no. 485-11106

Exc. nr.	Discovery date	Square-subsq.	Depth range Z(D)	Depth Z(datum)	UTM E (x)	UTM N (y)	Stratum	Stratig. comp. (SC)
X12	02/02/2016	L4	-2.33/-2.43	-2.39	283923.91	2724533.26	1212	C
Taxon code	Taxon definition	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Weight (g)	Raw material class		
Hf	Point on flake	33	20.7	5.3	3.51	V		





Characterization. This item is a possible point on flake, made on a now badly eroded and patinated blank of green limestone, modified and eroded beyond the point of recognition of its original morphology. The symmetrical point-like object with a convergent base was obtained by systematically shaping the lateral and basal sides, by edge-trimming and abrupt marginal retouch. The artefact is coated by thick orange patina.

#1053. Item no. 510-9970

Exc. nr.	Discovery date	Square-subsq.	Depth range Z(D)	Depth Z(datum)	UTM E (x)	UTM N (y)	Stratum	Stratig. comp. (SC)
X12	03/02/2016	L6	-2.78/ -3.00	-2.90	283923.86	2724535.01	1219	C
Taxon code	Taxon definition	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Weight (g)	Raw material class		
Hf	Point on flake	30.2	20.4	8	3.67	V		





Characterization. This peculiar artefact is a unifacial point on flake, made on a flat-ventral blade-like flake of green limestone, now coated by a fine-grained sediment deposit. The proximal end of the point is the proximal of the blank: a large and wide dihedral platform, tilted towards the ventral side. This side is flat and with signs of chemical erosion formed inside the matrix of the raw material, which probably contributed to the formation of a natural cleavage plane that influenced the manner in which the blank was extracted, and contributed to the disequilibrium between the size of the platform and the thickness of the rest of the piece. The preform of the point was reduced by a large *ourepassé* blade-like flake that crosses the entire dorsal face of the piece in diagonal, originating on the left edge of the blank. This thinning flake was extracted after the separation of the blank from the parent core. The distal-left edge of the point is partly shaped by the termination of this diagonal flake. The opposite edge (distal-right of the point) was carefully shaped by two adjacent edge-fracture movements, achieving a laterally symmetrical tip. Finally, the proximal area of the point was shaped into a stemmed form, by two symmetrical notches made by percussion impacts, both coming from the ventral side. This piece is probably a point preform abandoned in an advanced stage of manufacture.

#1054. Item no. 560-10012

Exc. nr.	Discovery date	Square-subsq.	Depth range Z(D)	Depth Z(datum)	UTM E (x)	UTM N (y)	Stratum	Stratig. comp. (SC)
X12	05/02/2016	i6	-	-2.36	283921.28	2724535.36	1220	C
Taxon code	Taxon definition	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Weight (g)	Raw material class		

E, f, Hf	Point on blade?	44.9	16.8	6.1	4.74	V		
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1 cm



Characterization. This artefact is one of the most intriguing and unique items in the Chiquihuite assemblage, belonging to one of the deepest pre-LGM strata reached at the cave. The thick orange-brown cemented sediment coating that covers the artefact almost completely is consistent with an item that had remained in a still position inside the matrix of a carbonate mud-rich stratigraphic deposit, allowing the surrounding matter to adhere and solidify on its surface. This is a blade of fine-grained green limestone that was shaped into something that can be interpreted as a stemmed projectile point. The tip of the stem is the platform of the original blade: rectangular in cross-section, and partly collapsed on its impact-receiving surface. The right side of the dorsal face represents the scar of a previous blade or blade-like

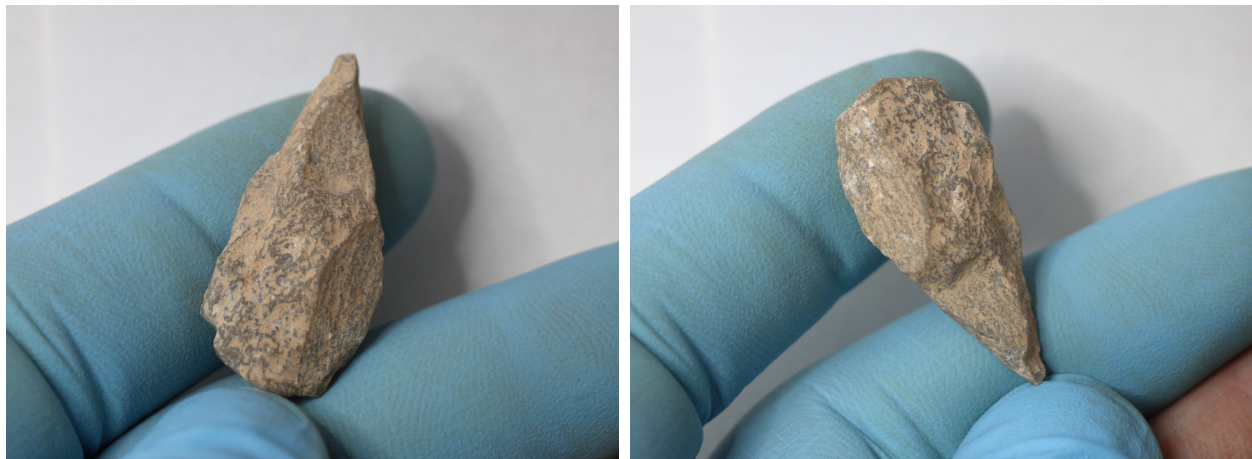


extraction. The blade separated from the parent core with a shouldered shape on the proximal right edge, under the proximal end. On the opposite part, on the other side of the platform, the proximal left edge was modified by a single percussion impact, creating a mirrored shape and a laterally symmetrical stemmed basal sector. The artefact born from this technological management can be described as a laurel leaf point with a rectangular stem and rounded shoulders. The edges of the blade did not receive much modifications, and no marginal retouch scars can be identified, but the analysis task can also be rendered difficult by the thick patina. The blade had a feathered termination, which implied edges naturally converging towards the distal end of the blank, here the distal tip of the point. The distal tip of the artefact is broken, apparently by an impact fracture, which would be consistent with its presumed function as a projectile point, also implying a consumed use (hypothetically, broken in the field and returned to the camp while still attached to the shaft).

#1055. Item no. 558-11720



Exc. nr.	Discovery date	Square-subsq.	Depth range Z(D)	Depth Z(datum)	UTM E (x)	UTM N (y)	Stratum	Stratig. comp. (SC)
X12	05/02/2016	i6	-2.20/ -2.40	-2.30	283921.16	2724535.17	1220	C
Taxon code	Taxon definition	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Weight (g)	Raw material class		
Hf	Point on flake	31	14.1	6.6	2.79	V		

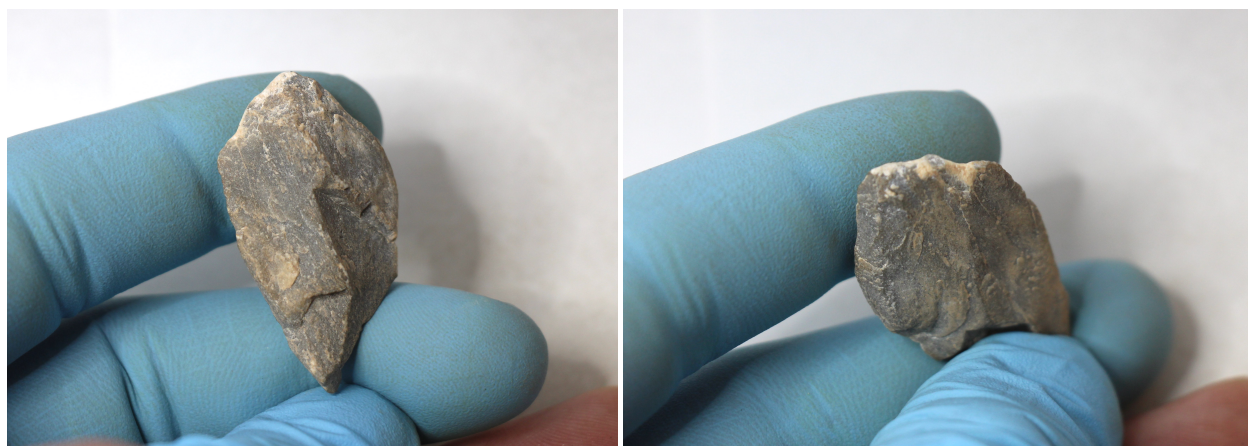


Characterization. This small artefact is a unifacial projectile point made by edge modification on a green limestone flake. The original morphology of the blank has been entirely modified. The ventral side is completely flat. The basal part of the point is convex, composed by a flat surface leaning towards the ventral side. The edges were both modified by abrupt flaking or fracturing, achieving a laterally symmetrical point with a pointy distal tip. The surface of the item is eroded and coated by fine-grained yellowish sediment.

#1056. Item no. 600-10149



Exc. nr.	Discovery date	Square-subsq.	Depth range Z(D)	Depth Z(datum)	UTM E (x)	UTM N (y)	Stratum	Stratig. comp. (SC)
X12	06/02/2016	K4-NW	-3.00/ -3.30	-3.15	283922.81	2724533.37	1222	C
Taxon code	Taxon definition	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Weight (g)	Raw material class		
Hf	Point on flake	35.7	19.6	7.4	4.77	V		

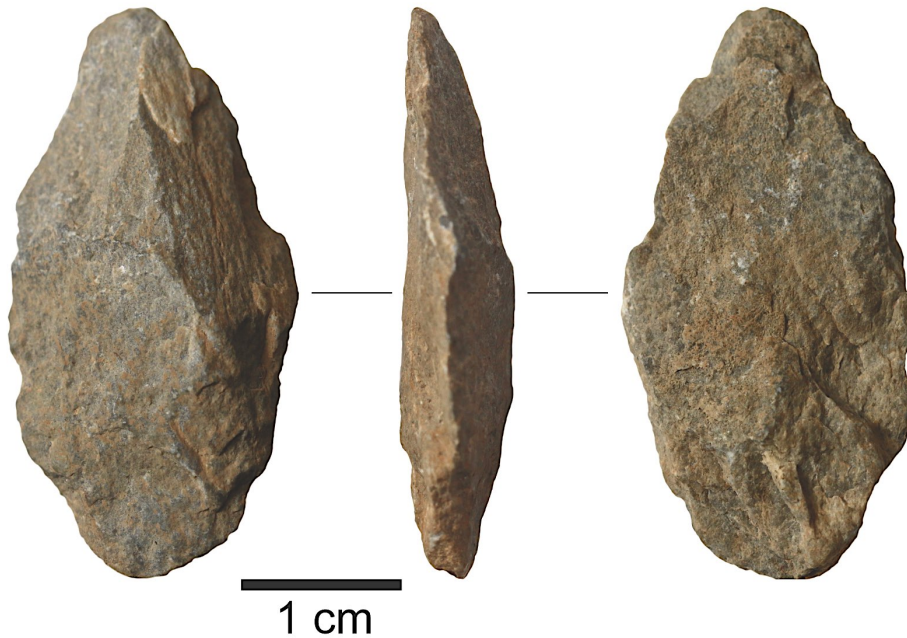


Characterization. This artefact is a failed preform of a point on flake, made on a pale-green limestone tertiary flake or blade-like flake with a longitudinal dorsal ridge. The flake has a white-dotted, ground, isolated platform, now located on the intersection point of the basal end of the preform. After extraction, the blank was reduced bifacially, with predominant extractions occupying the dorsal side, and only marginal flake scars on parts of the ventral side. The dorsal side presents three major flake scars made as part of the reduction of the blank. The first dorsal flake scar originates on the left edge, proximal segment, near the flake's platform. This removal left behind the imprint of its own platform, with the white-dotted impact visible from the dorsal and ventral faces. The second one is a large flake scar originating in the distal sector of the blank, occupying the right-distal sector of the dorsal face of the blank, and ending in a step termination. A similar, smaller flake, coming from the same origin, is visible on the left-distal segment. The ventral side shows only one fracture-like scar on the distal segment, but its origin could be natural, caused by the pressure of the sediments. More evident are the small marginal retouch scars visible on the left-proximal edge of ventral side. Despite the failed reduction, the shape of the intended point is recognizable.

#1057. Item no. 2124-13601

Exc. nr.	Discovery date	Square-subsq.	Depth range Z(D)	Depth Z(datum)	UTM E (x)	UTM N (y)	Stratum	Stratig. comp. (SC)
X12	27/01/2016	M5-SW	-	-3.08	283924.52	2724533.88	1222	C

Taxon code	Taxon definition	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Weight (g)	Raw material class		
Hf	Point on flake	35.6	18	7.1	4.06	NI		



Characterization. This artefact is a fine, symmetrical point made on a (possibly cortical) flake, unclear whether a longitudinal or transversal one. The raw material is also undetermined, due to the advanced erosion and patina that affect the surface of the item. The flaking approach seems to be unifacial, with some marginal extractions of questionable origin on the flatter ventral side. The dorsal side of the item shows a cortical



right section, almost untouched with the exception of one short and wide marginal extraction. The entire left half of the point is made by invasive flaking, including at least three large scars, possibly more, obliterated by erosion.

